

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



SAY ÇA!

Cercle de soutien aux étudiants réfugiés et nouveaux arrivants
Circle of support for refugee and newcomer students



Dear Say Ça! community:

Thank you for another year of continuous support and encouragement. This year was filled with successes and challenges, which are important to celebrate. Namely, our first student got accepted into college and two students are ready to become volunteers at Say Ça! in 2020. These results are a great reflection of our work in accompanying our students as they gain the necessary tools to succeed in their new lives in Montreal and become active members of their communities.

New additions to our team of volunteers have brought innovative changes to our program. This year we purchased 16 laptops and introduced new software to our work. Moreover, we provided our students with numerous opportunities for skill development, ranging from robotics to employment to arts. Finally, we gave back to our community through direct action and volunteer hours by our students.

Undoubtedly, 2019 has been Say Ça!'s most successful year yet: we secured our largest funding, increased the number of students we served, gave the most volunteer hours, and made the most connections in Montreal.

In 2020, we will use these numbers as motivation to continue on growing.

Once again, thank you for your unconditional support.

Anna Calderon

Executive Director since 2017



OUR PROGRAM

TUTORING

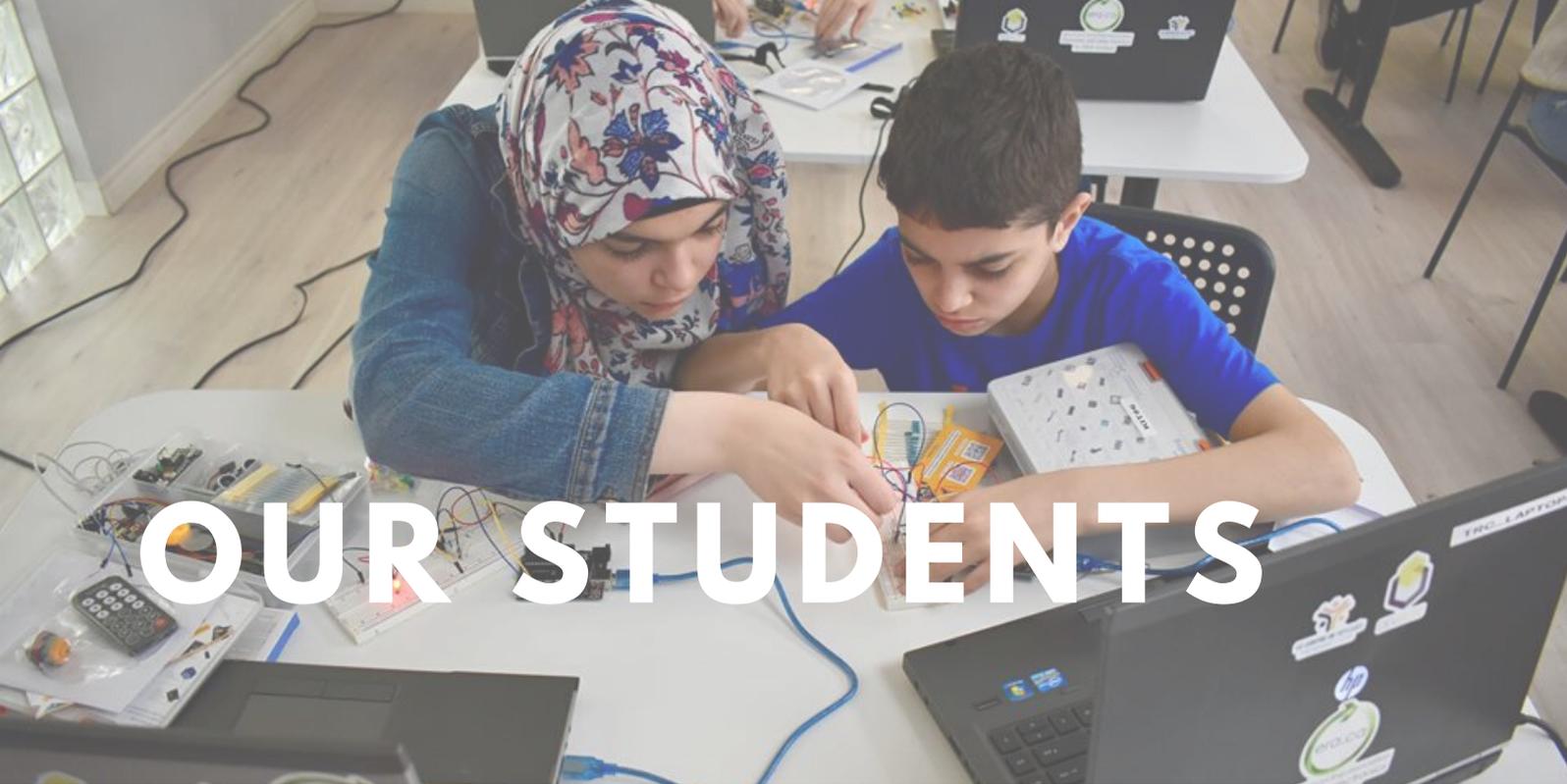
Our English and French as a second language (ESL and FSL) teaching focused on working on our students' individual needs. Whether it was speaking, writing, or reading comprehension, our tutors worked with monthly themes prepared beforehand by our team of ESL and FSL specialists.



