

Mila

Shaping the Future of Intelligence

Impact Report 2025-2026

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Forging our own path at the frontiers of AI

In just a few years, artificial intelligence (AI) has moved from a niche academic concept to the mainstream. Today, countries, organizations and citizens are facing a new reality that is constantly shifting. Extraordinary opportunities lie ahead for humanity, but this rapid acceleration has also given rise to profound societal challenges.

A little under a decade ago, Yoshua Bengio, in partnership with Université de Montréal and McGill University, founded Mila with the conviction that AI should benefit everyone. Since then, the institute has fostered an interdisciplinary environment where global talent can thrive and put down roots in Canada. Every year, a growing number of exceptional minds flock to Montréal to join our unique community. We must now leverage this vibrant pool of expertise to face the global challenges of a new technological era.

In that spirit, Mila's strategic mandate is evolving to solidify its role as a global AI nonprofit organization with tangible impact on science, the economy, and society. This evolution reflects a commitment to push the frontiers of cutting-edge science, to apply the best research at the service of leading organizations and to pioneer new paths of cooperation with other middle powers seeking to adapt to a new world in their own way.

At home, Mila is committed to helping organizations thrive and celebrating Canada and Québec's unique cultural context. This is why we work with Hydro-Québec to safeguard the power grid with AI, with Cohere to adapt frontier models to Québec French, and with Télé-Québec to amplify the reach of local cultural content.

Mila Ventures, our startup incubator, has helped dozens of researchers turn their ideas into reality in Montréal, with almost 100 startups incubated and $137.6M in funding secured. More and more AI researchers are building Canadian companies to tackle real-world issues like precision medicine, climate change, and automated manufacturing.

Around the world, Mila is forging and nurturing new alliances to promote the advance of AI for the benefit of everyone. We now collaborate with countries like France, Germany and Sweden to both share our mutual knowledge and strengthen each other's technological ecosystem.

This year, we also contributed to global milestones like the International AI Safety Report, trained the next generation of AI-fluent policymakers, and joined provincial, national and international advisory groups to inform the future of AI. We also partnered with Mozilla to lay the foundations of a fully open-source, sovereign AI stack to offer alternatives to the world.

More than ever, Mila is committed to shaping a future of intelligence where humans can thrive. This impact report is a showcase of what we have accomplished in the past year, and a glimpse of what is yet to come.

Canada Québec Université de Montréal McGill



Valérie Pisano

President and CEO, Mila



Hugo Larochelle

Scientific Director, Mila,
Adjunct Professor,
Université de Montréal &
McGill University



Pierre Boivin

Board Chair, Mila

Shaping the future of intelligence on five frontiers

For nearly a decade, Mila has advanced artificial intelligence to address humanity's most pressing challenges. Today, our scientific community mobilizes its expertise to drive fundamental discoveries and fuel our impact across five interconnected frontiers: scientific, technological, economic, societal, and human.



The scientific frontier

1,800+ researchers advance AI, from health and climate to language and robotics, to tackle humanity's most pressing challenges.



The economic frontier

Through partnerships with 190+ industry leaders and a dedicated startup launchpad, Mila turns cutting-edge research into real-world innovation.



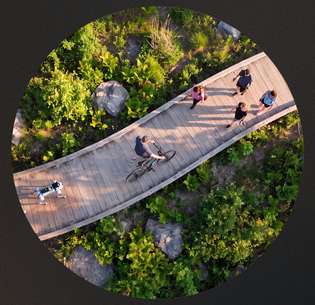
The technological frontier

Mila designs open, efficient AI systems that reduce computing and energy costs while expanding access to the technology.



The societal frontier

Through a global network of governments, international organizations, and academic partners, Mila helps shape a future for AI grounded in trust and collective well-being.



The human frontier

Mila drives safer, more inclusive AI, elevates Indigenous and underrepresented voices, and prepares the next generation of AI-native leaders and citizens.



Event

At the heart of ALL IN 2026

Mila played a central role at ALL IN 2026, the flagship event of the Canadian AI ecosystem that convened over 10,000 participants, 200 speakers, and 200 partner organizations in Montréal on September 16-17 to discuss the future of AI.

Our leadership and faculty, including Mila Scientific Director Hugo Larochelle, Mila President and CEO Valérie Pisano, and Core Academic Members Emma Frejinger (Université de Montréal), Glen Berseth (Université de Montréal), and Laurent Charlin (HEC Montréal), led key sessions spanning AI leadership, industrial R&D, intelligent logistics, robotics, and AI in education.

