A word from Chair of the Board of Directors

Mission inclusion: New name, same mission

Ten years have passed since I dedicated myself to the mission of this organization, while two have passed since I took over as head of its board.

The year 2019 was a major milestone for the LÉGER FOUNDATION, as it ended with a key strategic change. From now on, the LÉGER FOUNDATION’s public image will be represented by the new name, Mission inclusion. This transformation was the result of a profound collective reflection about how we could adopt a new identity to better position ourselves in today’s world while not forgetting our roots.

The name Mission inclusion captures the heart and soul of our organization. It shows how much social inclusion has been not only our cornerstone for over 70 years but also the driving force behind everything we do in Quebec and around the world. This name is an extremely meaningful reminder of Cardinal Paul-Émile Léger’s mission and initial vision of a world in which everyone enjoys dignity and where everyone is included. Mission inclusion, the new name of the LÉGER FOUNDATION, is a new milestone in the history of this organization whose board I am proud to chair and whose mission I am proud to spread.

At the end of this exceptional and transformational year, I want to thank the members of the Board of Directors, Executive Director Richard Veenstra, as well as the entire team, members and other volunteers and employees whose dedication helps vulnerable and marginalized people improve their lives.

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge the generous and essential contributions of our donors and partners, who embrace our mission to contribute to the well-being of people and groups facing hardship in Quebec and around the world.

With the invaluable support of teams on the ground, community and humanitarian organizations, partners, the public, volunteers and Mission inclusion’s experienced teams, let’s keep working together for a more inclusive world and build a solid Foundation that can rise to the challenges of the future. Thank you so much for being part of our community.
A word from Executive Director

Mission inclusion: Same mission, new ideas

I am very proud to present this report for a year that has been pivotal in our Foundation’s history.

As you go through these pages, you will see how our proactive organization is connected to its past and traditions while putting its heart, hope and ideas into looking resolutely to the future.

You’ll notice these ideas as you read about the creativity of my colleagues and our partners in Quebec and abroad. The extraordinary “On va semer encore” (We shall sow again) conference was a true revelation about the many issues at stake so that a single family or an entire population can get enough food to eat every day. Another example is the mobile exhibition Matènite. Hundreds of people from Montreal to Vancouver donned virtual reality gear to be transported to Haiti and learn about the reality of women fighting for their right to give birth and care for their newborns in healthy conditions.

Both here and there, a spirit of innovation drives our partners. For example, a community-based approach mobilizes local resources to improve the health of mothers and children in Haiti, just as the same approach combats elder abuse in the Laurentians. In Burkina Faso, men now go to women mechanics to get their cars fixed, while in Nigeria, a new source of fuel is keeping women safe. Everywhere, support from Mission inclusion puts great ideas into motion to create real change and include vulnerable people in every society.

Thinking back on the year 2019 did me a lot of good. And that gives me hope. As I write these words, the pandemic and social violence weigh heavily on all our minds. But reading this report has reminded me that we are not powerless to tackle these problems. Quite to the contrary, civil society organizations have the creativity and courage to face these issues. Mission inclusion is a catalyst for their strength. To my team, our partners, our volunteers, members, administrators, and our institutional and individual donors, I thank all of you for sparking this catalyst to its best effect. Each of you has contributed in your own way to unleashing this strength and filling Mission inclusion with hope!

I hope you will enjoy reading this report.
A word from Directors

2019 was quite a year. Our work began by setting our strategic directions for the next four years, which included creating a knowledge and learning team. In October, we held a symposium on sustainable and inclusive food systems with partners from Quebec and around the world. The groundwork has been laid to create an international network to support sustainable family farming with eight other European, American and African organizations. Our department has constantly been on the go. This year, we provided support to local partners to help them improve their work with vulnerable and marginalized populations, in particular by making it easier for them to connect with each other. We hosted our partner from Cameroon in June and six food security partners for a discussion and workshop tour in October.

The international Women Deliver conference on gender equality and the health, rights, and well-being of girls and women was held in Vancouver in June 2019. This was an ideal moment for us to present concrete results from the PROSAMI project in Haiti and show the interactive documentary Matènite to explain the challenges that Haitian women face when it comes to their sexual and reproductive rights.

The team and I are proud of all the work we’ve accomplished!

I have just completed my first year with the incredible Communications and Development team at Mission inclusion. What a year! Along with a new name and new image, my department was also restructured to increase our efficiency and adapt to new trends in communication and philanthropy. In all honesty, the needs that guide our programming are growing, while the sheer amount of communication has increased along more complex channels. Funding, which is crucial to our mission, can be harder to find.

