





FUNDING PROGRAM
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY VITALITY
OVERVIEW OF THE 2018-2019
FINANCIAL YEAR

This publication was produced by the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise in collaboration with the Direction des communications.

An accessible version is available on the website of the ministère du Conseil exécutif.

For more information, you may contact the Direction des communications.

Direction des communications du ministère du Conseil exécutif et du Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor 1er étage, secteur 400 875, Grande Allée Est Québec (Québec) G1R 4Y8

Telephone: 418 643-2001

Fax: 418 643-3006

Email: communic@mce.gouv.qc.ca
Website: www.mce.gouv.qc.ca

Legal deposit – September 2019 Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec ISBN 978-2-550-84837-0 (print version) ISBN 978-2-550-84838-7 (electronic version)

All rights reserved for all countries. © Gouvernement du Québec – 2019



INTRODUCTION

The Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise aims to build bridges between the Gouvernement du Québec and representative community organizations in order to strengthen the vitality of English-speaking communities. In response to the community needs voiced during the consultations of 2018, the Secrétariat created the *Strengthening Community Vitality* funding program, which builds community capacity, supports organizational development, increases access to government services, and contributes to the retention of young English-speakers through employability. Through this program, the Gouvernement du Québec will invest a total of \$24.5 million over six years in the English-speaking communities.

To date, the Secrétariat has supported a number of organizations through its funding program. This document provides an overview of those projects. The description of each project includes the name of the organization and its mission, the amount allocated over the stated number of years, the specific challenges faced by the community, and the proposed solutions for addressing those challenges.

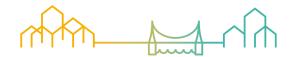


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Black Community Resource Centre
Coasters Association
Committee for Anglophone Social Action
Community Health and Social Services Network
Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders
Dialogue McGill
Eastern Townships Resource Centre
English-language Arts Network
Institut du Nouveau Monde
Jeffery Hale Hospital – St. Brigid's Home
John Abbott College
Literacy Quebec
Phelps Helps
Quebec Community Groups Network
Quebec Community Newspapers Association
Quebec English-language Production Council
Quebec English-speaking Community Research Network
Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations
Regional Association of West Quebecers
Seniors Action Quebec
Townshippers' Association
Y4Y Quebec Association
Youth Employment Services Montreal 52

BLACK COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

Strengthening the Future of Québec's Black English-speaking Communities

Secrétariat funding: \$400,000 over 3 years

Mission

The Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC) is a non-profit community organization founded in 1995 to strengthen the development capacity of Montréal's historic Black community by providing professional support to organizations and individuals in need. The BCRC's approach to development is holistic and based on a dynamic study of the community in the larger society over time. It places a special emphasis on the socio-cultural, educational, and economic needs of Black and visible-minority English-speaking youth, helping them to achieve their full potential. BCRC's unique, multi-interventionist holistic strategy leverages partnerships to encourage collaborations that support individuals, families, and organizations. Projects in schools and community centres throughout Montréal address themes such as racism; legal and constitutional rights; self-esteem and expression through the arts; and the history and heritage of Black Montrealers.



www.bcrcmontreal.com

Challenge

As a double minority (visible and linguistic), Québec's Black English-Speaking communities face a range of challenges in supporting the vitality of their communities. Notably, chronic youth unemployment and outmigration among young graduates devitalizes these communities. At the institutional level, the Black communities are losing their community leaders, entrepreneurs, and mentors to other provinces. Among the BCRC's community partners, there is a general need to increase their operational capacities to support community vitality in sharing knowledge, information and best practices. Further resources are needed to gather, organize, and present pertinent information about the status, needs, and priorities of the Black community in publicly accessible formats. A principal challenge is reducing the fragmentation within the Black Communities and communicating effectively with government agencies, and policy and decision-makers in order to shape relevant policy, services, and programs to the unique needs of Québec's Black English-Speaking communities.

Solution

The BCRC is receiving Secrétariat support to increase its capacity to work on behalf of Québec's Black English-Speaking communities with the Gouvernement du Québec. In particular, the project will address early youth development problems and issues such as chronic youth unemployment and outmigration



among young graduates, by helping youth develop into productive citizens, and to find meaningful and sustainable local employment suited to their competences and interests.