At the Mila booth, attendees discovered an open-source AI hub showcasing the first fully autonomous robotic guide dog and a sovereign agentic software factory, an AI safety pavilion featuring a visual deepfake detection challenge, and a Mila Ventures space highlighting ways to turn promising research into venture-backed startups.

Photo credit: Melanie Olmstead

Mila also took centre stage during three major announcements alongside Canada’s Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation, Evan Solomon:

Mila, Mozilla, Hypertec, and the Government of Canada announced an initiative to provide small and medium-sized enterprises with accessible, affordable, and privacy-preserving open-source AI tools.

Canada and Germany committed up to $300M to support Yoshua Bengio’s LawZero not-for-profit startup, incubated at Mila, to develop a new class of AI model that is safe, transparent, and trustworthy by design.

Mila and the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) established an applied research partnership to advance bilateral cooperation on safe AI systems and smart energy infrastructure.

Together, these initiatives reinforced Mila’s role as a core pillar of the Canadian and global AI ecosystem.

Mila

Scientific frontier

Following Yoshua Bengio's founding of LawZero last year, Hugo Larochelle took over as Mila's Scientific Director. Since then, Mila's commitment to encouraging impactful scientific discoveries has continued to grow. Every day, a growing community of 1,800 researchers from all around the globe gathers at our institute to explore novel research directions.

The scientific frontier in numbers

196

Faculty members

Over the past year, Mila has welcomed 33 new faculty members, a growth of 20%.

1,636

Student researchers

During the last fiscal year, Mila had more than 1,600 student researchers in its community.

697

Research projects

Mila-affiliated faculty members continue to be highly engaged in research, with 697 projects currently underway.

879

Peer-reviewed articles

Mila researchers have published over 870 peer-reviewed articles since last October.

429

Scholarships

More than 420 scholarships have been awarded to Mila students since last year, for a total value of more than $8 million.

16

CIFAR Chair renewals

Over the past year, 16 of our faculty members have been reappointed as Canada CIFAR AI Chairs, a cornerstone of Canada's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, AI for All. In addition, five faculty members were also newly appointed to the Chair program.

Awards and distinctions

Over the past year, Mila's faculty members and researchers continued to make their mark on the global stage, earning prestigious awards and honors across the AI ecosystem. Discover how our community's achievements are being celebrated worldwide:

Yoshua Bengio (Université de Montréal) became the first living scientist to surpass 1 million citations on Google Scholar and co-chaired first UN Scientific Panel Report on AI

David Ifeoluwa Adelani selected for Schmidt Sciences' AI2050 Fellowship Program

Siva Reddy (McGill University) received the Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship in Computer Science and honored for Outstanding Early Career Computer Science Research

Samira A. Rahimi (McGill University) received Donald A. Henderson Prize for Outstanding Global Health Research and was appointed to U7+ Alliance working group on AI

Foutse Khomh (Polytechnique Montréal) appointed Director of Research and Innovation at Polytechnique Montréal

Blake Richards (McGill University) received the Schmidt Science Polymath Award

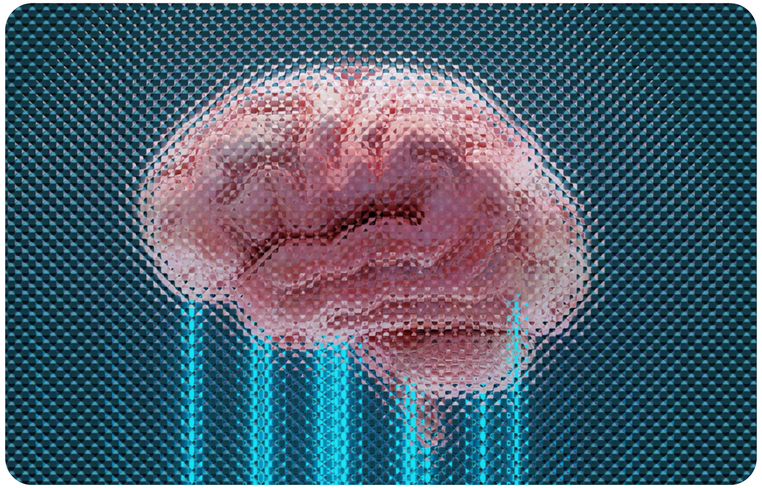
Mila professors AJung Moon (McGill University), Eva Portelance (HEC Montréal), Felix Dangel (Concordia University), David Meger (McGill University) and Matt Kusner (Polytechnique Montréal) were appointed Canada CIFAR AI Chairs



Kanopia: Monitoring forests with drones and AI

Université de Montréal and Mila professor Étienne Laliberté and his team are flying drones above the tropical canopy of Panama and using AI to process thousands of high-resolution images in hours instead of months.

