# The Margins & The Masses:

Community-Curated Promotion of Queer, Feminist, and Intersectional Literature

# Introduction

With its vibrant and diverse communities, organisations across the city of Montreal have long offered a rich cornucopia of arts and cultural programming. However, following a landscape analysis of these services, it became clear that a specific niche was not being served. The goal of this project was therefore to **serve** this underserved area by offering a regularly recurring book club that focused on queer, feminist, and intersectional literature.

#### Hypothesis

It was anticipated that through the creation of this group, Queereads Book Club of Montréal, an underserved community would be able to come together. The target population that this group hoped to support was bilingual, unilingual, and multilingual reading- and literature-lovers of diverse backgrounds and experiences that were looking to gather to learn and share through readings and discussions of varied queer, feminist, and intersectional literature.

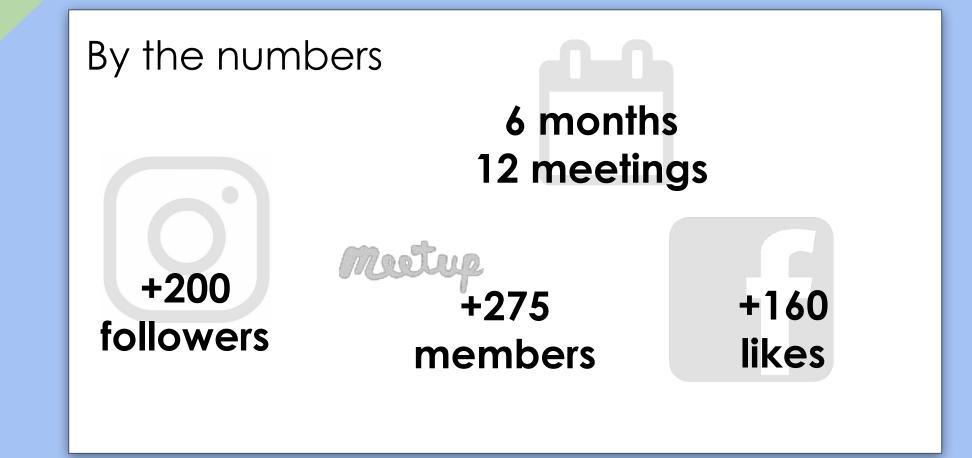
# Methods

In a collaboration between a professional librarian and trained facilitators, a survey was crafted, a programming calendar drafted, and a meeting location found. The first event was established for getting to know interested community members, to survey the types of materials they were interested in reading, and to establish group norms. In following meetings participants gathered to discuss books that they had read in preceding weeks. Feedback was solicited both informally and formally through a mid-season survey. Both the librarian and the facilitators used feedback to tailor future gatherings. Outside of and between meetings, communication was maintained with participants via online channels of Meetup, Facebook, &

Instagram.

#### Results

With its first session in August 2018, the group has had steadily recurring book meetings twice a month with added other content discussions (zines, films, etc.) and special events held throughout the season. A core recurring group of participants attends these meetings, with new and visiting participants joining each meeting.





#### Conclusion

Queereads has achieved its initial goal of establishing a collaborative and inviting space to support those interested in reading and discussing feminist, queer, and intersectional literature. But growth and development is an iterative process. Initial progress has shed light on areas for improvement. Thus the focus of the second season of the group has shifted towards making the content, space, and discussions more accessible, equitable, and inclusive.

> For more information visit www.queereads.ca

Find us on Facebook, Meetup & Instagram

#### Email us at queereadsmontreal@gmail.com

This poster is presented by Christine F. Smith, MLIS

Queereads Book Club gathers in Tiohtiá:ke/Montreal on the traditional lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation.