The project will also allow the BCRC to maintain a centralized communication network enabling dialogue and information sharing among its community partners, as well as in their interactions with both the provincial government and other groups representing Québec's larger English-speaking minority.

The collating and reconstruction of the details in reporting existing data on Québec's Black communities will help to identify and correct gaps in information, and create a better portrait of the community's unique needs and characteristics. Those details are now hidden on the global reporting on the socio-economic and demographic status of the sub-population. Going forward, this improved data will be leveraged to conceptualize and develop projects and services more reflective of and adapted to the needs of the communities served. BCRC will continue developing and using its "holistic" strategy to reduce community fragmentation, isolation, and detachment from Québec society.

Quote

The Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise three year capacity building funding with the possibility of renewal, and targeting the English Speaking Black Community as a holistic endeavour, is a ray of hope that the community's persistent search for a formula for strategic planning could be developed and sustained.

Dr. Clarence Bayne, President

COASTERS ASSOCIATION

Business Incubator-Accelerator for New Lower North Shore Businesses

Secrétariat funding: \$300,000 over 3 years

Mission

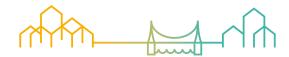
The Coasters Association is a non-profit organization established in 1988 that promotes the interests of the population of fourteen communities on the Lower North Shore. By linking these communities and providing opportunities to participate in joint initiatives, the Coasters Association creates a common bond, enabling the entire region to face renewal and development challenges as one. The Coasters Association works in partnership with other regional leaders and stakeholders to design and deliver strategies, programs, and community services, all while highlighting the cultural and natural resources of the Lower North Shore. Its youth services address challenges such as retention; job training and employment; transportation; leadership and life skills; and networking. It is keenly involved in economic development services for the region such as tourism, economic diversification, and transition services for the fishery.



www.coastersassociation.com

Challenge

The English-speaking population of the Lower North Shore faces a range of interconnected challenges: a remote population with no road access; the decline of the fishery; and an ongoing exodus of families and youth due to high transportation costs and limited education and employment opportunities. This devitalization translates to serious social problems: unemployment hovers around 33%; school dropout rates are dramatic; and as youth and young families continue to leave, the remaining population is rapidly aging. To turn the tide, economic diversification is essential. However, numerous regional studies and action plans have shown that, without proper support and development mechanisms, new businesses continue to face a cycle of failures. Beginning in 2008, the Coasters Association has worked with university and industry partners in the Rural Laboratories Project to explore the potential of the bioproducts industry to diversify the regional economy away from the traditional fishery. New industrial and academic partnerships have been forged; community members have developed their capacity for a range of business administration skills; and a strategic plan has been produced.



Solution

The Coasters Association wants to stem the "brain drain" and loss of human capital on the Lower North Shore. With Secrétariat support, it is collaborating with research and industrial development partners to develop a bioproducts incubator-accelerator for local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This incubator-accelerator is charged with expanding the local bioproducts industry, helping SMEs transition from early development phases into sustained success. It will provide the region's youth and SMEs access to entrepreneurial support; mentors; consultants; skills training; academic courses; and shared premises. It will also connect start-ups with resources and contacts at provincial, national, and international levels, including investors, bankers, businesses, and government actors and agencies.

Quote

The Coasters Association's mission is improving the health and well being of the population of the Lower North Shore. Having the ongoing support of the Secretariat for relations with English-speaking Quebecers has helped us to further our mission by promoting the diversification of economic development opportunities, supporting valuable social programs and to nurture, guide, and mentor leaders to build a brighter future for all residents of the Lower North Shore.