With this method, researchers can follow each individual tree from a bird's-eye view to monitor forests at scale and better understand the impacts of climate change to protect fragile ecosystems, including in Canada.



Mila drives world's largest study on psychedelics

Many research labs are seeking cheap and effective psychedelic drug treatments for mental health conditions like depression and anxiety.

An international team led by McGill University and Mila professor Danilo Bzdok used AI to analyze data from over 500 brain scans across three continents for the world's largest study on the effects of psychedelics on brain function in humans.

They found that psilocybin, LSD, mescaline, DMT and ayahuasca all cause the same changes in the brain: they flatten functional hierarchies and allow isolated brain areas to communicate, laying a new foundation on which to build the next generation of drug discovery efforts.



Discovering new species with AI



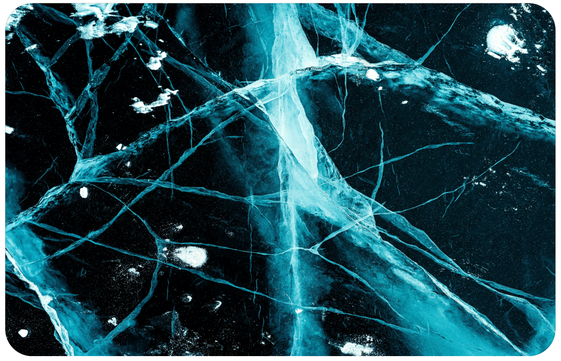
Improving AI vision



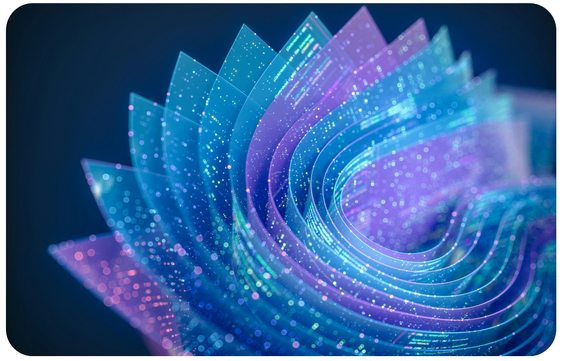
Equitable cardiovascular healthcare with multimodal AI



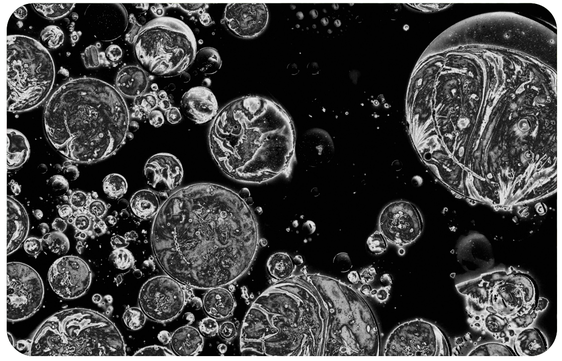
Detecting wildfires with drones and AI



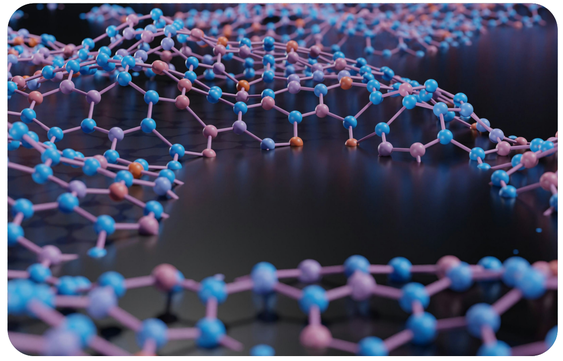
Improving clinical neurology with AI



Facilitating audits of language models



Enhancing cancer care with AI tools



Discovering sustainable materials and antibiotics with AI

Alongside the work conducted by our researchers, our scientific community also focuses its efforts around eight research directions. Envisioned as coalitions, they encourage the pooling of knowledge to amplify our advances across all five of our frontiers.