I am very proud of my team members, who have deftly navigated these changes and adapted to a new director while continuing to excel in their work.

Frédérique Thomas
Director of International Programs

Isabelle Morin
Director of Development and Communications
The past year was a pivotal one for my department, which oversees finance, accounting, human resources, information technology, and other services related to operations management. Our financial structure is solid, and our human resources are dedicated to making sure our actions continue to help vulnerable people long into the future.

Since the Mission inclusion team has nearly 40 employees and our structure has changed considerably, we hired a human resources advisor, which is a first for us. We also hired resources in some low-profile but very important positions, as we have two new accounting technicians and one new data entry clerk. Our superb receptionist, who welcomed all our visitors with warmth and good humour, has left for a well-deserved retirement. A new happy and friendly face will now welcome you at 130 De l’Épée!

My name is Danielle Filion, and I am the new Director of Programs in Quebec replacing Ms. Lucie Lauzon, who retired after 48 years of loyal service. Lucie held the reins of the Communications and Philanthropic Development Department for many years and skillfully brought the programs she built across all of Quebec. Through her energy and benevolence, Lucie passed on many wonderful values to her team—including to me—such as solidarity, loyalty and commitment.

I am very excited, and very humbled, to follow in her footsteps. She was the one who started the very first Mission inclusion food security symposium to which the Quebec program made a significant contribution. Although she has left our offices, as has Somchit Mecksavanh after 39 years of service. Both Lucie and Somchit helped renew the Quebec program strategy that has been left to me and the rest of the team to carry out.

In 2020, we are keeping a close eye on the issues of today while staying connected to our history.
Taking action for human dignity
In Québec
235,882 people helped
In 11 regions, through 68 projects

In the world
569,000 people helped
In 13 countries, through 26 projects

Associations/organizations that Mission inclusion is a member of:

- Collectif des fondations québécoises contre les inégalités
- PhiLab
- Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP)
- Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)
- Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC)
- Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI)
- Fonds d’investissement solidaire international du Québec (FISIQ)
- Minka, an international network for sustainable agriculture and food
Zero Hunger

Food security continues to be an important action area in Quebec and around the world. Beyond meeting nutritional needs, Mission inclusion’s initiatives help people learn healthy habits and become food self-sufficient.

Food Security Innovation and Mobilization

The Food Security Innovation and Mobilization (IMSA) project, which began in April 2015, has moved into its fifth year. Supported by Global Affairs Canada, IMSA aims to improve access to equitable and sustainable natural resources in rural communities in Burkina Faso, Bolivia and Peru. The focus is on providing training and support for over 12,000 farmers so that they can be more technologically and socially innovative and become more resilient to climate change.

In 2019, our six partner organizations in these three countries reported that people who receive support are constantly improving their incomes and diets thanks to greater diversity of healthy and nutritious foods (tubers, quinoa, cowpeas, vegetables, and animal products, etc.).

Ms. Limata Sawadogo from the Nabonswendé women’s group in Burkina Faso had the following to say:

> Raising livestock has made me self-sufficient and resilient so that I can provide for my family. I’m a widow, and I use the income from my farming to provide for my family’s needs and pay for my children’s education. I owe it all to the IMSA project.

“On va semer encore” 🌱

Mission inclusion held an international symposium on food security in October 2019 that was hosted by Julie Dionne and was attended by over 150 people. Dozens of partner organizations from Quebec were there, as were researchers from Quebec universities and about 15 representatives of our southern partners and representatives of Quebec ICOs.

Although it did not reinvent the concept of food security, this symposium let people share their experiences about developing sustainable and inclusive food systems. Discussions were held with Geneviève Mercille, Co-Principal Investigator of the PARCOURS study by the Research Chair in Community Approaches and Health Inequalities at Université de Montréal; Alain Olivier, Chair in International Development at Université Laval; Abdoulaye Ouedraogo, Coordinator of APIL, an NGO in Burkina Faso; and Chantal de Montigny, Coordinator of the Access to Healthy Eating Project from Vivre en ville.

After a forum-theatre discussion led by Nancy Roberge, we looked at how to build bridges (mechanisms, alliances, etc.) to improve the food security of local and international populations. The panellists who presented their approaches included Atlantide Desrochers, an anti-waste activist in the Plateau neighbourhood of Montreal; Marie-Claude Rose, from the non-profit self-managed grocery store Le Détour (Bâtiment 7); Judith Colombo, project manager with the Récolte collective; David Côté, founder of Loop Mission; and Valérie-Anne Fontaine, board member for Récoltes oubliées.
AlimenTerre Film Festival

The 2019 edition of the AlimenTerre Film Festival in Montreal presented documentaries that shine a light on agri-food problems and solutions. Locally and globally, this festival encourages reflection, encounters and citizen initiatives to promote a fair and sustainable food system.