Eileen Schofield, President

COMMITTEE FOR ANGLOPHONE SOCIAL ACTION

Group Nine: Employability and Training for Vulnerable Youth

Secrétariat funding: \$26,000 over 1 year

Mission

The Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) is a non-profit community organization dedicated to serving the English-speaking population of the Gaspé Coast. Founded in 1975, it promotes the community's interests and designs and delivers programs that respond to its needs in such diverse areas as health and well-being for seniors; youth employability and leadership; improved access to health and social services; intergenerational activities in arts, culture, and heritage; and regional economic development. CASA encourages the development of a sense of responsibility to the community and greater participation in Québec society. It is a resource for citizens and organizations interested in improving the social, cultural and economic life of English-speakers on the Gaspé Coast.



casa-gaspe.com

Challenge

The regional county municipalities (RCMs) of Bonaventure and Avignon of the Gaspé Coast region need support in improving the social and economic conditions of English-speaking youth between the ages of 18 to 29 who face significant barriers to employment such as low levels of education, recurrent periods of unemployment, lack of access to services, and social and community isolation. Compared to francophone youth, English-speaking youth ages 15 to 29 in the area are more likely to have low educational attainment (66% vs. 48%) and be unemployed (40% vs. 17.5%).

The RCMs' Carrefour jeunesse-emploi (CJE) has reached out to CASA requesting their help in the development and implementation of a life skills and professional skills apprenticeship program needed to help youth in identifying and aiming for a professional goal allowing them to integrate the job/labour market.

Solution

CASA is leading the creation of the "Group Nine" project to address the challenges facing nine Englishspeaking youth aged 18 to 29 in the Avignon-Bonaventure RCM of the Gaspé Coast. CASA in collaboration with the CJE and Emploi Québec will respond to the needs of the most vulnerable youth in this age bracket to integrate the job market, to return to school or to register for a training course. Being developed are a detailed working plan and set of objectives; researching, compiling, and translating tools and resources; and recruiting and training youth participants in the program. This initiative hopes



to serve as a model of cooperation between the English-speaking organizations and with the Carrefour jeunesse-emploi (CJE) and Emploi Québec in supporting youth with socio-economic and professional vulnerabilities.

Quote

English-speaking youth of the Gaspé Coast face distinct challenges; services that are specifically tailored to helping them overcome personal barriers and developing skills needed for future employment are required. Funding for Group Nine has allowed CASA to offer this targeted support with expertise and guidance provided by the CJE Bonaventure-Avignon. This adaptation of services is beneficial for all involved.

Cathy Brown, Executive Director

COMMITTEE FOR ANGLOPHONE SOCIAL ACTION

Regional Development Initiative for Eastern Québec for the English-speaking Community

Secrétariat funding: \$148,888 over 2 years

Mission

The Regional Development Initiative for Eastern Quebec is composed of five organizations with the Committee for Anglophone Social Action acting as the lead in this initiative. The Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA), founded in 1975, is a non-profit community organization dedicated to serving the English-speaking population of the Gaspé Coast.

The Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI), founded in 1987, is a non-profit organization whose entire mandate surrounds the English-speaking community of the Magdalen Islands and their needs.

Coasters Association of the Lower North Shore (Coasters) was founded in St. Augustine in 1989 to support and promote the vitality of the Lower North Shore.

Heritage Lower Saint Laurence (HLSL) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2002 to serve the English-speaking communities of the Lower St. Lawrence, one of Quebec's smallest and most dispersed communities.

The North Shore Community Association (NSCA), established in 2000, is a non-profit regional organization dedicated to serving, representing, and instilling pride in the English-speaking community of Quebec's North Shore.



casa-gaspe.com

Challenge

Québec's maritime communities on the Gulf of St. Lawrence region (Gaspé-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, North Shore, and Lower Saint Lawrence) have been particularly hard-hit by socioeconomic shifts in the past forty years. Natural resources industries, once the economic backbone of these communities, have largely declined and the region has seen a large exodus of its population, especially youth. Youth leaving the region to pursue education and employment opportunities elsewhere seldom return to contribute their talents to their communities and the regional economies. There is currently an absence of a critical mass of both people and institutions to address these severe challenges, a situation further aggravated by geographic isolation and additional linguistic obstacles for English-speakers in these regions.



As a result, unemployment rates for English-speakers in maritime Québec are nearly double that of their French-speaking neighbours. Currently, there are no organizations representing English-speaking Quebecers in ongoing formal regional development initiatives, including the creation and shaping of socio-economic policies and programs.