AI safety	Developing alignment protocols, evaluation benchmarks, and interpretability tools to guarantee advanced systems remain safe and aligned with human values.
Sound scientific discovery	Engineering reliable safeguards to accelerate scientific discoveries in many domains.
Information integrity	Protecting information ecosystems against disinformation, manipulation, and coordinated AI agent swarms.
Embodied AI and robotics	Fusing multimodal spatial reasoning with physical control to deploy safe and adaptable robotic systems.
Environment and energy	Applying machine learning to accelerate the clean energy transition, biodiversity monitoring, extreme weather forecasting, and climate resilience.
Multi-agent systems	Designing protocols and benchmarks to govern safe coordination and collective behavior of autonomous agents.
NeuroAI	Exploring shared computational principles between biological and artificial brains to pioneer energy-efficient architectures and clinical neurotechnologies.
Continual learning	Architecting adaptive systems that learn from real-time experience without forgetting, significantly reducing compute usage.

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Economic frontier

More than ever, Mila is committed to helping Canadian organizations thrive and encouraging the next generation of scientific entrepreneurs to translate their research into high-impact companies.

Mila connects industrial partners with cutting-edge AI research to solve critical challenges, mapping critical minerals in Canada's soil to accelerating drug discovery.

Through our incubator, Mila Ventures, we supported almost a hundred growing startups in securing $137M+ in funding and advancing breakthroughs in fields like physical AI, manufacturing, and healthcare.

The economic frontier in numbers

60+

New partners

Mila welcomed 62 new partner organizations to its community, which now numbers 192 partners.

400+

Projects

In the last fiscal year, Mila's AI adoption and innovation initiatives led to 406 projects and transactions, positively impacting 239 organizations across various sectors.

99

Incubated startups

Mila Ventures supported 99 early-stage deep-tech companies in establishing and scaling their operations in Montréal, reinforcing the city's position as a premier global hub for AI entrepreneurship.

$137.6M+

Total funding secured

Startups supported through Mila Ventures raised over $137.6 million in investment capital, fuelling the commercialization of cutting-edge AI research and driving long-term economic growth.

189

AI researchers engaged

Mila Ventures mobilized 189 AI researchers through specialized venture programs and signature events, bridging the gap between academic discovery and market-ready enterprise creation.



Accelerating critical mineral exploration in Canada with AI

Securing critical minerals such as zinc, nickel, graphite, and rare-earth elements is vital for Canada's renewable energy and advanced manufacturing sectors.

In partnership with Natural Resources Canada, Mila researchers evaluated the potential of deep learning applied to decades of historical geoscience archives.

This project demonstrated how predictive models can aggregate complex geological data to generate prospective maps pinpointing high-potential deposits, laying essential methodological foundations for data-driven exploration across Canada.



Improving drug discovery with AI

While modern AI tools can predict the basic shapes of proteins, determining exactly how strongly a new drug will bind to a specific biological target remains a challenge.

To bridge this gap, HEC Montréal and Mila professor Jian Tang developed, in partnership with Intel, the Atom-level Diffusion Transformer (ADiT). Building on the architecture of AlphaFold 3, this new model analyzes biological complexes and learns how sequences and structures interact.

Pre-trained on massive datasets, ADiT can predict with high accuracy the binding affinities for new drugs, antibodies, and proteins, providing pharmaceutical developers with a powerful tool to rapidly screen and design more effective drugs.

Highlights



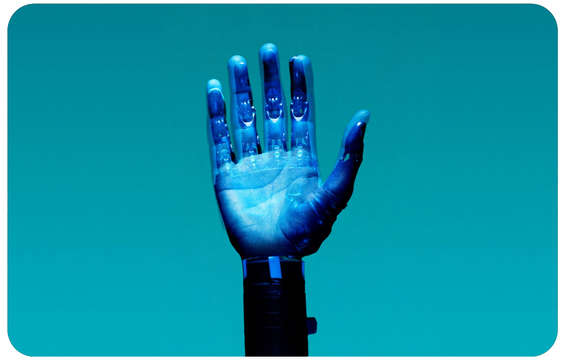
Attracting global companies to Québec



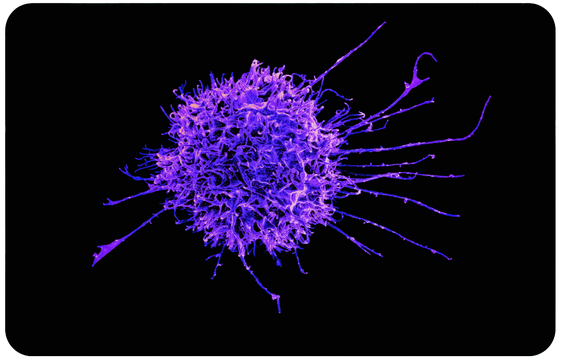
Polaire: Updating local democracy with AI



