

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31 2024

Presented by:

MICHELLE DEPOOTER

Lead Chaplain

WE RELY ON GLOBAL SUPPLY

Approximately 90% of all our material goods are sourced from other countries and transported to Canada via ship.

Despite our reliance on the seafarers who keep the global supply chain moving, these resilient men and women remain largely invisible to the average Canadian.



SHIPS WE SERVE



CONTAINER & CRUISE SHIPS, TANKERS & BULK CARRIERS

Over 2000 vessels dock in Montreal each year. The longest ship our port can accommodate is 300 metres. In comparison, the Eiffel Tower is 324 m tall.



ARE WE THERE YET?

A ship travels at an average of 24 knots per hour (about 44 km/h) and takes 10-20 days to cross the Atlantic (depending on the route).



CREWS AND THEIR SCHEDULES

The average crew on a merchant ship consists of 20 members who work around the clock in shifts, on average 12 hours/day — every day of the week.

CRUISE SHIPS



PASSENGER AND CREW MEMBERS

In 2023, the Port of Montreal welcomed 67,000 passengers and crew members.



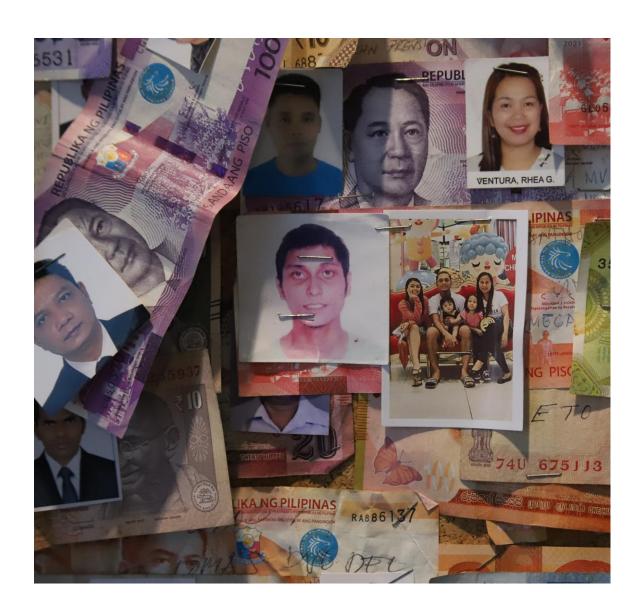
CALLS TO MONTREAL

International vessels made 49 calls (visits)



CRUISE LINES

Fifteen different cruise lines berthed in the port



WE DEPEND ON SEAFARERS

As seafarers work tirelessly to connect us with most of the goods we own and use — they themselves are isolated from family, friends and from the familiarity of their home countries.

Seafarers on board cruise ships are the backbone of the cruising industry and the reason why people can vacation at sea.

LIFE AT SEA



FAR FROM HOME

1.6 million seafarers are
typically out to sea and away
from home for up to 11
months at a time —
depending on their contract



ISOLATION

Many ships lack adequate and affordable telephone or Wi-Fi service, meaning that seafarers rely on time in port to contact friends and family



SHORE LEAVE

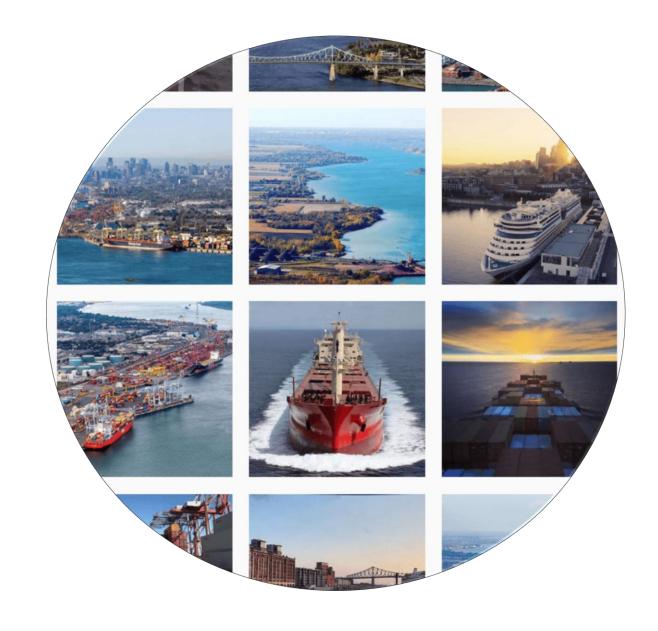
In many ports, seafarers must be granted shore leave even to have the opportunity to:

- · Access data/free Wi-Fi
- Purchase personal items
- Interact with others besides their crew

PORT OF MONTREAL

The Port of Montreal is a hub of world trade and the economic engine of Greater Montreal.

The port is connected to more than 140 countries and welcomes ships during all 12 months of the year. In the winter months, Montreal is the last port of call heading west into the Great Lakes. The shipping channel closes in the winter due to ice cover.



