

SOLIDAIRES, À TOUTE ÉPREUVE



English version

Introduction

The 2019–2021 financial period for the Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain–CSN ended with a surplus of \$1,471,505, while the budget had forecast a deficit of \$126,879. A detailed reading of the financial statements will allow us to explain the deviations that occurred.

The budget assumption planned for a review of our practices and structures following the loss of members during the 2017 round of public-sector bargaining and the impact of abolished positions on the work team. This review had to be postponed due to the pandemic and the health measures that affected the economy.

Revenue

The pandemic led to a drop in active members, mainly in the private-sector federations:

- CSN–Construction -10%
- Fédération du commerce -25%
- Fédération de l'industrie manufacturière -8%
- Fédération nationale des communications et de la culture -11%

On the other hand, the number of public-sector federation members either was stable or increased:

- Fédération des professionnèles +3%
- Fédération de la santé et des services sociaux +7%

Despite this drop in 2020, with the lifting of the health measures in 2021, the CCMM—CSN re-established its number of active members in the private sector, maintained the increase in members in the public sector, and welcomed 17 newly certified unions. At the end of the mandate, revenue from per capita dues was \$7,220,132, i.e. slightly above the budget estimate.

Expenses

Health measures and measures implemented by the CSN monitoring committee decreased operating expenses since reimbursement policies do not cover telecommuting expenses. In addition, the good health of the pension plan reduced benefits-related expenses for members with political leadership roles and with administrative roles.

Political leadership

Political leadership expenses were \$2,050,664, i.e. 15.6% below the budget estimate. Savings related to the President's benefits are the result of the union leave agreement. However, the change of elected members in the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, and 2nd Vice-President

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led to non-recurring additional expenses. For union committee meetings and confederal council meetings, travel and operating expenses were much lower since meetings were held by video conference during the pandemic. The choice to hold a green Convention and use CSN resources (computer graphics) allowed for savings of \$140,000 as compared to the budget estimate. In 2019, one elected member and one union adviser went to Nunavik and Eeyou Itschee Baie-James; in addition, the CSN paid for one more adviser to be part of the delegation in 2021.

Lastly, the amount of donations was less than the proposed budget; the CCMM-CSN responded to demands based on its policy.

Core duties

Expenses related to core duties were \$385,482, i.e. 50.7% below the budget estimate. These expenses were lower than expected due to the health measures prohibiting gatherings, which greatly affected the costs of political and regional action, areas of struggle, and committees. For union training, we had to adapt to offer services virtually instead of in person. The CCMM–CSN was the first central council to hold training by video conference. There were structural savings with regard to union information since Unité is now fully digital. Special, non-budgeted publication costs were related to publishing the book, Pour une sortie de crise verte, sociale et démocratique [Coming out of the pandemic in a green, social, and democratic manner].

Administrative roles

Expenses related to administrative roles were \$3,375,604, i.e. 18.4% below the budget estimate. Non-recurring savings occurred due to the fact that an adviser role was vacant for a long period due to the lack of staff on the recall list. Recurring savings occurred with regard to printing and mailing costs, for which \$134,000 was saved when mailings became digital. Administration fees are also lower as a result of using the CSN payroll service for activists instead of the "Employer D" service from Desjardins (to reimburse taxable expenses).

Changes in net assets

The revaluation of the pension plan following the restatement on December 31, 2018, affected the unallocated balance, going from a deficit of \$308,047 to a surplus of \$872,153. This new initial unallocated balance, the surplus of \$1,471,505 for the 2019–2021 period, and the gains from the revaluation of the pension plan add up to \$3,265,258 for the unallocated balance on December 31, 2021. This surplus will allow the central council to have fiscal flexibility to react to unforeseen events in an uncertain economy.

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Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain Oversight Committee Report for the Financial Period Ended December 31, 2021

The Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain (CCMM–CSN) Oversight Committee met on March 8, 2022, at the CSN, to verify the finances of the central council for the period between June 30, 2021, and December 31, 2021. This verification completes the cycle of three years of budget estimates presented at the CCMM–CSN Convention in June 2019. Alain-Guy Côté and Sébastien Gagné were present, but unfortunately Adrien Doamba was absent. We would like to thank André Paquette, Secretary-Bookkeeper of the CCMM–CSN, and Ramatoulaye Diallo, Treasurer, for their help and availability throughout this process. We would also like to emphasize that the record keeping of Mr. Paquette facilitated our work.

The methodology used was to first analyze the activity reports of all members of the Executive Committee and a good sample of CCMM–CSN staff members. For the period from June 30 to December 31, 2021, all activity reports were completed and accompanied by the required supporting documents. We also carried out a random verification of the activity reports of activists who had activities during this period.

We then verified the decisions of the Executive Committee with regard to donations and membership fees. Note that the analysis of the statement of operations was carried out with the information available in the Executive Committee meeting minutes. Authorized donations and memberships were compliant with policies in effect.

For the committees, we looked at the financial statements of the CCMM–CSN and verified at random the expenses of some committees and activists. These verifications allowed us to conclude that the financial statements were compliant.

Next, on May 25, 2022, updated figures were presented to us, and we adjusted the statement of operations. For the statement of operations, based on what was budgeted for 36 months, we noted that on December 31, 2021, there was a surplus of \$1,471,505. This excellent result eliminated the initial planned deficit of (\$126,879) that was budgeted. A large part of this surplus is due to non-recurring savings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also noted that the total revenue, \$7,221,809, was \$58,323 higher than what was initially budgeted.

In conclusion, based on the numbers presented by the CCMM–CSN on May 25, 2022, the members of the Oversight Committee recommend that the CCMM–CSN Convention adopt the financial statements for the period between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2021.

Adrien Doamba

Sébastien Gagné

Alain-Guy Côté