Many sustainable food experts, community activists, and exhibitors also contributed to the success of this event.

Booths:

Climate Reality Project Canada, Association québécoise du commerce équitable, Système Alimentaire Montréal, Actumus, Fleuron, Nourrir, Thé et Café Tchoumi, La Plantation

Experts and activists:

André-Yanne Parent
Dominique Lalonde
Executive Director, Climate Reality Project Canada;
Co-Founder, Fleuron, and Director of Operations and Development, Récolte.

Gaëlle Janvier
Hugo Martorell
Lea Llardo
Program Director, The Market Gardener;
Quebec Regional Program Coordinator, USC Canada;
Co-Founder of the collective La planète s’invite à l’Université, and Vice-President of AQZD;

Marouane Jouindi
Lyne Bellemare
Co-Spokesperson for the La planète s’invite à l’Université movement;
Communications Coordinator at Seeds of Diversity Canada and Founder of seed-saving company Terre Promise;

Nadia Ponce Morales
Sébastien Di Poi
Sylvain Picker
Bernard Lavallée
Climate Ambassador;
Executive Director, Sustainability Action Fund;
Founder, Seed The Globe;
The Urban Nutritionist.

Mission inclusion’s Feed a Child Benefit Concert

The Mission inclusion benefit concert let the public attend a majestic musical performance while raising funds for the Feed a Child program, which helps thousands of vulnerable children in Quebec.

A lover of both history and music, Gregory Charles invited about 600 spectators to relive the past 250 years in story and song. In an interactive concert, Gregory took audience requests that brought us on a journey from Beethoven and Edith Piaf to Coldplay, followed by a festive cocktail with the theme “Ces années-là!” (Those were the years!)
Mission inclusion is proud to support a pre-employability program to help these women integrate into Quebec society and develop their independence. Adapted to each person’s language, culture and learning pace, the program helps them search for jobs by teaching them resume writing and interview skills. Participants can even express the emotions they have felt along their journeys through art therapy.

The program meets a real need, and there is great interest for it in the community: nearly 30 women have registered since fall 2019, and 12 have graduated. Already resilient and with incredible will, they emerge from the program even more determined, more independent, and more confident to reclaim their right to live, to thrive, and to see themselves in the future, as explained by A.Z., a 24-year-old single mother who ended an arranged marriage:

I’m a graduate of the pre-employability program. I heard about this program through my cultural intermediary. [...] I recommend that women take this training. It’s the best possible help you can get to start a career. It encouraged me to move forward in my life. After experiencing domestic violence, I had very low self-esteem and self-confidence. This program made me realize that I am still worth something and that I could move on and start a new life. It made me strong.

Equality

Women’s and children’s rights are two important action areas for Mission inclusion, with partners that promote women’s emancipation and social integration and protect children and support their education.

Shield of Athena, Family Services

The Shield of Athena has three points of service in Laval and Montreal. One is located in the multi-ethnic Parc-Extension neighbourhood, which is known as a place of welcome for newcomers. This community-based organization supports women and children who are victims of spousal, family or honour-based violence. Culture and language can be barriers to the social inclusion of these clients, who often find themselves isolated from traditional services, and their isolation can be exacerbated by family separations or limited outside contact.
Mission Inclusion 2019 Annual Report Page 11

Maternal and child health project in Haiti

In 2019, a fourth year of field work was completed for this project to support eight mother-child health facilities in the communes of Léogâne and Gressier. The team is still working to create a functional emergency obstetrical and neonatal care network. For example, construction work is under way on the surgical and connected units, which will be incorporated into the existing building of the mother-child centre in Léogâne.

The project managers also want to reinforce the capacity of their coordinating team in the Léogâne communal health unit. They provided support to five community health centres and supported a network of 40 multi-skilled community health workers, who stimulate the development of maternal and child health services.

A project with a pan-Canadian reach

In Canada, our education and awareness activities have had a resounding success with the public. Nearly one thousand people were informed of the realities and problems faced by mothers, newborns and children in Haiti and learned about the project’s results by watching the Matènité web documentary with virtual reality gear, attending lectures on various topics and issues in Haitian and Canadian maternal and child health, and taking part in Matènité screenings.