OUR PORT





STATISTICS

35 million metric tons of cargo (2023), out of the 12 billion tons globally that were transported at sea, including:

- 37% Container Ships
- 39% Liquid Bulk
- 24% Dry Bulk



SIZE

Is the largest in Eastern Canada. Its shoreline spans 26 km and:

- Contains 23 terminals
- Includes a terminal in Contrecœur (66 km away)



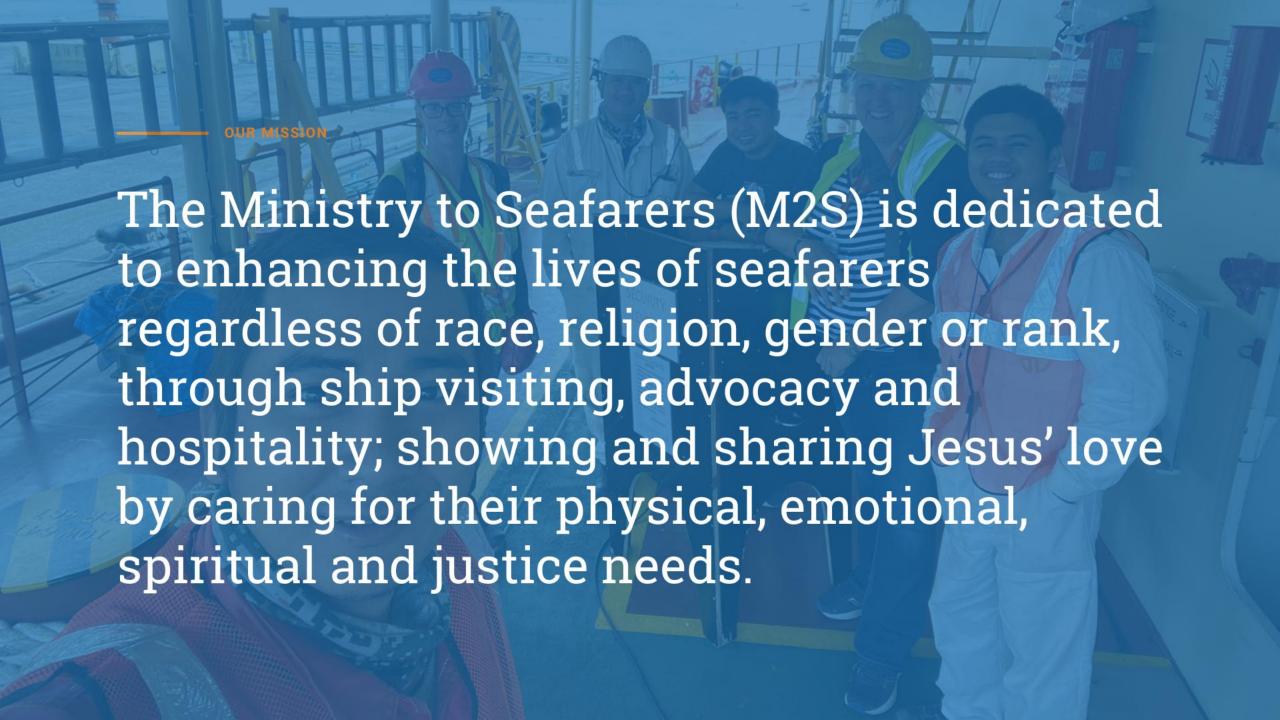
AMENITIES

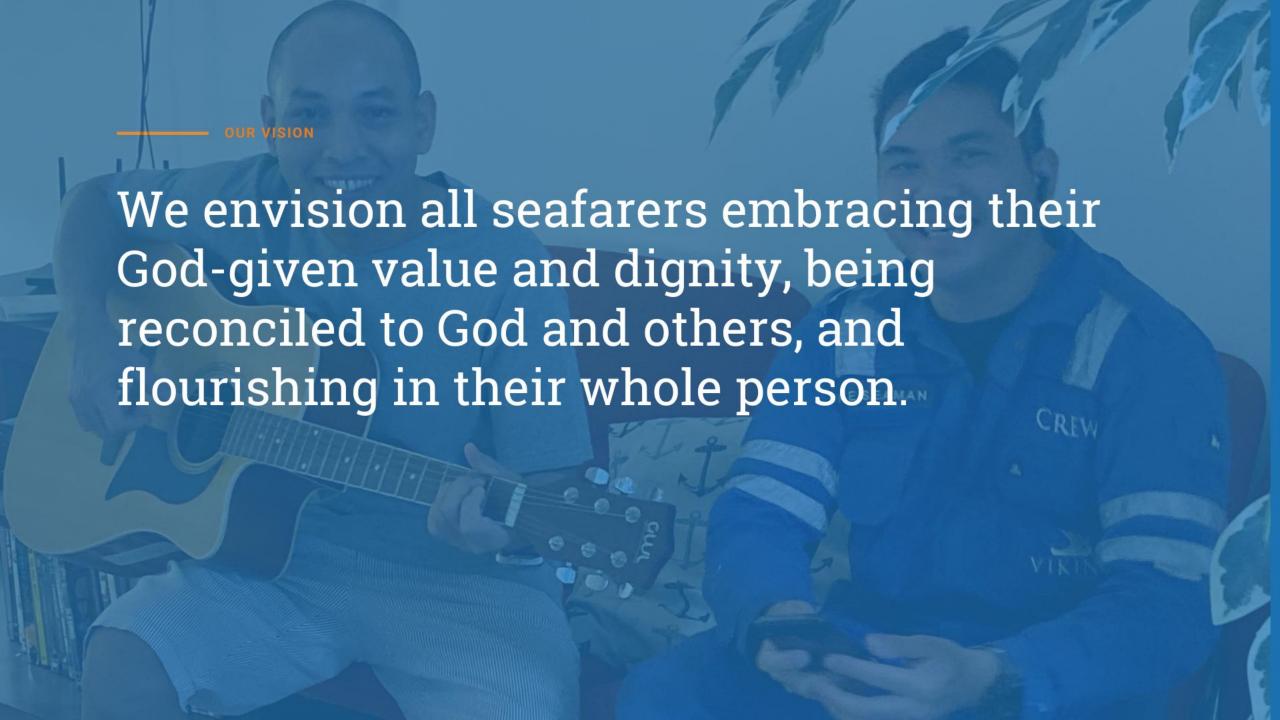
Services on offer to meet the needs of seafarers who arrive in our port:

- · Wi-Fi in the terminals
- Free transportation
- SIM cards/currency exchange
- · Seafarers' Centre