MENTORSHIP AND COMMUNITY OUTINGS

Through our mentorship sessions and community outings, we exposed our students to resources and organizations in the community. This year, we collaborated with over 20 local organizations through workshops, outings and community events.





OUR STUDENTS

Our student body continued to expand this year. We provided our services to a record **38 youth**, aged 12 to 18, an 18% increase in relation to last year. Our youth were born in 11 different countries. We welcomed students from Angola, Colombia, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Mexico, Nigeria, Palestine, Syria, Trinidad, and Venezuela.

As one of their first points of contact in Montreal, Say Ça! strives to empower young newcomers and their families through a rewarding human relationship and an appreciation of diversity. Say Ça! youth are proud to call Montreal their home.

Thanks to our community engagement, one of our youth attended the Museum of Fine Arts Summer Camp free of charge and another one realized a project financed by Rising Youth. We also helped our students write their CVs, which resulted in four of them obtaining their first job in Canada.

"Say Ça! is a family-like environment where everyone helps each other. I feel good because I am far from my big family and it replaces them in my new country. Say Ça! is my second family in Canada" - Student, 17



OUR VOLUNTEERS

Say Ça! works thanks to volunteer effort.

In 2019, our team consisted of 32 tutors and 15 staff. Together, they volunteered a total of 1,125 hours during Saturday sessions.

Moreover, the staff volunteered 1,632 hours outside of our regular Saturday activities. These hours included attending networking activities, allocating our budget, planning our ESL and FSL curriculums, engaging the public using social media, organizing community events, among others.





OUR ENGAGEMENT

Our engagement with the broader Montreal community occurs in different manners. This year, we networked with local organizations, were invited to public events, collaborated with our partners to host community-building activities, gave back to the community through volunteering and fundraising, and received donations from partner organizations.

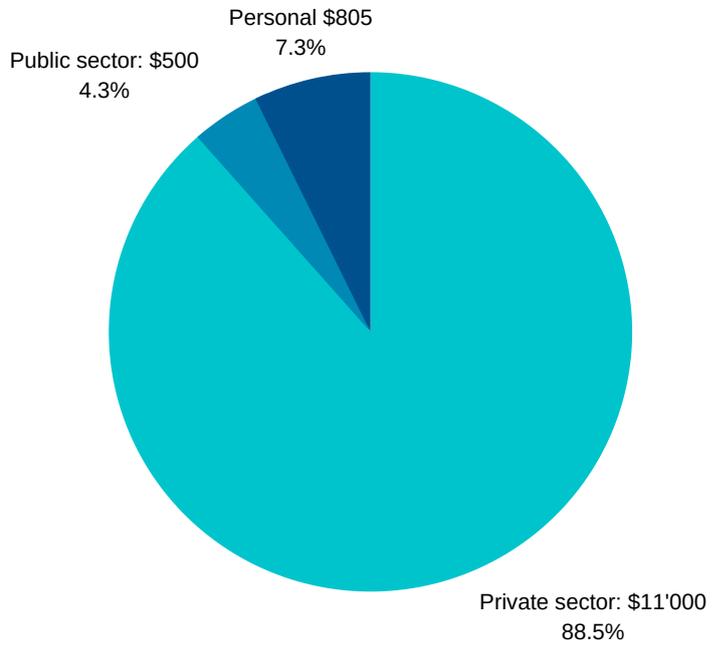
As a novelty, this year we gave our students the opportunity to volunteer within the Montreal community. As a group, **our students volunteered 99 hours** throughout 2019: 10 youth cleaned up the Concordia neighbourhood, 6 volunteered at Santropol Roulant, and 15 participated in a fundraiser for Amazon Watch - raising \$275.

