



# en piste

NATIONAL CIRCUS ARTS ALLIANCE

ANNUAL  
REPORT

2019

# A FEW STATISTICS

**1**

large annual meeting  
(AGA Forum)

**9**

membership committees

**100**

individualized  
training sessions

**800+**

posts on social media

**1**

membership campaign

**16**

board members

**106**

participants in the group  
insurance program

**1593**

hours of workshops  
for professionals

**5**

studies on issues  
facing the sector

**28**

group workshops

**327**

participants in continuing  
education activities

**2700+**

newsletter subscribers

**3**

circus meetings across  
Canada attended  
by En Piste

**42**

partners offering  
discounts and privileges

**411**

members

**3600+**

Facebook, Twitter and  
Instagram followers

**4**

community  
networking activities

**70**

bilingual communications

**450**

participants in En Piste  
networking activities

**7**

board meetings  
and multiple working  
committees

**86**

instructors

A team of four permanent employees and two casual employees supports the circus arts sector in its development and advocacy work.

# About En Piste

Since its incorporation in 1997, En Piste, the National Circus Arts Alliance, remains the only umbrella organization for circus arts professionals and organizations in Canada. With 411 members in 2019, it works to create conditions favourable to the development of the circus arts.

The circus is a unique ecosystem within the cultural sector. It is creative, diverse and innovative. In a matter of years, the circus arts have become an inspiring global benchmark and a universal source of pride.

The artists, artisans, cultural workers and organizations represented by En Piste work in all areas of the sector, from training to creation, production, promotion and social circus.

Its mission focuses on the following key principles:

- Bringing together organizations and individuals working in the community
- Developing, strengthening and promoting cohesion within the professional circus arts sector
- Advocating to the government on behalf of the sector to raise awareness of key issues and challenges
- Promoting the sector to local, national and international communities



# REMARKABLE PROGRESS

The 2019 fiscal year saw a considerable increase in the number of activities organized by En Piste for the circus arts sector. The number of community members who participate in our activities has grown steadily, which speaks to the relevance of En Piste and its essential contribution to the sector's development. En Piste has made remarkable and concrete progress with regard to its 2017-2027 Sector Development Plan, particularly in the following five areas:

- Building a pan-Canadian network
- Facilitating the adoption of a protective measure by the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST)
- Actively participating in the steering committee for the training network made up of the National Circus School (NCS), École de cirque de Québec, École de cirque de Verdun, École de cirque des Îles-de-la-Madeleine and École Horizon-Soleil.
- Carrying out an assessment focusing on promotion, with the aim of establishing a structuring project for circus arts circulation in Quebec.
- Conducting an economic survey of the circus arts in Quebec that demonstrates the wide-ranging impact of the sector while highlighting its precariousness and considerable vulnerability

## ACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2019, 450 circus arts professionals took part in networking activities held in Montréal and Québec, compared with 322 people in 2018, an increase of nearly 40%.

## STABLE MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS THAT ATTEST TO THE RELEVANCE OF OUR WORK

In 2019, En Piste enjoyed the continued support of 411 members. Despite a small 3% dip compared to 2018, we consider our membership numbers to be relatively stable.

## RECORD ATTENDANCE AND A FIRST WOMAN CHAIR

An impressive total of 13 members ran for positions on our board of directors. These members hailed from Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec. After 16 years of involvement with the board, Samuel Tétreault stepped down as chair. Marie-Claude Bouillon, the current chair of the board, is the first woman to hold this position since En Piste was founded.

## RELEVANT AND COMPELLING PERSPECTIVES ON LIFE AS AN ARTIST

The *Circus Artists' Trajectories* forum was attended by 125 people and held at The 7 Fingers' new premises. It featured 13 artists from different generations and a variety of origins and backgrounds. The day provided many opportunities for discussion and networking. For the event, we invited Juripop to give a presentation on the one-stop resource L'Aparté, a confidential and free service for members.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: A KEY FOCUS

In 2019, a total of 1593 hours of workshops were offered, compared with 414 in 2018. This considerable increase can be attributed to the launch of new programs.

## **GROUP WORKSHOPS: ALWAYS HIGHLY APPRECIATED BY PARTICIPANTS**

In 2019, 244 professionals from throughout Quebec participated in 28 group workshops, an increase of 50 participants compared to the previous year.

## **THE INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT PROGRAM: AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The first phase of the Individualized Training Support program was officially launched in January 2019 and was a resounding success. 59 circus artists from across Quebec received up to 20 hours of personalized support. The Individualized Career Support program has 22 participants.

## **CLOSER COLLABORATION TO EXPAND OUR RANGE OF WORKSHOPS**

In addition to workshops in collaboration with other organizations, our partnership with Cirque du Soleil allowed us to offer a workshop at the St. John's International CircusFest for the first time. Partnerships with TOHU and Concordia University also resulted in two masterclasses.

## **PROGRESS THROUGH DOCUMENTATION: FIVE ONGOING STUDIES IN 2019**

In addition to conducting two studies in 2019, which focused on promotion and the economic impact of the circus arts, we participated in a study on performing arts show attendance and a working group on artist career transitions. We also continued our participation in a study on digital mediation.

## **A WIDELY ACCESSIBLE INSURANCE PROGRAM**

The number of participants in our group insurance program continues to grow, increasing from 99 in 2018 to 106 in 2019. Seven circus companies have now joined the program, two more than in 2018.

## **MORE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES FOR MEMBERS ACROSS CANADA**

We nearly doubled our member benefits and privileges program, with 42 partners offering discounts online and to members in Montréal, Québec, Toronto, Calgary and Vanco

## **A DYNAMIC ALLIANCE**

We undertook various initiatives, developed new programs and projects, improved our administrative procedures, relocated downtown and began redesigning our website. We are therefore very proud to have attained the majority of our goals and to have achieved excellent results.