



Montreal Monthly Meeting Newsletter

Infolettre de l'Assemblée quaker de Montréal

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Life of the Meeting / La vie de l'assemblée

Moving gradually into autumn, our First Day Meetings have been blessed with visitors, attenders and new members. We remember the long patient wait of Jean Louis Demers in Quebec City when he first invited people to worship with him in Quaker silence. A few people joined him at times, but there were occasions when he sat faithfully through the hour alone in his contemplation of the Light.

Now, however, attendance at the meetings of Les quakers du Québec francophone is solid and continues to grow. At the October 1 meeting in presence in Lévis, ten people worshipped together. In addition, more distant attenders join regularly in the monthly zoom meeting for francophones across Quebec. If ever you are in the Quebec City region and can attend, you will receive a warm welcome. There is a very special atmosphere of joy and love in this young meeting.

Plans have solidified for Friends in the Quebec City region to travel to the Saguenay on October 28 to visit Jean Duplain, an isolated Friend and regular attendee of the monthly Zoom meeting. At the end of this newsletter you will find an article by Jean describing his discovery of Quakerism and how his attachment is deepening.

Montreal Monthly Meeting has scheduled a potluck at the Greene Centre after Meeting for Worship on November 19. Our recent potlucks were spontaneous picnics, carried across Greene Avenue to tables in Staynor Park. These delightful moveable outdoor feasts are not likely to take place in the near future, but hearts will be warm and the food will be good anyway. Please plan to join us.

Two versions of Mid-Week Meeting are taking place in Montreal, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. These worship groups provide members with spiritual nourishment and good company. Check details in the schedule below.

Interested Friends met on September 11 to discuss how to implicate our meeting more meaningfully in CYM, following reports from our representatives to this summer's CYM annual gathering. The group decided to focus on asking CYM to provide more written material in French, to offer French workshops at the next CYM gathering, and to work for greater acceptance and understanding of LGBTQ+ individuals in CYM. The next meeting of this group will be at 6:30 on October 26. Membership in the group is open. Please contact Jean Louis Demers if interested.

Our Meeting at Greene Avenue is presently reviewing our budget for next year and it will probably be finalized at the next business meeting on the evening of October 30. The first proposal was discussed at the September business meeting and shown to everyone after meeting on October 15. Our treasurer Claire Adams has pointed out the deficit between projected expenditures and donations so far this year. We are entering the period when members and attenders donate the most, in order to close the gap.

Our clerk Janette Fraser has announced to us that her three-year term as clerk will end on December 31 this year. Our meeting owes Janette many thanks for her calm organization and interaction with all of us. It is possible, although not certain, that the Nominating Committee will propose a clerk and assistant clerk at our next business meeting. Please hold this committee in the light as it considers how our meeting can be wisely led in the next few years. And remember that Business Meeting has the last word on discerning who shall be our clerk, so your attendance is very important.

Hosts and greeters welcome all to Meeting and facilitate our silent worship. Please consider signing up to be either a host or a greeter. The signup sheet for both is [here](#). When you arrive at the signup sheet you will find simple instructions about how to play a supporting role.

The pride in feeling that I was carrying out His will.

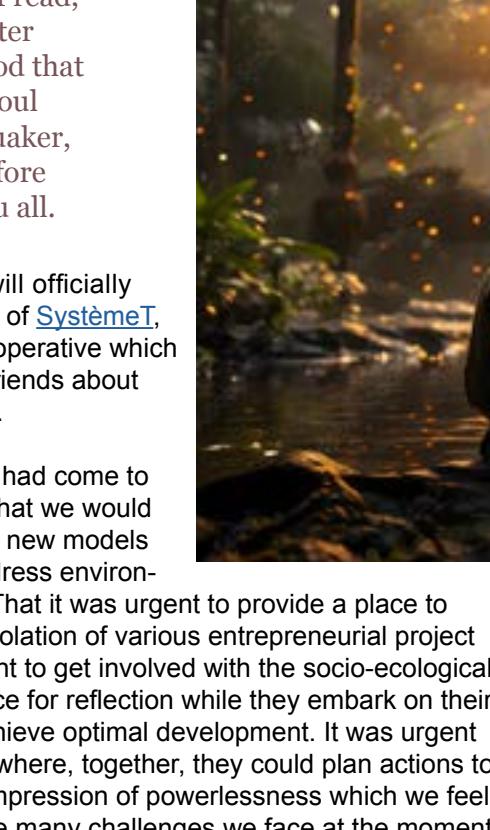
We have named our community centre the base camp, because we want it to be the point of departure for many adventures.