Solution

To improve community vitality and socioeconomic prospects for the English-speaking minority in eastern Québec's regions, CASA, in collaboration with Coasters, CAMI, HLSL and NSCA is creating the Regional Development Initiative for Eastern Québec. This Network's central mission is to help member organizations take advantage of the evolution of policies and programs, in particular, the evolution of regional county municipalities (RMCs) as key players in regional socioeconomic development. By the end of the 14-month project, the expected outcomes are: the development of an information database; a strategic plan for participating in regional socioeconomic development, and presenting at regional and national forums and conferences. By collaborating, the network will develop the capacity of its members and increase access to public socioeconomic development services for English-speakers. This project will also contribute to the youth retention that is necessary to revitalize these communities.

Quote

We are pleased to be one of five regional partners participating in the Regional Development Initiative for Eastern Québec. Our organizations play a crucial role in building community vitality in our respective regions—we can now look forward to collaborating on approaches that will allow our communities to benefit from socio-economic development opportunities in Eastern Québec. The financial support of the Gouvernement du Québec will have a profound impact on our actions in this area.

Stella Kennedy, President

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES **NETWORK**

Enhancing Regional Community Capacity

Secrétariat funding: \$5,700,000 over 3 years

Mission

Formed in 2000, the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN) seeks to strengthen community vitality and improve access to health and social services for Québec's English-speaking communities. By building strategic relationships and partnerships within the health and social services system and working with community and public partners at the local, regional, and provincial levels, the CHSSN addresses health determinants, influences public policy, and develops services. The network is comprised of more than 60 member-organizations and is involved in over 40 projects and partnerships in health care and community development. The CHSSN supports the development of more than twenty "community health networks," actively working in all regions of Québec to address the needs of seniors and caregivers, children, youth, and families and visible minorities.



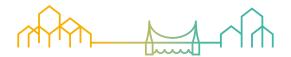
www.chssn.org

Challenge

Across Québec, the "community health networks" bring together local English-speaking community organizations with regional health and social services stakeholders and government representatives to promote community vitality by improving access to health and social service programs. Many of the networks have become community hubs for accessing services and programs and interacting with government representatives. The CHSSN's coverage, however, is incomplete: many communities across Québec do not have the same support in accessing services essential to the vitality of communities; other community organizations in the regions are restricted to a single domain (e.g. health); and in other cases there is an absence of such organizations altogether. As well, the CHSSN wants to increase the capacity of organizations to work in partnership with the Gouvernement du Québec, local and regional civil society bodies, and municipal authorities.

Solution

The CHSSN will extend the coverage of networks across the province to ensure maximum services to the English-speaking communities in order to strengthen the capacity of local and regional community organizations to better respond to the needs and priorities of English-speaking communities with



government and regional stakeholders. Through analysis of detailed sociodemographic and institutional data, 24 regional organizations will receive support to develop organizational capacity.

Project resources will be used to:

- 1- Create satellite offices (points of service) to increase the territorial reach of existing regional organizations in services to English-speaking communities.
- 2- Diversify the mandate of organizations currently working in a single sector of activity (health), making them multi-purpose organizations (e.g. employment, culture, economic development) that can respond to the community's broader needs.
- 3- Assist local / regional organizations in their capacity to bring concerns to the provincial level by defraying the additional costs of travel to remote communities or the costs of translation of key documents into French required to support project development.
- 4- Transfer knowledge to strengthen organizational performance; train leaders about best governance practices, leadership and financial management.

This project will improve community vitality by increasing access to services and programs in sectors such as culture, employment, health, heritage, and justice. Importantly, community organizations will be better equipped to interact with government to communicate the communities' priorities and shape policy outcomes.

Quotes

There are so many isolated and under-represented English-speaking communities that we want to reach out to. The funding from the ERCC project will allow community-based organizations to address the needs of these vulnerable populations and to better represent their interests at the provincial level.

Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director, CHSSN

There is an important connection to be made between the English-speaking communities of Québec and the provincial government. I believe all parties are interested in developing a better relationship and ensuring that this important minority population feels that their needs are considered.

