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1 SUMMARY

The Canadian Journal of Bioethics/Revue canadienne de bioéthique (CJB/RCB) is the only bilingual (English and French), Diamond open access, non-profit, peer-reviewed bioethics journal in Canada.

Hosted by the Bioethics Program at the School of Public Health of the Université de Montréal, the journal fills an important gap in the Canadian and international bioethics community, providing a space to publish high quality and thought provoking theoretical, conceptual and empirical bioethics research in diverse forms. Alongside peer-reviewed articles and critical commentaries, the CJB/RCB publishes editor-reviewed case studies, creative works, perspectives, and reviews of books, films, and academic events. Topics cover the full range of bioethics specialties, including but not limited to clinical ethics, research ethics, public health ethics, technology ethics, and professional ethics.

Almost entirely volunteer-run, it was only in 2019 – with receipt of a 3-year grant from the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada (renewed 2022-2025) – that it became possible to partially remunerate the Scientific Director. The journal does not currently pay for page-setting or translation, responsibilities that are assumed by the Editor-in-Chief and the Scientific Director.

The journal has seen sustained annual growth in submissions (avg. 80/year) and publications (40-60 peer-reviewed texts/year), is increasingly international in its authors and readership, and is widely indexed. Having celebrated 10 years of publication in 2022, the journal is now an established actor in the Canadian and international bioethics communities.

To sustain the journal’s continued growth, and to avoid burn-out of the Editorial team, additional funding is requested to move towards more paid editorial work. The CJB/RCB is seeking $43,000/year to double the paid hours for the Scientific Director (who does substantial volunteer work), to hire a Coordinator (7h/week), to outsource page-setting (e.g., to a graduate student), and to begin providing modest honoraria to the Section Editors.

OACIP FUNDING GOAL

$43,000/year for three years totaling $129,000
## At-A-Glance

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3 JOURNAL OVERVIEW

3.1 JOURNAL NAME

*Canadian Journal of Bioethics/Revue canadienne de bioéthique*

3.2 JOURNAL WEBSITE

https://www.cjb-rcb.ca

3.3 JOURNAL DESCRIPTION

Founded in 2012, the *Canadian Journal of Bioethics/Revue canadienne de bioéthique* (CJB/RCB; formerly *BioéthiqueOnline*, from 2012 to 2017) is a peer-reviewed, bilingual (French and English), international, Diamond open access academic journal that publishes theoretical, conceptual and empirical research in bioethics. The aim of the journal is to provide a space for the publication of high quality and thought-provoking bioethics scholarship in diverse forms and on a wide range of topics.

3.4 WHO OWNS THE JOURNAL?

The journal is hosted by the Bioethics Program at the School of Public Health of the Université de Montréal (ÉSPUM), in collaboration with Université de Montréal Libraries and the non-profit consortium Érudit. The journals is supported by public grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Érudit and the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN).

3.5 WHO PUBLISHES THE JOURNAL?

The Bioethics Program at the School of Public Health of the Université de Montréal

3.6 WHAT IS THE JOURNAL’S MISSION?

The Canadian Journal of Bioethics is a peer-reviewed, bilingual (French and English), international, open access academic journal that publishes theoretical, conceptual and empirical research in bioethics. The aim of the journal is to provide a space for the publication of high quality and thought-provoking bioethics scholarship of diverse forms. The topics published cover the full range of bioethics specialties, including but not limited to themes in clinical ethics, research ethics, public health ethics, technology ethics, and professional ethics. Manuscripts that might not otherwise be publishable in US or European bioethics journals because of the language (e.g., in French), jurisdictional context (e.g., specific national issues or cases), interdisciplinarity, form or subject matter are welcome.

3.7 WHAT DISCIPLINE(S) DOES THE JOURNAL SERVE?

Bioethics, health law, health ethics, public health ethics, clinical ethics, technology ethics, professional ethics, etc.
3.8 IS THIS JOURNAL CONSIDERED A FLAGSHIP JOURNAL?
The journal is first and only bilingual open access bioethics journal in Canada, with a national and international reach. The journal collaborates closely with the Canadian Bioethics Society / Société canadienne de bioéthique (with an MOU signed in 2023).