Advancing AI robotics in manufacturing



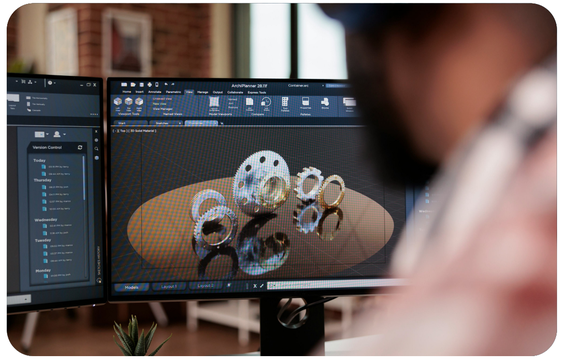
Building interpretable physical AI



Decoding the immune system with AI



Advancing neurotechnologies



Automating 3D design with LLMs



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Technological frontier

As AI models grow in power, the infrastructure required to run them must evolve to be sustainable, accessible, and safe. From building an enterprise-ready open-source AI stack with Mozilla and developing the first fully autonomous robotic guide dog to slashing energy footprints with optimized inference, Mila is pioneering open and efficient AI systems.



Mila and Mozilla build open-source AI stack

Mila is leading the technical development of an open-source AI foundation layer in partnership with Mozilla and backed by the Government of Canada.

Supported by Hypertec, the initiative provides a technology stack that allows businesses, public institutions, and healthcare providers to run production-grade AI locally.

By eliminating reliance on costly proprietary platforms, the project ensures organizations maintain sovereign control over their digital infrastructure, technology, and proprietary data.



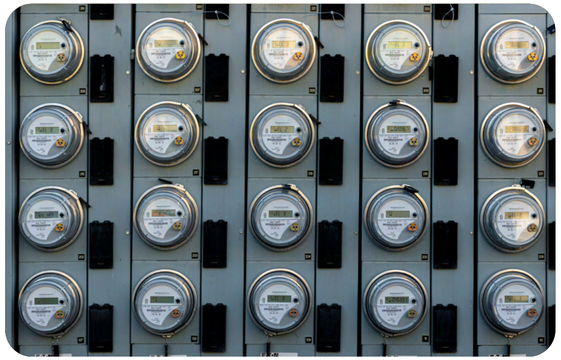
The first fully autonomous robotic guide dog

Training a certified guide dog costs tens of thousands of dollars, and applicants can expect to wait for years before being able to welcome one in their life.

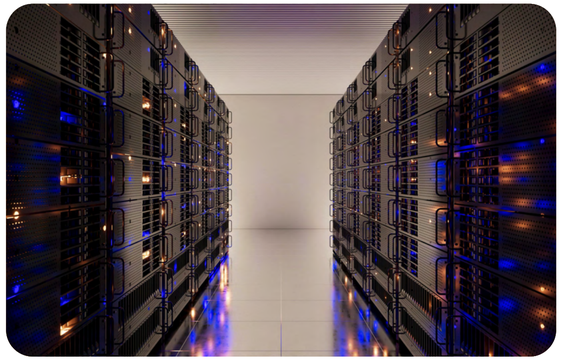
Mila researcher Florian Golemo designed Milo, the first fully autonomous robot guide dog that helps people navigate both indoor and outdoor spaces safely.

For under $2,000, this AI-powered and open-source robotic companion could be mass-produced to support thousands of people while they wait for a real dog.