Ron Creary, President

COUNCIL FOR ANGLOPHONE MAGDALEN ISLANDERS

Social Economy Development on the Magdalen Islands

Secrétariat funding: \$76,364 over 2 years

Mission

The Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI) is a non-profit community organization that advocates for English-speakers on the Magdalen Islands in the areas of language, health, education, employability, legal services, arts, and culture. CAMI is a significant driver in building a prosperous and vibrant English-speaking community on the Magdalen Islands.



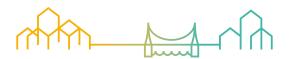
www.micami.ca

Challenge

English-speaking Magdalen Islanders are disproportionately dependent upon the seasonal fishery compared to their francophone neighbours. Over 50% of the English-speaking community relies on the fishery and because of this, their community vitality and future are largely tied to an unpredictable, single-resource economy. Economic diversification is crucial. In this regard, CAMI has been working with partners in recent years to increase the participation of local English-speakers in an ever-growing tourism industry on the Magdalen Islands, one that includes opportunities in cultural, eco, adventure, and agri-tourism. To date, CAMI has increased the tourism offer on both Entry Island and Grosse Île, developing services and goods through their Historical Heritage Complex in Old Harry, as well as a bakery and processed food operation. Because of these positive developments, however, CAMI has exceeded its original mandate and is increasingly managing commercial activities. With a short tourist season and seasonal fluctuations, it is too risky for CAMI to be taking on this enlarged role. CAMI needs to refocus on its principal mandate of community development, representation and advocacy.

Solution

CAMI will use Secrétariat support to create a separate social enterprise organization to manage and deliver its commercial activities. Diversifying and developing the local economy through a social enterprise will lead to job creation, youth retention and community vitality for English-speaking Magdalen Islanders. This social economy organization will leverage the economic potential of the broader tourism industry—including both services and products—while also developing and diversifying economic opportunities for the community in other industries. Support will be used on Grosse-Île to expand the interpretation program at the Historical Heritage Complex, as well as the bakery service, pickling operation, and greenhouse and garden project. On Entry Island, the social enterprise will oversee



business development activities including the purchase and renovation of the former school building to provide a new, larger home for the existing museum and its interpretation program.

Quote

Our hope is that this organizational model will be the driving force in stimulating community economic development for English-Speaking Magdalen Islanders, ultimately leading to job creation, youth retention and community vitality. With the support of the Secretariat for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, CAMI will be able to develop and implement plans in the areas of agri-tourism, cultural tourism and product development, ensuring an active contribution to the regional economic development of the entire Magdalen Islands.

Helena Burke, Executive Director

DIALOGUE MCGILL

Second-language Profile for Nurses

Secrétariat funding: \$50,000 over 2 years

Mission

The objective of the McGill Training and Retention of Health Professionals Project, also known as Dialogue McGill, is to foster increased access to services in English and for the English-speaking population. The Project contributes to equip health and social services institutions indicated in access programs to health and social services in English, with a variety of measures. These include among others: Language Training for French and English-speaking health and social services professionals to better serve their clients; a Retention Program for bilingual health and social services recent graduates working in outlying regions; a Research Development Program to support, consolidate and expand a growing body of original and interdisciplinary research on the equity and quality of healthcare access for the Québec English-speaking community.

The Project is hosted and administered by the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy (IHSP). The Institute is dedicated to the development of a comprehensive understanding of how social conditions affect health. It aims at translating that knowledge into effective policies and programs to improve health outcomes.



www.mcgill.ca/dialoguemcgill

Challenge

Québec's health and social services institutions have identified the need for linguistic profiles in English to support them in ensuring quality services to English-speaking Quebecers. A few years ago, a research project for developing language competency profiles in English and placement tests for nurses in Québec was set up by Dialogue McGill. The language profiles were produced.

Solution

As part of its activities, Dialogue McGill, through funding from the Secrétariat, has moved on to developing assessment tools for listening and speaking skills. In addition to a description of the language competencies suitable to provide an adequate level of service in English, assessment instruments will be made available.