3.9 HOW MANY ISSUES ARE PUBLISHED EACH YEAR?
Four

3.10 WHAT ARE THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED EACH YEAR?
40 peer-reviewed articles/year, 30 non-refereed (editor-reviewed) publications/year

3.11 IN WHAT LANGUAGE(S) IS THE JOURNAL PUBLISHED?
English, French

3.12 ON WHAT PLATFORM IS THE JOURNAL HOSTED?
The journal publishes with Open Journal Systems (OJS), an open source platform created by the Public Knowledge Project, and is hosted by the Université de Montréal library.

4 FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

4.1 PROVIDE A SNAPSHOT OF RESOURCE AND SOCIETY/PUBLISHER FINANCES.
The journal receives no direct financial or in-kind support from the School of Public Health, aside from the time invested by the Editor-in-chief (which is substantial, because he proofs all manuscripts, does English correction, page-setting, etc.). The Université de Montréal library hosts the journal website, providing technical support and updating for the OJS platform; this is substantial in-kind support and not paid by the journal.

4.2 HOW IS THE JOURNAL CURRENTLY FUNDED?
No APCs or other charges to authors. The journal if funded primarily through a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada ($30,000/y), Érudit (based on number of publications) and the Canadian Research Knowledge Network ($4000/y).

4.3 WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR SEEKING FUNDING FOR TRANSITION TO OPEN ACCESS OR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION?
The current funding is insufficient to cover all the work done by the Scientific director, nor does it permit remuneration of Section editors or outsourcing of page-setting. Having succeeded in publishing for 10 years with a volunteer editorial board, the lack of sufficient funds to cover core operating costs (i.e., salaries) has long been a major source of risk to the journal’s stability and a barrier to further growth. To
increase the journal’s operating funds, the editors have worked closely with Érudit and the Université de Montréal library to identify additional funding sources, while also applying (successfully) for grants to the Canadian federal granting council (every 3 years), applying to the Quebec provincial funder (if they renew support for scholarly journals), and soliciting individual donations.

4.4 **Provide a summary of your funding request through OACIP. Include total dollar value sought per year.**

$43,000/year total

- $20,000/y to double the hours of the Scientific director
- $8,000/y to hire a 7h/week coordinator (a graduate student)
- $10,000/y to outsource manuscript page-setting
- $2,000/y to provide modest honoraria to the Section editors
- $3,000/y to cover OACIP administrative costs

4.5 **What is the journal’s commitment to innovation and research & development?**

The journal Editor-in-chief is a bioethicist and technology ethics expert. He launched the journal with a group of graduate students in 2012, with no budget, and did all the web development. The journal has grown steadily, innovated in publication ethics (e.g., a member of COPE, doing fully open review), integrated a new publishing platform (OJS in 2017), published creative works (e.g., artwork, fiction, poetry) and event summaries, expanded its indexing internationally, and pushed the boundaries of themes published in bioethics. Innovation and R&D are part of the very DNA of the Editor-in-chief and the Scientific Director.

4.6 **Please describe how the journal demonstrates operational and financial stability or provide a plan for such.**

The journal has now successfully had 2 rounds of Canadian federal grants, to cover 6 years of operation, growing from a budget of $2500CAN in 2018 to $38,000CAN in 2023. The journal is strongly supported by the Université de Montréal library and Érudit, who with the Editor-in-chief, are continuing to explore innovative ways to financially support the journal. Even with its current modest budget, the journal is perfectly functional and viable. Additional funding will enable a more equitable remuneration of the current volunteer work (e.g., increasing the salary of the Scientific director and compensating Section editors), and support long term growth (e.g., outsourcing page-setting).

5 **Impact**

5.1 **Disciplinary Impact**

Only bilingual, Diamond OA journal in Canada. One of only a handful of bioethics journals publishing in French.
Acceptance rate = 48% (peer-review = 43.5%), Rejection rate = 27% (peer-review = 32%)

Circulation: 30,000 visits annually to the website, 120,000 downloads, with visitors primarily from North America and Europe

Citations: h-index = 15, i10-index = 17, Scopus CiteScore 2022 = 0.7, SJR 2022 = 0.18

New publications, news and events are publicised via BioéthiqueOnline, the social media arm of the journal (and former journal name): all new issues are disseminated to hundreds of potential readers via Facebook (482 followers) and LinkedIn (415 followers). In addition, new issues are published on the social media pages of the Bioethics Program (Facebook=231; LinkedIn=231) and the Editor-in-chief, Bryn Williams-Jones (Facebook=362; LinkedIn=1593).