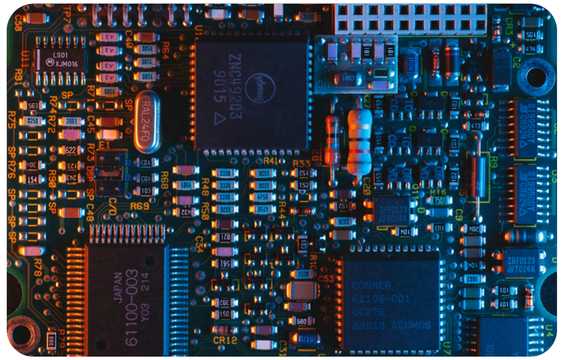
Highlights



Lowering the energy costs of AI inference



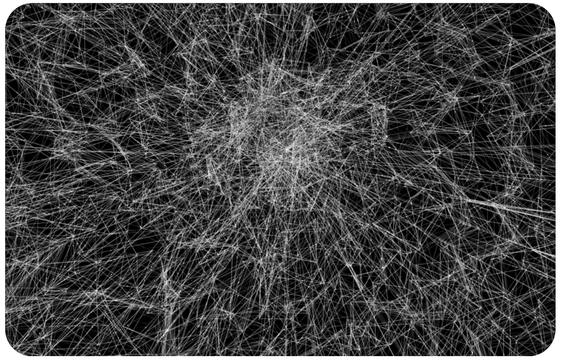
Optimizing resources for scalable AI infrastructure



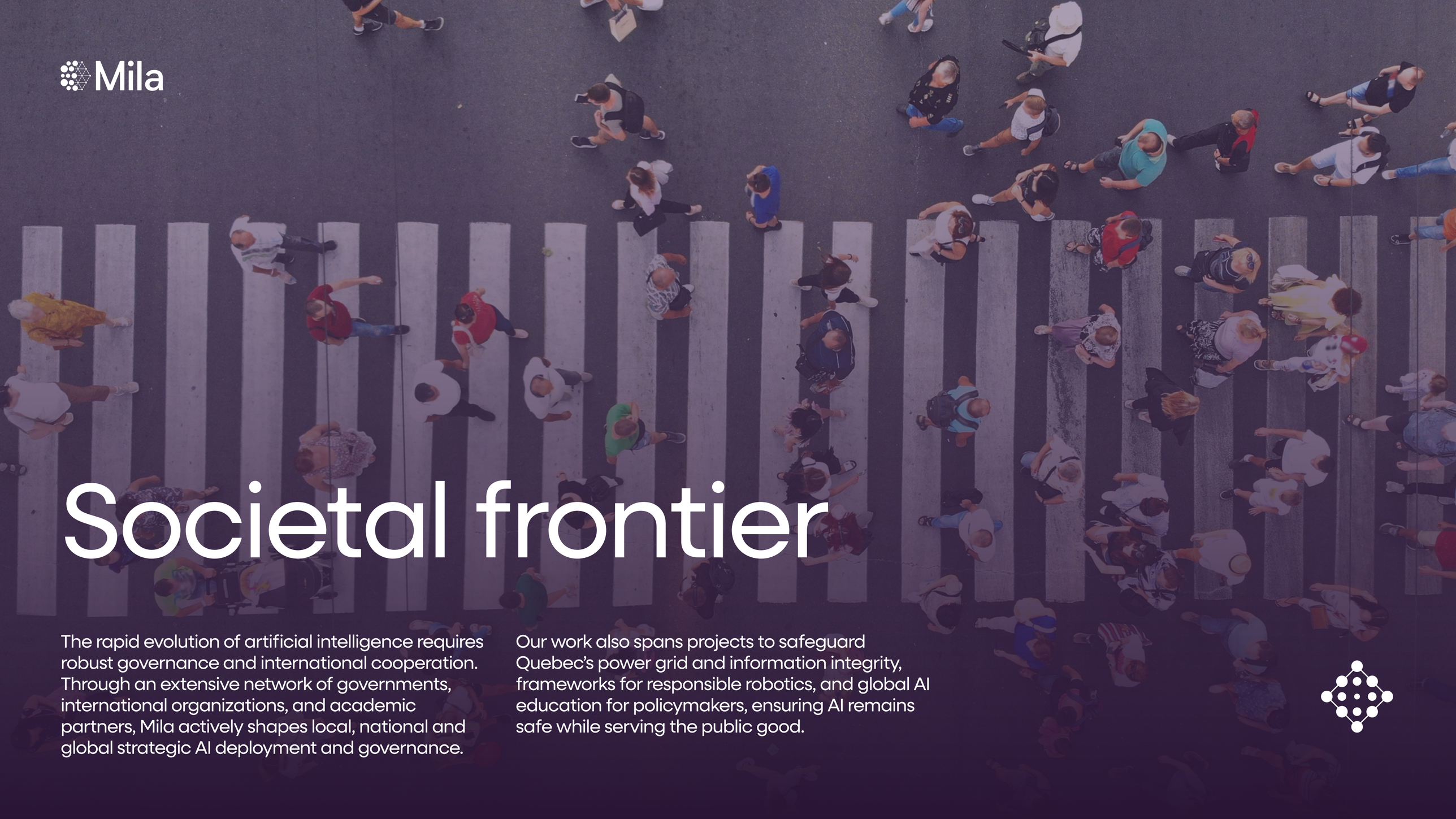
Mathematical foundations for compute-efficient AI