Quote

In healthcare, an efficient and safe therapeutic communication is based on attentive listening. It integrates an effective dimension linked to cultural and intercultural aspects of discourse. How can we reach out to people who are increasingly different from ourselves on individual, linguistic and cultural levels? How can we establish with these service users a trusting relationship essential to ensure they receive the appropriate care and that they adhere to their treatment? Such questions cannot remain without answers. From these considerations stems the current research that emphasizes the importance of linguistic competency of health professionals in order to ensure efficient and safe interactions with English-language healthcare users.

Daniel Weinstock, Director, McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS RESOURCE CENTRE

Strengthening Local Identity: Promoting Eastern Townships **History and Heritage**

Secrétariat funding: \$57,273 over 2 years

Mission

Founded in 1982, the Eastern Townships Resource Centre (ETRC) at Bishop's University is a recognized organization for the study of the Eastern Townships of Québec. As one of the top accredited private archives in Québec, the ETRC preserves the documentary heritage of the English-speaking community in the Eastern Townships and serves as a resource for archival expertise to local heritage organizations. As a long-standing member of the Bishop's University community, the ETRC creates bridges between Bishop's and the surrounding communities. The Centre offers educational materials for teachers and its own publication, the Journal of Eastern Townships Studies.



www.etrc.ca

Challenge

Research archives can serve as a cornerstone of public memory and identity. They provide access to vital primary and secondary documents that detail a society's structures, values, and evolution. Accredited by Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, the ETRC acquires, processes, preserves and gives access to collections that illustrate the development of the Eastern Townships' English-speaking community. Thousands of documents such as diaries, letters, minute books, photographs, postcards, maps, plans and audio-visual material are made available to researchers. Assistance is also provided to genealogists tracing their family roots. Like most small archives however, the ETRC faces specific challenges in disseminating its resources to the broader public, including individuals, community groups, and educational institutions.

Solution

Support from the Secrétariat will strengthen the ETRC's capacities to promote and share the Eastern Townships' rich and unique history through public lectures, colloquia, and exhibitions. Using its archival collections, it will develop a series of educational materials for elementary and high school students. These ready-to-use materials will deepen a critical understanding of Canadian, Québec and Eastern Townships history through the analysis of primary sources from the ETRC archives. All



educational materials will be available in French and English and meet the criteria of Québec's Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur. They will be made available through the ETRC's website: www.etrc.ca/education. Four research assistants will also be hired, one of whom will produce a preliminary study of various strategies for promoting and disseminating Eastern Townships history and heritage.

Quotes

This initiative fits with the ETRC and Bishop's University's goals to improve our outreach to surrounding communities and to ensure a broader understanding of the rich heritage and remarkable contribution to Québec society of the Eastern Townships English-speaking communities.

Dr. Gordon Barker, President

This initiative is a watershed moment for the English-speaking communities across Québec as it signals that the majority French recognize we belong to this diverse, inclusive and dynamic province.

Fabian Will, Executive Director

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS NETWORK

A New Momentum for Québec's English-speaking Artists

Secrétariat funding: \$400,000 over 3 years

Mission

The English Language Arts Network (ELAN), a non-profit organization founded in 2004, promotes the vitality of Québec's English-speaking artistic community, and supports its members with direct services, benefits, mobilization, and representation. ELAN is a meeting place for English-language artists and cultural workers across Québec, a place to share expertise and resources, build audiences and alliances, seek support and advocate for their interests, and make common cause with the francophone arts community. Its activities have highlighted the achievements of Québec's English-language artists; brought artists into classrooms across the province; and produced a series of summer festivals of arts and family entertainment in Québec's regions. Together, the network encourages an evolving Québec identity that celebrates artistic, social, and cultural diversity.



www.quebec-elan.org

Challenge

English-speaking artists feel overlooked and misunderstood in Québec, struggling with issues of perception as well as access to information and support from provincial agencies. A recent ELAN poll and consultations during Québec's most recent cultural policy framework reveal that, although there have been major improvements since the 1990s, English-speaking artists still struggle to find the information and support they need at the provincial level—they are often unfamiliar with Québec's numerous government programs and their needs are generally unknown by the managers of such programs. This situation intersects with a wider context of misperceptions. On the one hand is the lingering myth that Québec's English-speaking artists have unlimited patronage from wealthier community members; on the other, many English-speaking artists feel their language is sometimes perceived by the linguistic majority as a threat to the status of the French language in Québec. Amidst this complicated situation of public perceptions and available resources, there is a need for solid data to identify which problems are real and where they reside.