www.ministrytoseafarers.org

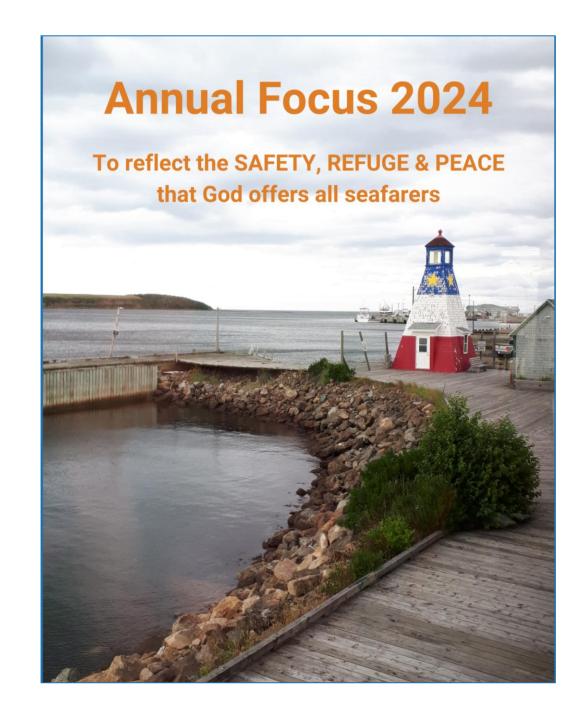


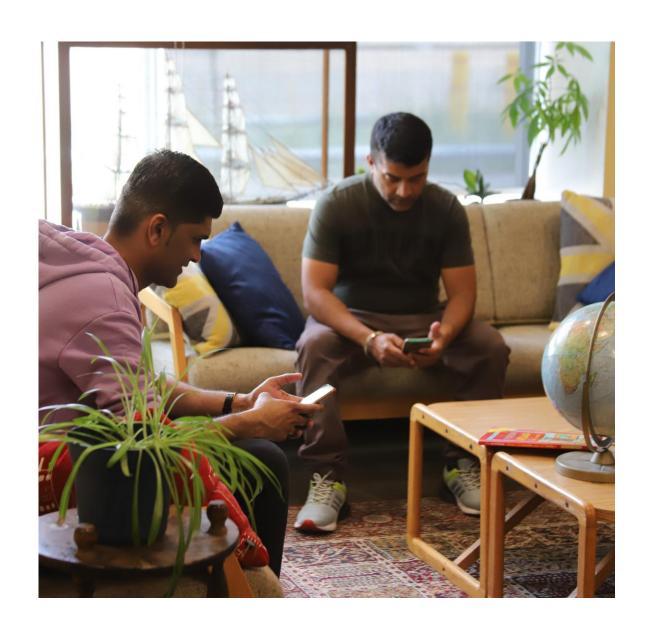


ANNUAL FOCUS STATEMENT

Seafarers found themselves in the firing line and under attack while navigating some of the world's most dangerous waterways.

Our focus statement reminded us to reflect the eternal safety, refuge and peace that God offers all seafarers, despite the present dangerous conditions that surrounded them.





THE CHALLENGE

While the work itself and the dangers inherent to life at sea are both challenging, the greatest challenge faced by seafarers is isolation.