Optimizing AI model choice



Open reproducible frameworks for web agents



Mila

Societal frontier

The rapid evolution of artificial intelligence requires robust governance and international cooperation. Through an extensive network of governments, international organizations, and academic partners, Mila actively shapes local, national and global strategic AI deployment and governance.

Our work also spans projects to safeguard Quebec's power grid and information integrity, frameworks for responsible robotics, and global AI education for policymakers, ensuring AI remains safe while serving the public good.

The societal frontier in numbers

$300M

Secured for LawZero

LawZero secured up to $300 million to accelerate global AI safety research and build technical safeguards under Yoshua Bengio's scientific leadership.

231

Policy leaders empowered

Through AI Advantage and AI Policy Compass, Mila trained 231 public servants and decision-makers in practical AI governance and responsible adoption.

7,445

Learners reached

Over the past year, 7,445 learners participated in programs and conferences promoting responsible AI.



Safeguarding Québec's power grid with AI

Maintaining a reliable power grid across Québec's vast territory requires constant vigilance over thousands of kilometres of infrastructure and surrounding forests. To advance this massive undertaking, Mila partnered with Hydro-Québec to explore and evaluate next-generation AI models.

These models analyze detailed 3D mapping data captured along corridors to pinpoint critical assets and flag encroaching vegetation before disruptions occur.

By combining Hydro-Québec's operational expertise with Mila's cutting-edge AI research, this partnership accelerates the transition toward automated utility network management.



Canada and Germany: a strategic AI partnership

Mila signed a strategic agreement with the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), formalizing a multi-year partnership to strengthen bilateral AI research and innovation.

This agreement enables both leading institutes to launch joint research projects and share scientific expertise focused on advancing trustworthy, sustainable AI architectures.

By combining their ecosystem strengths, Mila and DFKI aim to bridge applied and fundamental AI research between Canada and Germany, fostering international scientific collaboration, student mobility, and technology transfers.



The International AI Safety Report



Yoshua Bengio and Valérie Pisano join National Council on AI



Strengthening Canada-France AI cooperation



Empowering Canadian policymakers



Open-source AI for information integrity and human oversight



An inclusive approach to responsible robotics



Taking responsible AI education global



Teaching AI literacy online



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Human frontier

Since its inception, Mila has believed that technological progress must also be measured by its benefit to people and communities. We are committed to encouraging safer, more inclusive AI by elevating Indigenous perspectives, supporting data sovereignty, and empowering underrepresented voices.

This core belief is reflected in our commitment to cultural and linguistic sovereignty. Through an AI living lab with Télé-Québec, Mila enhances the discoverability of French-language content for youth, and a partnership with Cohere establishes benchmarks for Québec French, ensuring frontier models faithfully reflect our local cultural realities.

The human frontier in numbers

800+

Participants at Mila's Indigenous AI gathering

In July, Mila co-hosted its 2nd Indigenous AI Gathering, with 830 participants online and in person.

500+

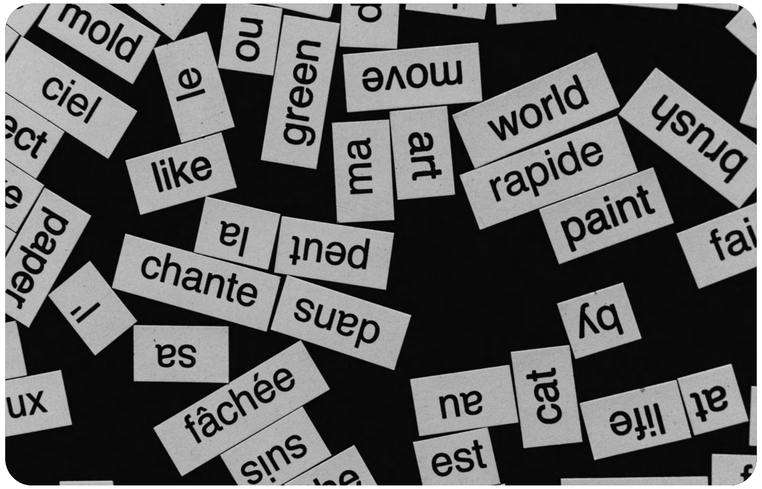
New Mila members

Over the last fiscal year, more than 500 new researchers and collaborators joined the Mila community.