Solution

To ensure that English-speaking artists can thrive in Québec and contribute to the vitality of Englishspeaking communities, there is a need for better communication and relationship building with decision-makers and program managers. ELAN has already established a working group on Arts,



Culture and Heritage with the federal decision-makers. This project now seeks to develop better working relationships with relevant agencies and ministries of the provincial government. ELAN will also establish a vital database based on the most recent statistics about applicants and recipients of support programs offered through Québec's cultural agencies to identify possible problems and service gaps. With better data, ELAN can work with its provincial partners to better circulate information about available resources to English-speaking artists; to encourage the development of professional relationships for Englishspeakers with other artists and with the Gouvernement du Québec; to coordinate artistic activities in line with the priorities of their communities; and to encourage English-speaking cultural organizations and workers to participate more fully in the social, economic, and cultural life of Québec.

Quote

This project has the potential to dramatically shift the way English-speaking artists perceive their place in Québec, by greatly enhancing their understanding of provincial funding programs, and empowering access to the full range of support for artists, not-for-profits, and small and medium-size enterprises. Expectations for the impact of this project are very high in the English-speaking arts community.

Bettina Forget, President

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS NETWORK

ACE – Arts Communities and Education

Secrétariat funding: \$219,545 over 2 years

Mission

The English Language Arts Network (ELAN), a non-profit organization founded in 2004, promotes the vitality of Québec's English-speaking artistic community, and supports its members with direct services, benefits, mobilization, and representation. ELAN is a meeting place for English-language artists and cultural workers across Québec, a place to share expertise and resources, build audiences and alliances, seek support and advocate for their interests, and make common cause with the francophone arts community. Their activities have highlighted the achievements of Québec's English-language artists; brought artists into classrooms across the province; and produced a series of summer festivals of arts and family entertainment in Québec's regions. Together, the network encourages an evolving Québec identity that celebrates artistic, social, and cultural diversity.



www.quebec-elan.org

Challenge

In 2014, the Community Learning Centre (CLC) Initiative hosted a Collective Impact Conference at which leaders from across the province identified needs in the English-speaking population. The importance of arts and culture to maintaining the vitality of the ESCs was identified as critical. Partnership, networking and community development efforts have had some success, but more needs to be done in supporting community vitality and student success, and providing an important link to community members of all ages. Challenges exist and resource limitations have meant that development has been stalled in some areas such as the arts where, despite seeming to be a natural fit, barriers to access remain. There is need for a pool of qualified artists, lists of invested educators, and successful project designs that can be transferred to other schools and scaled up or down as needed. Due to the compartmentalized nature of silos, funding for this valuable inter-sectoral work has been challenging to obtain.

Solution

Arts and Education are natural partners. The benefits for students in terms of identity, creativity, and selfexpression are well documented. Arts-based projects positively influence self-image, community pride and sense of belonging, which are important community benefits. This project will provide facilitation and coaching as needed to support the school leaders, community partners and arts organization/artists to plan and implement ACE projects that lead to the outcomes we know can take place. A consultant/



coach assigned to each school community will work with the local ACE team to envision the processes and projects that they will develop to connect, collaborate, create and celebrate. The project will also provide opportunities for Artists and Project Coordinators to learn from each other through virtual exchanges, social media connection and storytelling. The opportunity to learn with each other will contribute to the ongoing development of adaptable tools, resources and inspirational examples. Thanks to this funding from the Gouvernement du Québec, it is possible that more than 20 schools and hundreds of students will be immersed in exhilarating creative projects that will change young lives and strengthen communities.

Quote

Culture and education are both provincial jurisdictions, and the benefits for students of linking arts and education are well documented. Yet it has been difficult in Québec for English-speaking artists to connect with educators and vice versa, despite valiant efforts on both sides. The new Secretariat has rapidly erected a bridge that will enable scores of students, educators and artists to bring creativity into the classroom in new and stimulating ways. Each project will expand a sustainable network that will enrich the entire English-speaking community for years to come.