5.2 DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IMPACT
The journal publishes in English and French, on topics that may be sensitive or even unpublishable in certain countries. Readers and authors are primarily from Canada and the US, but also the UK, and countries in Europe, Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Being Diamond OA, an important financial barrier is removed for scholars from low- and middle-income countries. Further, the journal editors work hard to support emerging scholars, and scholars for whom English or French are not their native languages, to move promising manuscripts to publication.

Authors are encouraged to pay attention to sex and gender equity in their choice of research questions, methodologies, terminology, etc. In manuscripts, inclusive, non-gendered and/or non-binary choices of wording should be used, whenever possible. Moreover, authors are encouraged to “[...] include sex and gender considerations when relevant [...]and to] use the term sex (biological attribute) and gender (shaped by social/cultural circumstances) carefully in order to avoid confusing both terms” (SAGER guidelines). Bias-free language should also prevail when reporting about age, ethnic background, socioeconomic and/or religious status, disabilities, sexual orientation, etc.

The Editorial team is largely composed of women, with members from different visible minorities.

5.3 FACULTY IMPACT OR STUDENT SUCCESS
One of the core philosophies of the journal continues to be supporting junior researchers. Students and junior (and senior) scholars who submit a manuscript with potential are accompanied closely by the editors to improve the text so that it meets expected publication standards of excellence. For some authors, this will be their first publication and thus can have an important impact on their CVs and future careers. The Editor-in-Chief and Scientific Director often receive emails of satisfaction from authors and peer-reviewers about: 1) the seriousness and professionalism of the Editorial Team, 2) the pertinence of the journal’s innovative policy of editorial transparency (i.e., the review process is open, non-blinded, and reviewers and editors are named on published articles), and 3) the speed of production and publishing (average less than 1 year for peer-reviewed texts) that facilitates active discussion of important and time-sensitive topics, which are common in bioethics. Some articles and creative works have encouraged “Response to” commentaries, demonstrating the pertinence of the journal as a platform for ongoing dialogue in the bioethics community.
Leading Canadian, American, or international bioethics researchers agree to voluntarily review manuscripts and to have their names listed as reviewers on the final publication. This demonstrates their confidence both in the transparent review process and the quality of manuscripts accepted for publication by the Editorial Team.

The founding editors, who were all graduate students, have gone on to successful academic (university professors) or professional (ethics consultants) positions.

6 ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

6.1 WHAT IS THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF THE JOURNAL AND, IF APPLICABLE, THE SOCIETY/PUBLISHER.

The Editor-in-Chief and the Section Editors are the official representatives and spokespersons for the journal; they develop and promote the journal’s policies and procedures, and ensure the good governance, structure, and the proper conduct of business. The Editors are responsible, where appropriate, for reviewing submitted manuscripts, performing editorial and expedited review, and publishing. All editors are ambassadors for the journal and, as such, engage in supporting and promoting the journal in local and international venues, and in soliciting and actively encouraging submissions. Editors must protect the confidentiality of authors, not publicly discuss submissions that are in the pre-publication process and not appropriate author ideas or work. In order to ensure that Editors have basic knowledge in terms of publishing ethics principles and guidelines, they are required to follow COPE’s eLearning course for Editors.

Editor-in-Chief

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for the good governance and day-to-day functioning of the journal: presiding the Executive Committee, overseeing all editorial activities, and ensuring the timely publication of issues and manuscripts. The Editor-in-Chief reviews all manuscripts for accuracy as well as potential libel or slander and provides suggestions about any changes needed prior to publication. Journal layout and design changes are approved by the Editor-in-Chief and the Scientific Director. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for: drawing up budget proposals, generating ideas for new procedures or practice (e.g., workflow, website), implementing ways to increase readership, and resolving disagreements between editors regarding submissions and/or their evaluations. Furthermore, they are responsible for developing and updating the journal’s policies and procedures, ensuring overall journal quality, nominating editors, and developing relationships with external stakeholders. The Editor-in-Chief approves all manuscripts for final publication.