A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

We work in the harbour.

Covering the full breadth of our 26-km port, our chaplains, staff, interns and volunteers aim daily to meet the seafarers where they are – whether on ship or shore – to assist them in accessing our city, to connect with community and to receive spiritual or practical care as they desire.

We also work to bring visibility to the value and presence of seafarers in our city through engagement with our wider Montreal community and beyond.



SHIP TO SHORE





CHAPLAINCY

Visiting on ship or shore provides a time for our chaplains to offer practical and spiritual support, a Bible or devotional or to pray with and for the crew.



SHIP VISITS

Our chaplains and volunteers visit each ship in port, offering a listening ear to seafarers who wish to talk about work, faith, personal joys and sorrows, or to share about family difficulties that are particular to those who spend long periods of time away from home.







TRANSPORTATION

For seafarers granted shore leave, the expansive 26 kilometre port presents its own challenge to accessing the city.

The only safe, reliable and affordable option made available to serve the seafarers is our free shuttle service - which goes anywhere in the port.



MAKING CONNECTIONS

During regular ship visits, we ensure that seafarers are able to purchase SIM cards which they can use in and out of port to connect with friends and family.







HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Through our partnership with Mariners' House, we invite seafarers to the Seafarers' Centre where they can purchase necessities, enjoy recreational activities, receive the care they need, attend a chapel service, visit with others and rest.



WARM CLOTHING

With many seafarers arriving directly from warmer countries, lack of warm clothing can often be the only reason they are not able to take shore leave.

Through donations of gently used warm clothing, we are able to offer items on loan or to keep - to help the seafarers stay in good health and good spirits.

ABOUT CHAPLAINCY

Our chaplains provide non-transactional spiritual, pastoral and practical care to all seafarers by **building intentional relationships** with them.

Each interaction with a seafarer is different depending on how much time they have, what their needs are and how comfortable they feel talking with us.



"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the delivery and for everything you do! I didn't have much time to express my gratitude properly, but please know that I truly appreciate it."

FEEDBACK FROM @BREEDING WITH LOVE, RECEIVED ON INSTAGRAM



DECADES OF CONNECTION

Captain Roozbeh Mamlatdar (far right) from Mumbai has been sailing regularly to Montreal for more than 20 years. He is married with two daughters and his family often sails with him.

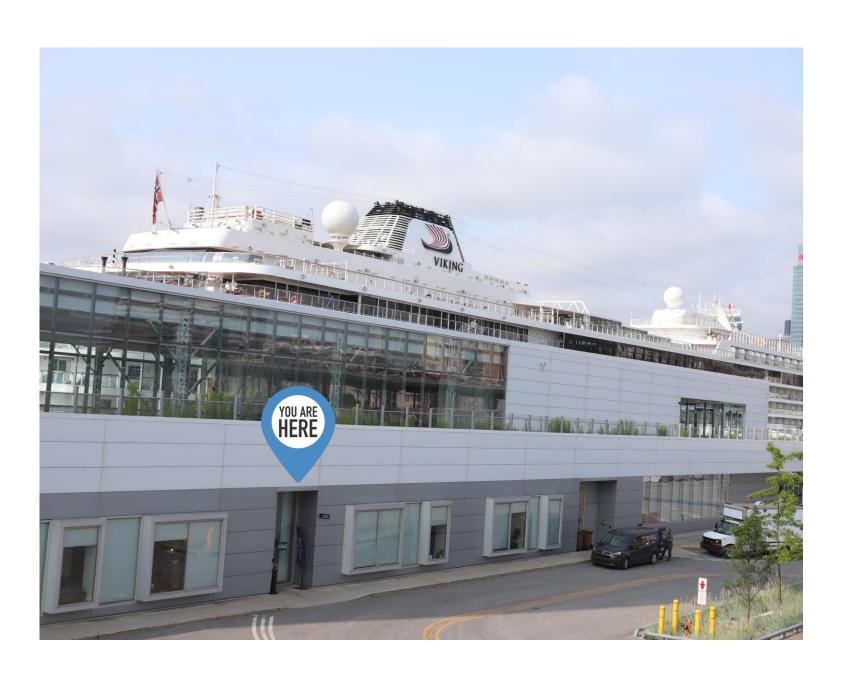
In December he happened to be in Montreal and brought some of his crew to the Christmas Eve event.

He was the only person that Chaplain Michelle knew at her wedding in India 17 years ago, besides her husband!

JUSTICE & ADVOCACY

We're grateful for the good relationship we have with Kyle Campbell, the local inspector from the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). He contacts us when there is a pastoral issue and we contact him when there is a rights issue.





SEAFARERS' CENTRE

We share office space with Mariners' House on the Grand Quai du Port de Montréal in the Old Port.