Like this adventure on the road of faith which I have been experiencing since I met you all.

Soon, some of my Quaker friends will come to visit and discover this place.

For me, their presence within these walls will be filled with meaning.

They will take their place in this series of events which only He can put into action.

At Pendle Hill online: December 4, 7:30 pm, on Zoom and free, requiring registration. *Clearness Committees: An Introduction to Spiritual Discernment in Community for Personal and Social Transformation*. The journey toward reinventing and transforming limiting beliefs takes courage, self-awareness, a growth mindset, a vision of a just and equitable society, a supportive and caring community, and more. The Quaker Clearness Committee is a unique process of individual and communal spiritual discernment that can support people on this journey. For more information, click [here](#).

At Woodbrooke online: November 29, Wednesday, 7 pm UK (2 pm EST), on Zoom and free, but limited number of places. *What is Quaker Faith and Practice? The history and purpose of books of discipline*. For more information click [here](#).

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The same spirit lives within me today as I work on this project.

And sometimes, as I listen, He rewards me with a sense of His presence. For example, the other day I was painting alone in the community centre, grumbling that I would really have liked some help. I suddenly felt a rising sense of His presence and with it a sense of pride.

To offer a place where hope was possible.

Three years later, after a long trajectory through doubt, questions and occasional discouragement, we have at last arrived. We arrived, to a large extent, because during the journey I met you all!

I met you, and this allowed me to reconnect gradually with that being living within me that is greater than myself. This being is unafraid of any challenge. This being inspires trust in the journey.

This is the part of us that we call faith.

For I am convinced now more than ever that loss of faith is the greatest of losses.

Today I feel once again that I am doing "the Lord's work."

This expression comes from a period in my life when, after years of suffering and confusion with drugs and alcohol, I at last admitted that I had a problem. Through a new way of life that was proposed to me, I entrusted my life to Him, and above all I entrusted my will. In this period, I lived day to day listening to His will.