The Editor-in-Chief is the journal’s primary representative (along with the Scientific Director) for social and public events and presentations. The position is voluntary, non-remunerated, and non-term limited.

Resignation by the Editor-in-Chief necessitates six (6) months’ notice to the Editorial Advisory Board, who will then form a search committee composed of the Scientific Director, two (2) Section Editors, and one (1) Editor. The search committee will solicit proposals for possible replacements from the Editorial Board.
and the Editorial Advisory Board, evaluate all proposals, and make a recommendation. Feedback will be solicited from the Editorial Board regarding the chosen candidate, and a decision made whether to name the candidate as Editor-in-Chief or to relaunch the selection process.

Scientific Director

The Scientific Director manages the day-to-day activities of the journal, working with the Section Editors to coordinate their activities and ensure a timely management of all submissions. The Scientific Director trains new Editors and, when necessary, may act as Section Editor or Editor. The Scientific Director is responsible for organizing meetings of the Editorial Board, developing and updating the journal’s policies and procedures, ensuring overall quality control of publications, mentoring the editors, and developing relationships with external stakeholders, in support of the Editor-in-Chief. The Scientific Director is nominated by and accountable to the Editor-in-Chief. The position may be remunerated. Selection and replacement of the Scientific Director is done by the Editor-in-Chief.

Section Editors

The Section Editors manage and coordinate the main sections of the journal, i.e., articles, commentaries, case studies, reviews, perspectives, editorials/letters to the editor, conference proceedings, and creative works. They ensure that the different sections run smoothly and efficiently. When necessary, Section Editors may act as Editors and evaluate submitted works. Section Editors are nominated by, and are accountable to, the Executive Committee. Nominations will be solicited first from members of the Editorial Board, before seeking external candidates.

Editors

In collaboration with the Section Editors, Editors are responsible for critically reviewing the manuscripts submitted to the journal, and in the context of refereed publications (i.e., articles and critical commentaries), they are asked to ensure the high quality and diligence of the peer-review process. Editors are recruited by the Editor-in-Chief and the Scientific Director; they are expected to have knowledge of bioethics as a field of research and practice, experience in publication, and may also be recruited based on expertise in particular areas of bioethics. The Editors are accountable to the Section Editor of the manuscript to which they are assigned, and to the Editor-in-Chief and the Scientific Director.

6.2 PLEASE PROVIDE A LINK TO A LIST OF YOUR JOURNAL’S EDITORIAL BOARD.
Editorial team: https://www.cjb-rcb.ca/index.php/cjb-rcb/about/editorialTeam
Editorial Advisory Board: https://www.cjb-rcb.ca/index.php/cjb-rcb/eab

6.3 PROVIDE A STATEMENT ON EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE OR WHETHER INVESTORS HAVE A SAY IN GOVERNANCE OR ARTICLE SELECTION/JOURNAL DIRECTION.
"The Editorial board is entirely independent; no funders or other institutional partners have any involvement whatsoever in the editorial process.

The editors of the Canadian Journal of Bioethics follow the recommendations and procedures outlined in COPE’s Core Practices and Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing, and by the Canadian Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research. The Editors will work to ensure the
highest ethical standards of publication, including: the detection and prevention of plagiarism, the identification and management of conflicts of interest (for editors, reviewers and authors), the fair evaluation of manuscripts, and the publication of manuscripts that meet the journal’s standards of excellence.


6.4 DESCRIBE THE JOURNAL’S COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DIVERSITY.

As a volunteer-run initiative, the journal welcomes those editors interested in sharing their time and expertise. The board has evolved naturally – in part due to the cosmopolitan nature of Montreal – into a culturally diverse structure with members who trace their roots to Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

As a bioethics journal with a very broad view of the field, the choice from the start has been not to restrict to specific topics or orientations, but instead to encourage open and critical dialogue on even the most sensitive social issues, including issues at the beginning and the end of life, equity and social justice, the challenges of equitable technological innovation, amongst others. Supporting open dialogue and from many different voices, in Canada and internationally, is a core mission of the journal.