Activities across the country included Fêt an Ayiti in Montreal as part of the Cuisine ta ville event, the 2019 Women Deliver international conference on gender equality and the health, rights and well-being of girls and women held in Vancouver, and at several universities in Ontario and the Maritimes, in collaboration with the Canadian Association of Midwives.

Watoto Wetu, Wajibu Wetu, Project, Kenya

Kesho Kenya and Mission inclusion have been working together for six years to promote children’s rights in eastern Kenya’s Kilifi County. This project has let children develop knowledge and skills about their own rights by participating in things like child rights clubs. A total of 2511 people were supported through this initiative.

Kesho Kenya turned to existing school and community child protection mechanisms already in place in Kilifi to fight the sexual exploitation of children. The project has expanded, and partnerships have been built with the private sector. The team has also strategically partnered with justice system institutions, which has strengthened the legal support and representation of aid recipients thanks to volunteer lawyers and legal aid organizations. The project’s implementation in Kilifi involved children, families and communities, civil society, government, law enforcement agencies and the private sector.

The PROSAMİ project is carried out with support from Global Affairs Canada and in partnership with the Centre for International Cooperation in Health and Development.
**Equity**

Social justice is one of our main priorities. We are working on deploying resources so that vulnerable or marginalized people can realize their full potential and integrate into society. The organizations supported by Mission inclusion uphold the well-being and social inclusion of seniors and people experiencing homelessness and advocate for their rights.

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**Vigil'Ange**

This organization in Saint-Jérôme guides seniors and caregivers to the right resources. It relies on a robust network of trained volunteers called “watch people” who identify seniors in the community who need help. These watch people could be a hairdresser who suspects that a senior is being abused or a convenience store manager who notices that an elderly customer is struggling with an addiction problem. What can people do when they witness these situations?

When the organization receives a call from a watch person, it mobilizes its “angel volunteers,” who connect with these vulnerable people in their homes or the places they go. They actively listen to guide them to the right resources and services. Their actions are supervised by the organization’s coordinator and social worker.

Mission inclusion is very proud to be a key partner for this community-based organization in the Lower Laurentians, which was created by and for seniors and illustrates a community’s determination to support its own.

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We are more than grateful for the openness shown by your Director of Programs in Quebec to support our mission. The key was in the door; if we hadn’t received support from Mission inclusion, Vigil’Ange would have been locked forever.

— Colombe Marcoux, Coordinator of Vigil’Ange
L’ADOberge

Located in Lévis and Saint-Georges in the Chaudière-Appalaches region, L’ADOberge provides temporary housing services to troubled teens aged 12 to 17 in this region who need to take some time to think about how to solve a problem in their family or personal life.

L’ADOberge offers a weekly prevention service that is based on best practices. The topics vary and are adapted to each group. The organization also runs prevention workshops in the region’s elementary schools.

By supporting this organization, Mission inclusion is helping to build a more just society by giving vulnerable youth another chance to find where they belong.

So far, L’ADOberge has helped over 2,000 young people. In terms of prevention, it has given workshops that have helped tens of thousands of students develop social skills to cope with the problems they may encounter.

Cycling for inclusion

The 6th Cycling for inclusion challenge had a special partner this year with the Jeune Chambre de commerce de Montréal. Marc-André Coallier, Mission inclusion spokesperson for street youth, proudly represented us in Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines along with 95 participating cyclists. A total of $57,000 was raised for street youth in Quebec and around the world.

30th Mission inclusion Golf Tournament

The Golf Tournament was back this year for the cause of street kids in Quebec. Held at the prestigious Le Mirage golf club, this event is absolutely an important way to raise awareness and money while serving as an excellent networking opportunity. Thanks to the participation and generosity of our golfers, who came out in large numbers to mark the tournament’s 30th anniversary, the 2019 edition raised over $85,000.
Humanitarian Action

Mission inclusion works closely with local organizations to respond in the best way possible to needs triggered by humanitarian crises. It also helps these partners develop and strengthen their capacity to deal with future crises.

Cameroon’s Far North Region

Through this project, Mission inclusion’s goal was to respond to the urgent needs of 108,718 displaced people affected by the violence of the armed group Boko Haram in the Far North region of Cameroon.

This region of the world is facing a crisis that directly affects nearly 2.1 million people and has forced over 262,000 to flee the onslaught of the terrorist group.

In addition to the extreme violence, food insecurity has reached a critical level, with about 117,000 people suffering from global acute malnutrition with half of the cases of acute malnutrition among children are severe.