In addition to housing our offices, Mariners' House also has the following amenities to serve seafarers:

SERVICES AVAILABLE ON-SITE

THE SEA CHEST

Refreshments, toiletries, souvenirs, SIM cards, currency exchange



RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Snooker and pool tables, foosball, table tennis, Karaoke



CHAPEL

Evening prayers, Mass or other religious services as requested (i.e. blessing of the ship)



FREE STUFF

Free transportation; free coffee; free lending library; free Bibles and literature; free winter clothes



EASY ACCESS TO THE CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL

A stone's throw from the Iberville cruise ship terminal, enabling convenient access for crews

BEING COMMUNITY

Through our partnership with Mariners' House, we are able to provide a community space that is familiar and full of life. Together, we mark occasions such as Day of the Seafarer and World Maritime Day.











JUNE 25th INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE SEAFARER

Day of the Seafarer 2024 invited seafarers to share their top **#SafetyTipsAtSea**.

"Seafarers have been sorely tested in recent years – facing hostile acts from piracy or in conflict zones. I humbly acknowledge seafarers' resilience and sacrifice in the name of work." – IMO Secretary-General, Mr. Arsenio Dominguez

We delivered gifts provided by Rio Tinto to the ships in port and hosted an Open House buffet.

SEPTEMBER 26th: WORLD MARITIME DAY

"Navigating the future: safety first!"

We welcomed 230 seafarers to our Open House and by 2 PM we had run out of free snacks.

We try never to miss an opportunity to engage with and encourage seafarers.



26 SEP 2024

Happy World Maritime Day!

Wishing seafarers a safe day. Come by for free snacks at the Seafarers' Centre!

CHRISTMAS EVE BUFFET & CHAPEL SERVICE

We welcomed over 75 people on Christmas Eve. Many families, supporters, seafarers and volunteers enjoyed a sumptuous buffet prepared by staff members.

Chaplain Michelle led the Christmas Eve service and invited several youth to do the readings.















2024 HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY

UKRAINIAN CONNECTION

We had an opportunity to connect a Ukrainian seafarer with essential services in Montreal on her short stay here to complete paperwork.



MARCH

VISITING STUDENTS

When groups come by we give them an educational tour of the port and then do a responsive activity to bless the seafarers. One group painted Christmas parcel bags.

AFTER DECADES – RECONNECTING!

Jason Zuidema (R), now the ED of the North American Maritime Ministry Association, reconnects with his first seafarers' chaplain, Ken Mohle (2nd from L), after 26 years! Current chaplains David Rozeboom and Father Benjamin were also present.

FEBRUARY



BLUE CARPET EVENT, EASTER GIFTS

Chaplain Michelle was invited to give a blessing at the Blue Carpet event for the Port of Montreal.

The chaplains delivered Easter gifts to the ships and included crafts painted by visiting students.

APRIL



2024 HIGHLIGHTS



MAY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE SEAFARER

Magda Kopczynska, Director-General for Mobility & Transport at the EU came by. In the afternoon, the chaplains delivered gifts to the ships. In the evening we had an Open House spaghetti buffet with about 50 people in attendance.



JULY

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

We met with Lucie Lessard, President of *Le Foyer des marins de Sept-Îles*. She is looking to revitalize their work and wanted some insight into our practices.

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM A SEAFARER

"In Montreal there are 2 people who are very helpful - Michelle and David. If you need anything, just ask them and they will help you." -- Words shared between a long-time crew member and a new joiner as he was introduced to our chaplain.

JUNE



SUMMER INTERNS

Becky Mallett and Methembe Mazongo from Montreal Mission interned for the summer, shadowing the chaplains and learning about working in a ministry context.

AUGUST



2024 HIGHLIGHTS



SEPTEMBER

5th ANNUAL SEAWAY BIKE TOUR

Our fifth annual fundraiser welcomed 22 cyclists aged 4-71. The group rode a combined 784 km and raised more than \$12,000 towards our work.

ON THE WATERFRONT SHORT DOC SCREENING

This documentary presents a portrait of the Montreal Seafarers' Centre during the Christmas season and our mission to support the mariners. Our interactive online screenings attracted 35 people (Eng/Fr).



NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS PARCEL CAMPAIGN

We were invited to give a presentation to the students at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School.
Afterwards they packed parcels and added beautiful handmade cards.

OCTOBER



MARITIME INDUSTRY PARTICIPATES IN PACKING PARCELS

The Seafarer Welfare Board met in Ottawa, in conjunction with the Canadian Marine Advisory Council. We invited participants to pack parcels. They expressed how enjoyable it was as an activity.

DECEMBER



CHRISTMAS PARCELS

Thanks to generous donors and volunteers, each seafarer docking in the Port of Montreal receives a personal parcel.

Parcels contain toiletries, snacks, leisure items and warm clothing like gloves or a tuque.







CHRISTMAS CREATIVITY

The talents of our donors means that Christmas is one of the most beautiful times of the year.

Knits, crafts and handwritten cards, created with love and attention, are included in all the parcels.