63%

International students

Mila's role as a global hub for AI research is reflected in the diversity of its student body, with 63% coming from outside Canada.



Fostering Québec culture and French-language sovereignty in AI

To ensure frontier AI reflects local realities, Mila launched two strategic initiatives to foster more inclusive AI systems.

Through a pioneering living lab with Télé-Québec, Mila develops AI algorithms to amplify the discoverability and accessibility of local cultural content for younger audiences. In parallel, a collaboration with Cohere advances multilingual AI evaluation benchmarks tailored specifically to Québec French, enabling models to accurately capture distinct institutional and cultural contexts.

Together, these partnerships empower organizations to deploy culturally trustworthy AI while reinforcing French-language vitality in the digital sphere.



Celebrating Mila's Indigenous AI Gathering and Indigenous Pathfinders in AI

Mila co-hosted the 2nd Annual Indigenous AI Gathering with Abundant Intelligences, bringing together over 830 participants online and in-person from around the world, including 45 leading voices in Indigenous AI to advance dialogue at the intersection of artificial intelligence and Indigenous innovation.

Across two days of keynotes and panel discussions, sessions focused on establishing Indigenous data sovereignty, advancing ethical AI development, and safeguarding Indigenous languages and cultural heritage for future generations.

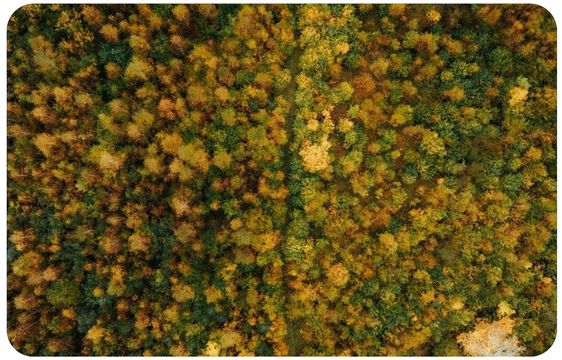
The Gathering also celebrated the culmination of the 3rd cohort of Indigenous Pathfinders in AI, featuring project pitches from a seven-week career pathway program designed to empower Indigenous youth.



Digital literacy for Indigenous communities



Formation of the Indigenous AI Advisory Circle



Accelerating wildfire hazard mapping with AI



Enhancing the Red Cross' crisis management with AI



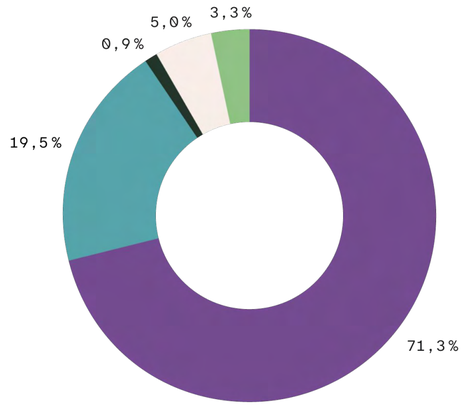
Conversational AI safety in youth mental health



AI4Good Lab: 10 years of empowering diverse voices in AI

Financials

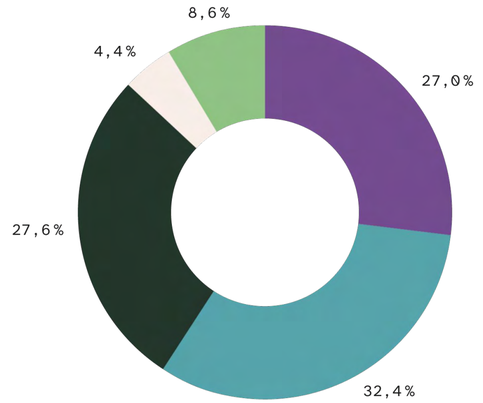
Revenues



- Government grants
- Industry contracts
- Leasing
- Other
- Amortization of deferred contributions related to tangible capital assets

Total income	77 343 371

Expenses



- Research
- Research support, innovation and computing power
- Projects, industry relationships and training
- Amortization of tangible capital assets
- General administration

Total expenses	77 539 385


Mila