After leaving everything behind, most displaced and vulnerable people do not have the material resources to earn a living and meet their basic needs.

What we are doing

Mission inclusion’s project is based on an evolving, sustainable and humanitarian response that respects the environment and immediately responds to basic needs: addressing malnutrition in children under 5 and in pregnant and breastfeeding women; providing access to emergency subsistence resources; addressing the lack of drinking water; and providing basic health care, including sexual and reproductive care.

Through its actions, Mission inclusion wants to make this work sustainable over the long term by helping populations recover and face future crises. Revitalizing economic activities, strengthening communities’ understanding of their basic rights and protection services available to them, and increasing their engagement are some of the strategies deployed to achieve this goal.
North-Eastern Nigeria

The Boko Haram crisis has claimed thousands of victims in north-eastern Nigeria and displaced massive numbers of civilians to safer areas. In 2019, 7.1 million people needed humanitarian aid.

These communities struggle to feed themselves, as access to cooking fuel is a major problem. Women and girls can no longer venture into the forests or the countryside, where they would traditionally go to collect firewood, as the danger of being attacked, abducted or killed by members of Boko Haram is too great.

Through this project, Mission inclusion helps displaced women support their families and meet their basic needs while protecting them from violence.

What we are doing

Mission inclusion’s safe and innovative solution to these issues is the creation of co-ops and training of women to make briquettes from plant biomass. These briquettes are a more efficient and safer fuel alternative, as they can be made and sold in the displaced persons camps where the women live. Briquette sales help them regain financial independence and support their families.

The cooperatives are also safe spaces for women, as they offer awareness and prevention activities and provide a response to domestic violence situations. These co-ops, coupled with awareness activities targeted at men, have helped create a positive environment so that women can keep up the gains they have realized through this project.
Burkina Faso, Yatenga

Burkina Faso is grappling with a complex and protracted regional crisis on its border with Mali that is directly affecting nearly 1.2 million people. The immediate cause of this crisis is the insecurity caused by the violence of armed groups, which abduct and kill both civilians and people in authority.

To keep their families out of harm’s way, many people have fled their villages to safer provinces nearby, such as Yatenga. As of July 2019, there were 220,000 internally displaced people in northern Burkina Faso, the majority of whom were women and children. After leaving everything behind, these victims can’t meet their basic needs.

What we are doing

**Mission inclusion** responded quickly to this alarming situation to meet the emergency needs of 2,933 vulnerable people affected by food insecurity in Yatenga Province by providing seeds and plots of land so that they could grow crops independently and provide for their own food security. This action aimed to help people recover by involving them in the process while promoting their long-term independence.
## 2019 Financial Report

Consolidated Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Fund Balances

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<th>Year ended December 31</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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To view our 2019 Financial Report, visit our website at missioninclusion.ca/about/#publications.
To each of our volunteers, THANK YOU!

Mission inclusion thanks all of our volunteers, as you each contribute in your own way to making the world a better place.

Whether you serve on the Board of Directors, a governance committee, the project analysis committee, the Cycling for inclusion organizing committee, the Golf Tournament organizing committee or help organize an event or provide administrative support, your support is essential to the achievement of Mission inclusion’s goals.

You represent active community participation in our organization and ensure that Mission inclusion’s actions are transparent.

To our volunteers who tirelessly give their time, resources and even creativity to improve the lives of the less fortunate, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Spokesperson for Street Youth:
Marc-André Coallier
Thank you to our donors

Mission inclusion thanks the individuals, foundations and corporations who generously donated between January 1 and December 31, 2019 to our many actions to promote social inclusion.

Gifts from our generous patrons let Mission inclusion continue to act as an important vehicle for social change. We sincerely thank every one of you. We also want to recognize the invaluable contributions of our 2019 planned donors.

- Our 94 donors of $5,000 or more
- Our 215 donors of $1,000 or more
- And our many donors of $1,000 and under as well as our monthly donors

You are part of the Mission inclusion family. Thank you so much for growing with us.

Finally, we would like to thank the entire Mission inclusion staff team for all of the projects they carried out with brilliance and passion in 2019. Your spirit of innovation and commitment is remarkable and undeniable.

Thank you to our sponsors

Mission inclusion’s actions are supported by:

Our sponsors’ loyal support lets us organize an incredible variety of fundraising events to continue our mission, as all proceeds from these events are fully reinvested in the different causes supported by Mission inclusion. Thank you all very much for your continued support and involvement.