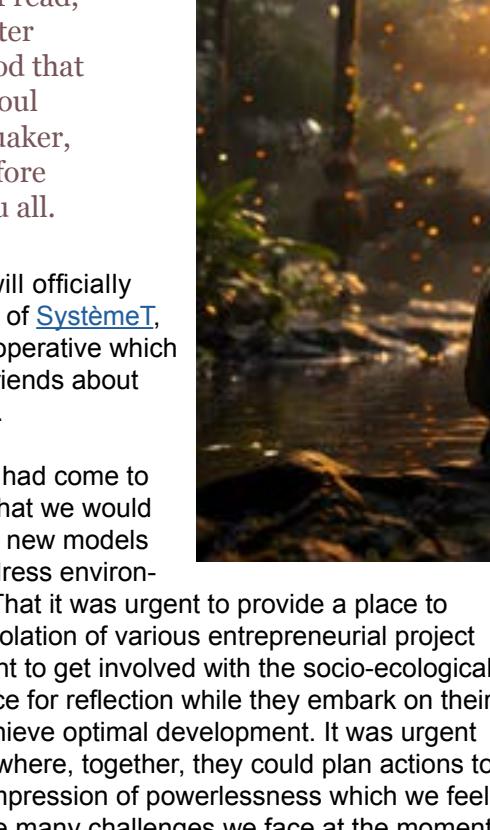
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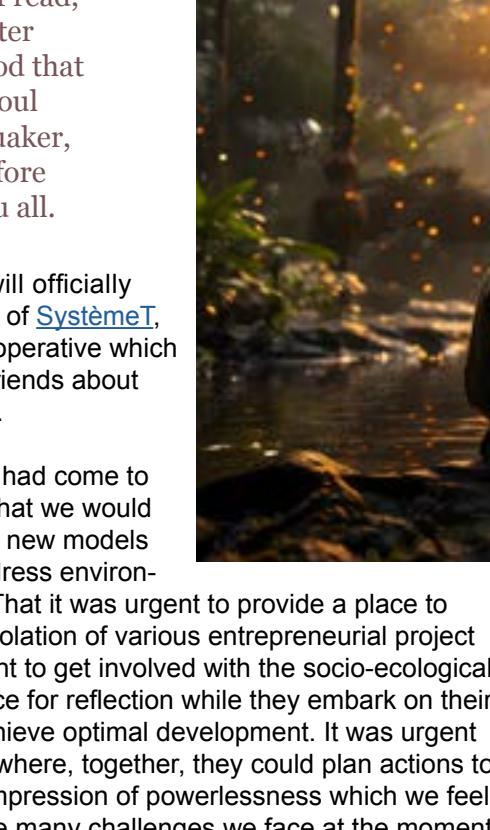
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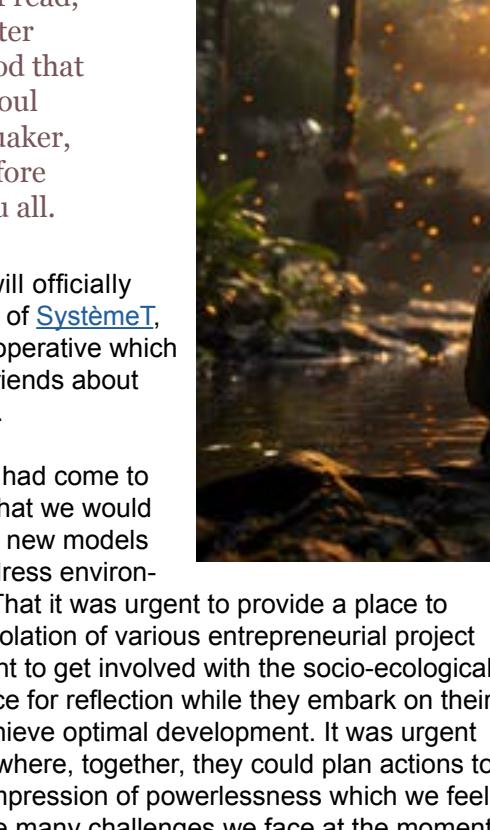
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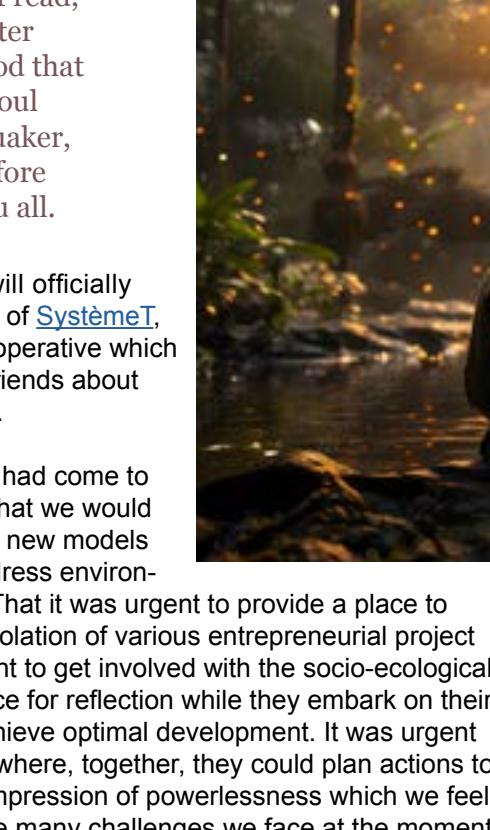
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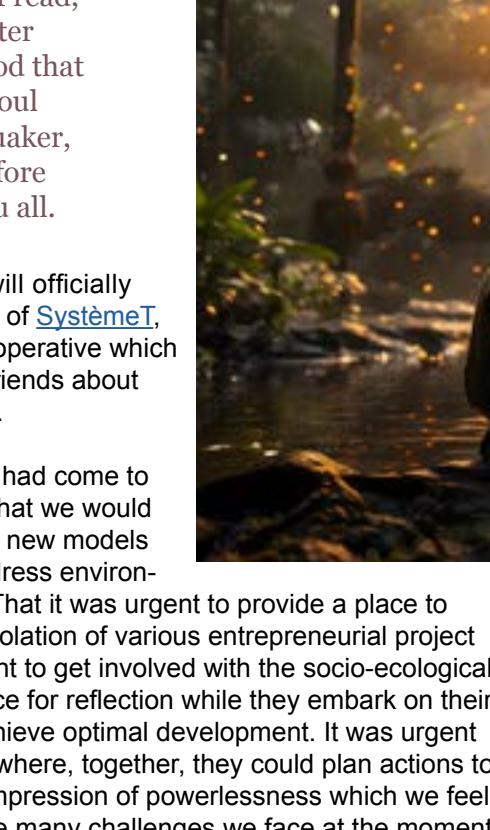
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