7 POLICIES AND STANDARDS

7.1 WHAT IS THE JOURNAL’S PEER REVIEW PROCESS?

The journal advocates and applies the Open review method, for reasons of transparency and accountability. Manuscripts are thus evaluated (open, non-blinded) by two (2) members of the Editorial Board (a Section Editor and another editor), and if necessary, by the Editorial Advisory Board. Following preliminary editorial evaluation, a manuscript submitted for publication as a refereed article is sent out for evaluation by two (2) external peer-reviewers; refereed commentaries are evaluated by one (1) external peer-reviewer. All other contributions are reviewed by two editors of the journal. Striving to increase the transparency of the publication process, the names of the editors and peer-reviewers are known by authors (and vice versa); their names also appear on final publications, unless a peer-reviewer requests not to be named (listed as “Anonymous”). This approach is taken in order to promote constructive criticism to authors by editors and reviewers.

Editors and peer-reviewers are required to acknowledge and apply COPE’s ethical guidelines for peer-reviewers. Specifically, they should respect author confidentiality, not publicly discuss an author’s work/material while still in the pre-publication process, not appropriate author ideas or intellectual property, etc.

Manuscripts will be evaluated according to specific criteria (e.g., originality, academic merit, pertinence, innovation) and COPE’s guidelines for reviewers. Criteria are verified according to a standardized marking grid (which will be provided to both authors and reviewers). Reviewers are solicited based on their demonstrated expertise (i.e., publications); authors may also suggest peer-reviewers with whom they do
not have a conflict of interest. Manuscripts can be accepted with minor or major revisions or rejected if they do not meet the standards of the journal. The editors will work with authors, to the extent that it is reasonable, to help arrive at publications of the highest quality. The editors will respect requests from authors that a particular editor not review their submission if these requests are well reasoned and practicable. When revisions are requested prior to final decision, revised manuscripts must be received within approximately one (1) month. Should an author be dissatisfied with an editorial decision, they may submit an appeal to the Executive Committee, who will meet to review all pertinent documentation (manuscript, emails, evaluations, etc.) and render a final decision within one (1) month.

7.2 **IS YOUR JOURNAL INDEXED ON DOAJ?**
Yes. [https://doaj.org/toc/2561-4665](https://doaj.org/toc/2561-4665)

7.3 **DESCRIBE THE JOURNAL'S AUTHOR RIGHTS RETENTION POLICY.**
The Canadian Journal of Bioethics applies the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License to all its publications. The author(s) retain copyright of their publication. They can reuse their publication, link to it on their home page or institutional website, deposit a PDF in a public repository, etc. Authors allow anyone to download, reprint, distribute, and/or copy their publication (no permission is required from authors or the publisher), so long as the original authors and source are cited.

7.4 **WHAT COPYRIGHT IS ASSIGNED TO THE JOURNAL ARTICLES?**
Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

7.5 **DESCRIBE HOW THE JOURNAL IS COMPLIANT WITH RELEVANT TECHNICAL STANDARDS.**
The journal publishes under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (Sherpa-Romeo); ISSN: 2561-4665; DOI: 10.7202/bioethics

Indexes: AureHAL, BASE, CISFeM, DOAJ, EBSCO, ERIH Plus, Gale, Google Scholar, HeinOnline, Isidore, LAC/BAC, LiSSa, Mir@bel, MyScienceWork, NLM, OpenAIRE, Philosopher's Index, PhilPapers, Scholars Portal, SciSpace, ScienceGate, Ulrichsweb, Web of Science, WorldCat

Citations: Google Scholar, MIAR, Scopus, SJR

Metadata: OAI-PMH

The PKP Preservation Network (PN) provides free preservation services for any OJS journal that meets a few basic criteria. Through OJS, the journal has activated LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) and CLOCKSS (Controlled Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) to ensure a secure and permanent archive.

All publications are archived by: AureHAL, CORE, Erudit, LAC/BAC, Portico

Archives: CJB/RCB (2018-present); BioéthiqueOnline (2012-2017)
8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Each issue benefits from a unique cover image produced by the journal’s Artist in Residence (Han Han Li, 2020-present; Emanuelle Dufour, 2018-2020).

Last update: February 14, 2024