1330

62

104

5870\$

COLIS/PARCELS

NAVIRES/SHIPS

DONNEURS/DONORS

VIRTUELLE/VIRTUAL

CHRISTMAS PARCEL GRATITUDE





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We believe in sharing our story through education and hospitality.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

FUNDRAISERS

2nd Cabane à sucre (Sugar Shack); 5th Annual Seaway Bike Tour



TODAY FOR SEAFARERS DEVOTIONAL

In the summer of 2023 our intern migrated our devotional content online, publishing one on a weekly basis. Seafarers' Centres in Canada and the USA are now sharing the content on their own social media pages.



CHRISTMAS PARCEL CAMPAIGN

104 churches, individuals or groups sewed bags and knitted warm gear, donated 1330 parcels and donated \$5870 towards virtual parcels. Many more volunteered their time at the Seafarers' Centre during the campaign.



EDUCATIONAL TOURS

We welcomed five different groups for an educational tour of the port. Groups responded by creating crafts for the seafarers or volunteering time to prepare for the Christmas parcel campaign.



CANADIAN NATIONAL SEAFARERS' WELFARE BOARD

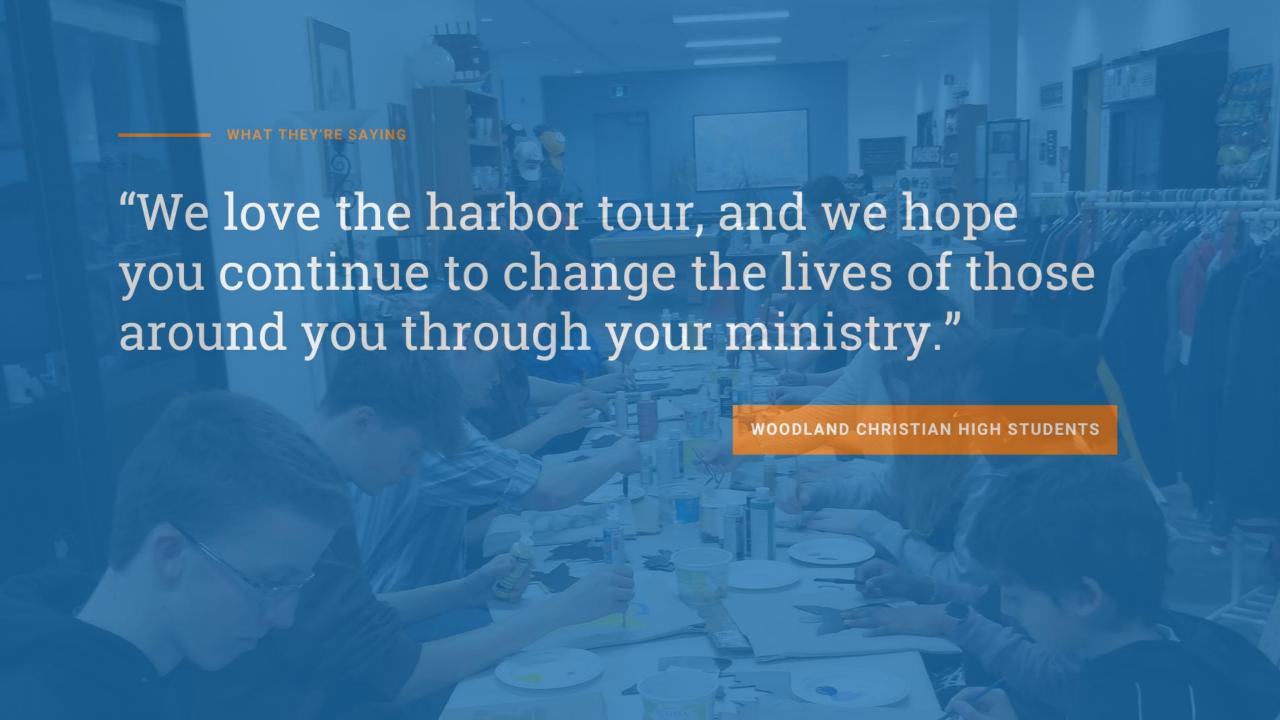
We have a seat on this advisory board to the Canadian government on issues related to the welfare of seafarers.

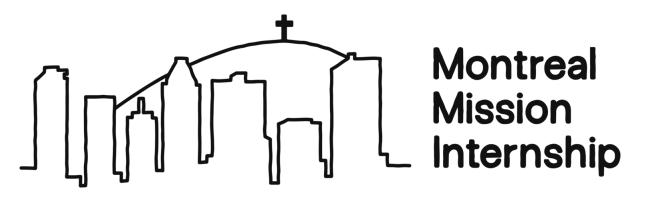




EDUCATIONAL VISITS

We work to bring visibility to the value and presence of seafarers in our city through engagement with the shipping industry and educating the wider Montreal community, especially by welcoming groups for Port tours and educational activities.