Furthermore, we hosted two soccer tournaments in collaboration with Antiracist Football of Montreal. The first one was open to community organizations, and the second one welcomed only women, providing underrepresented women in the community with a safe environment to share and be active.

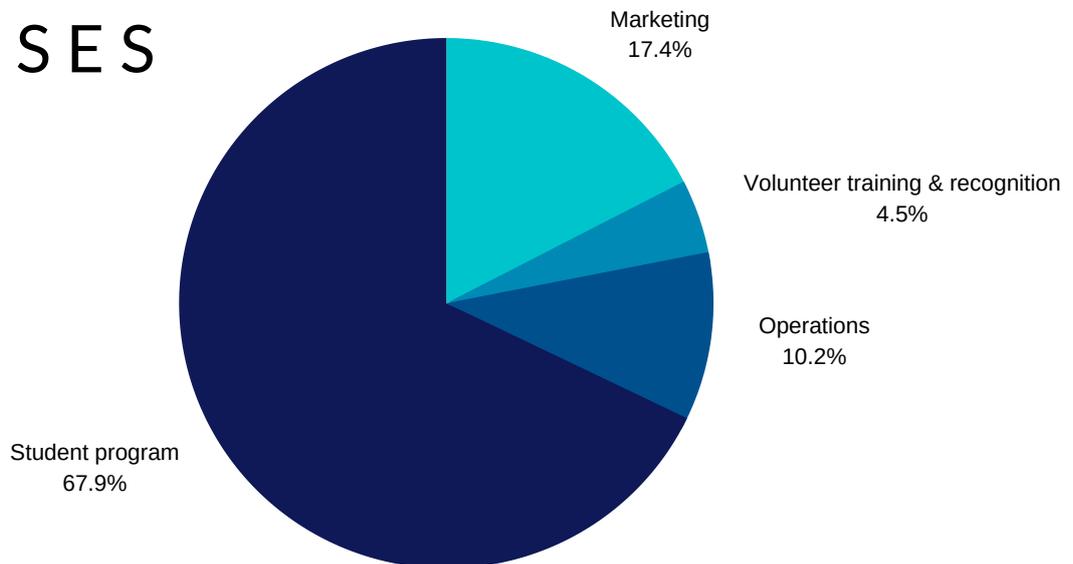


OUR FINANCES

REVENUES



EXPENSES





LOOKING AHEAD

In 2020, we will continue to improve our program to best fit the needs of refugee and newcomer youth in Montreal.

We will strengthen our program by providing monthly trainings for our mentors, through which they will develop their teaching and youth engagement skills.

We will solidify our presence within Montreal by continuing our networking and collaborations with other local organizations. This presence will help us diversify and sustain the growing participation of our students. We aim to increase our student body by 15%.

We will improve our language learning program by tracking our student progress based on both linguistic and personal development goals.

To continue this growth, we will seek to diversify our funding sources by organizing bi-monthly fundraisers, expanding our social media presence, and targeting individual and corporation funders.

For any inquiries you can contact us at general@saycamontreal.ca



THANK YOU!



LE CENTRE DE RÉFUGIÉS
THE REFUGEE CENTRE



...and a BIG thank you to all individuals who supported us throughout the year!