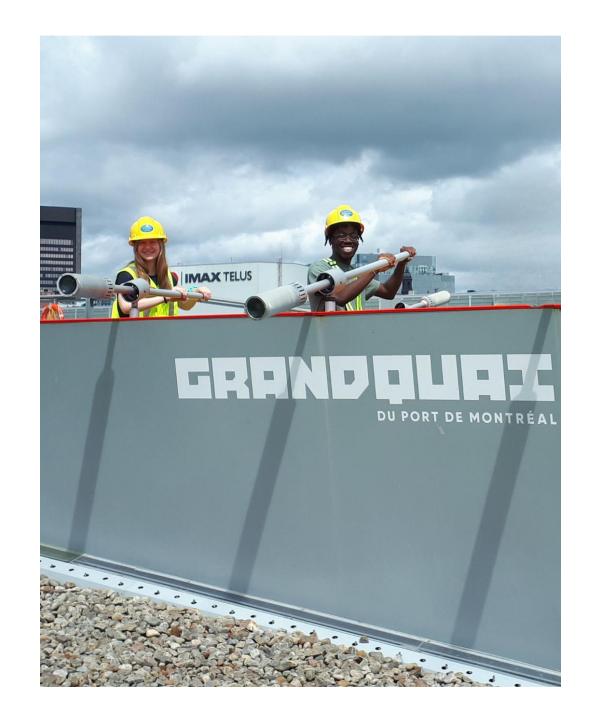




MMI – A LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

This was our third year partnering with **Montreal Mission.** They provided a paid service-learning placement for young adults ages 18-25.

We provided the opportunity for two interns to shadow our chaplains during the summer.



"My time...has taught me a lot about what happens behind the scenes of the life of a seafarer...All in all I enjoyed my 8 weeks here at Ministry to Seafarers and how it shaped my discernment process in what my place in ministry is."

-- METHEMBE MAZONGO, SUMMER INTERN

"I felt challenged by the simplicity of what M2S does. It felt uncomfortable to sit myself down in a ship's mess for the first few times...But over time I came to see how small gestures like sharing conversation over a cup of tea, asking about their families, or watching a game of pool can mean so much to people..." -- REBECCA MALLETT, SUMMER INTERN



ON THE WATERFRONT INTERACTIVE SCREENING

Filmmaker **Wojtek Jakubiec** joined us online to screen his film to English and French audiences totaling 35 people. He took time to answer questions.

In October, the film was also shown at the **16th Kuan Du Film Festival** organized by the Taipei
National University of the Arts.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower."

STEVE JOBS

Collage by Eugene Baliguat, seafarer

WELL, THAT'S A FIRST!

✓

VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL TOUR OF THE SEAFARERS' CENTRE ON ZOOM

The grade 5 class at Providence Christian School were the first students to get an interactive online tour and learn about the Christmas Parcel campaign. They were well prepared with great guestions!



MARE TRAINING

Contributed to the first course focused on women in the maritime industry available on the MARE Training platform.



ON THE WATERFRONT DOCUMENTARY (13 MIN)

This was the first time a film student asked to tell the story of the Montreal Seafarers' Centre Christmas Parcel campaign. We held our first virtual and interactive screenings of the film in English and French.



GOING ON THE ROAD WITH THE CHRISTMAS PARCEL CAMPAIGN

For the first time, we packed up all the Christmas parcel supplies and went to do presentations (Canadian Maritime Advisory Council; Pierre Elliott Trudeau School). We invited the groups to pack parcels to an enthusiastic response.

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

We held two fundraising events.
One was a joint effort with **Mariners' House of Montreal**.





CABANE À SUCRE JOINT FUNDRAISER

Working together with **Mariners' House** and with the help of 34 motivated volunteers, we raised \$16,749 for seafarer welfare work.

Over 180 participants enjoyed a tasty and authentic sugar shack lunch in the cruise ship terminal.

CABANE À SUCRE SPONSORS























5th ANNUAL SEAWAY BIKE TOUR FUNDRAISER

22 riders

Total distance ridden: 784 km

\$11,300 raised (net)

A COMMITMENT TO LEARNING & TRAINING

With more than 40 years of combined experience, our chaplains are well-positioned to teach and train others. They are also constant learners themselves.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



NAMMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

First Things First



CHAPLAIN TRAINING

Masters-level courses



TRAINING & SHARING BEST PRACTICES

We further our own development through mentoring summer interns and sharing best practices with other Seafarer Centres



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

Our staff are enthusiastic readers and keep abreast of news and new developments.





THANK YOU

Our work is not possible without the generous financial donations of individuals, churches, foundations, businesses and organizations.

We are also grateful to be able to collaborate with Mariners' House of Montreal and Stella Maris to serve seafarers in the Port of Montreal.

"I am fascinated by your wonderful ministry and I keep you in my prayers. It's a blessing to receive your prayer guides each month. May God bless all of you who are involved with the Ministry to Seafarers as He uses you to be a blessing to all the men and women who come to you from all over the world!"

WITH GRATITUDE, WE ACKNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDED FUNDING

FONDATION L'OEUVRE ACCOMPLIE

NORTH AMERICAN MARITIME MINISTRY ASSOCIATION

YVES & GLADYS CHENG FOUNDATION

(Some foundations requested not to be named and do not appear here.)

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



TOTAL HOURS SERVED

Volunteers and interns gave a total of 942 hours of service in 2024, a 5% increase over 2023.



MOST VALUED VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers ranged in age from 10 to 80+ years. Their time was valued at \$14,833 (using the wage factor set by the government).



WHO ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS?

Students completing community service hours, out-of-town individuals seeking new experiences, retired folks, people with gaps in theirs schedule that want to fill their time meaningfully and summer interns.

MVV's (MOST VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS)



CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD (Professional Sales Adult Education Students)

SERVICE DE LA FAMILLE CHINOISE DU GRAND MONTREAL

WOODLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ASHA, KIRAN, MICAELA & ROSHAN FRANCIS

CARMELA NIEZ

CLAUDIA ZHOU

DANIEL GIRARD

EMRE ALTUN

GERARD BONDT

JASON ZUIDEMA

JESSICA DEJESSICA

JULIAN ZHU

I.AN WEI

LUCIEN FOURNIER

OPHĒLIE LEGARS-TOUSIGNANT

PARISA ADELI

ROB WHITLEY

SHEILA MARGERRISON

TIMOTHY OWENS

TING XIAO

WEIBIAO WU

WINSTON VISSER

WOJTEK JAKUBIEC

Supplying Our Needs

BRIGITTE LIBERALE & DIANE PERSAD

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

ÉGLISE RÉFORMÉE ST-PAUL

FRIENDSHIP GROUP OF SARNIA

JANICE CUNNINHAM

MAGGIE'S MEAT MARKET

MOUNTAINVIEW MISSIONS CIRCLE

ONTARIO FLOWER GROWERS

PAUL HARMAN

SIERRA FLOWER TRADING

WILLEM BUWALDA & PIETER van OUDENDAREN

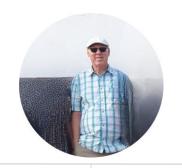
Plus many unnamed mobilizers, needle workers, knitters and seamstresses.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 BOARD













SHAWN
BRIX
Chair

SONJA
VERBEEK
Vice Chair

GEORGE ZEKVELD Treasurer

BERT
WISSINK
Secretary

SMITVolunteer
Liaison

VICKI
VANDERVEEN
Staff
Liaison

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 STAFF AND INTERNS



MICHELLE DEPOOTER

Lead Chaplain



DAVID ROZEBOOM

Chaplain



PATTY SARAZEN

Administrator & Volunteer Coordinator

Recipient of the 2024 inaugural

Elisabeth Bertrand Humble Servant

Award



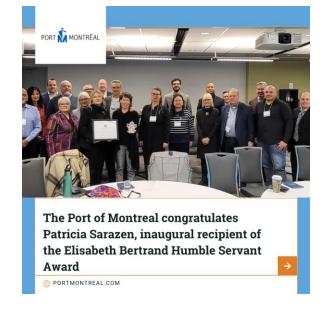
REBECCA MALLETT & METHEMBE MAZONGO

Summer Interns

M2S IN THE NEWS









FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Our Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

for year ended December 31

	2024	2023
REVENUE		
Church (Classical) support	65,000	55,000
Donations	68,168	78,822
Designated funds	666	651
Fundraisers	29,356	20,814
Miscellaneous	863	-
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	961	1,373
	\$165,014	\$156,660

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

for year ended December 31

	2024	2023
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries, benefits and housing	177,938	173,296
Vehicle Operating	10,348	12,301
Office	8,171	6,560
Seafarer programs	6,126	7,611
Mariners House Support	5,125	5,125
Professional Fees	5,043	4,927
Investment Counsel Fees	2,899	4,253
Professional Development	2,169	1,964
Travel and committee	2,092	2,275
Telephone	2,082	2,097
Insurance	1,604	1,607
Amortization	1,455	2,065
Volunteer Expenses	1,398	1,940
Bank charges	1,066	1,065
	\$227,516	\$227,086

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

for year ended December 31

	2024	2023
NET EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS	(62,502)	(70,426)
OTHER INCOME		
Investment income	5,581	40,132
Forgiveness portion of CEBA loan	20,000	-
	<u>25,581</u>	40,132
NET EXPENDITURES	(36,921)	(30,294)
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,028,665	1,058,959
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	\$991,744	\$1,028,665

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

We encourage our supporters to use the services of *CSS* to steward their resources with a Kingdom mindset.



Wills & Estates

CSS makes it easy to get the job the done right, giving you peace of mind.



Gift Planning

If you are ready to give; we are your one stop shop. We can help you decide the how and when.



Stewarding Assets

We lend up to 80% of assets to churches as mortgages to enhance ministry opportunities.