Guy Rodgers, Executive Director

INSTITUT DU NOUVEAU MONDE

Participation des jeunes Québécois d'expression anglaise dans le projet « École d'hiver »

Secrétariat funding: \$5,000 over 1 year

Mission

The Institut du Nouveau Monde (INM) is a non-partisan organization, founded in 2004, whose mission is to increase citizen participation in democratic life. Its current areas of expertise are: citizen participation; social acceptance; participatory democracy and governance; and social entrepreneurship and innovation. It offers services in developing civic skills, designing and animating participatory processes, and providing strategic advice on issues of public participation. Its regular activities include a summer Citizenship School for youth; presiding over dialogues between citizens and experts; publishing its annual report "L'état du Québec"; and offering several programs to help mobilize citizens in its own initiatives as well as those of public and private institutions seeking INM services.



www.inm.gc.ca

Challenge

As shown by the 2013 General Social Survey of Statistics Canada, Canadian youth exhibit lower levels of voter turnout and political interest than their elders. Data also suggests a higher proportion of "politically inactive" individuals in the younger cohorts. For English-Speaking youth in Québec there can be an additional barrier to social participation, due to their perceived French-language competencies.

Solution

In an effort to encourage young English-Speakers to participate fully in Québec society, the Secrétariat funded the INM project. The Institut du Nouveau Monde has received Secrétariat funding to be used for its 11th annual École d'hiver (Winter School) which involves both French- and English-language CEGEP students across the province. The École d'hiver is a civic participation event that takes place over three days in mid-February 2019. The funding received through the Secrétariat will be used to encourage the participation of young English-speaking Quebecers. Specifically, it will cover the costs of Englishlanguage translation of documents and graphic design; the work of an outreach agent to liaise with English-speaking community partners; and event registration costs for 10 young English-speaking Quebecers recruited in collaboration with the community organization Youth 4 Youth.



JEFFERY HALE HOSPITAL – ST. BRIGID'S HOME

Centre of Expertise on the Adaptation for English-speaking Communities in Health and Social Services (Centre of Expertise ACESS)

Secrétariat funding: \$390,000 over 3 years

Mission

Jeffery Hale - Saint Brigid's is a public institution that provides a wide range of primary health care services in French and English to the population of the Greater Québec City region.

In April 2015, the institution began a new chapter in its 150-year history by being grouped with the Centre intégré universitaire en santé et services sociaux de la Capitale-Nationale.



www.jhsb.ca

Challenge

JHSB and its partners serving the English-speaking population are largely recognized as experts in the adaptation of health and social services for linguistic minorities. They gained this reputation by nurturing productive partnerships and developing their knowledge of the English-speaking community through evaluation and research, to better plan and offer adapted health and social services in English. JHSB's partnership and knowledge-centric approach to clinical and organizational change has been key to improving English-speakers' access to adapted health and social services in the Québec City region.

JHSB wishes to support other regions in adapting their health and social services to English-speakers' needs, through a collaborative knowledge development initiative. It has identified the need for a solid action-research infrastructure to support organizational and community change, which would bring together the province's English-speaking communities, health and social services network, and researchers from different disciplines and institutions to propose concrete, evidence-based solutions.

Solution

With Secrétariat support, the JHSB, in collaboration with Jeffery Hale Community Partners, is creating the Centre of Expertise on the Adaptation for English-speaking Communities in Health and Social Services (Centre of Expertise ACESS). This project brings together academic, community, and health and social services partners from Eastern Québec to develop collaborative initiatives such as action research



projects, consulting, and training which contribute to improving the quality, relevance, and accessibility of health and social services for English-speaking Quebecers. The Centre of Expertise ACESS will play a key role in producing and disseminating knowledge which helps practitioners, decision-makers, organizations, and communities better understand and respond to English-speaking Quebecers' health and social service needs. The Centre of Expertise ACESS will also support the maintenance and development of Wellness Centres across the province.

Quotes

We are extremely grateful for the funding from the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise. For the past thirty years, Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid's and its partners from the community have developed innovative and proven solutions which meet our English-speaking community's evolving needs, and this funding recognizes our longstanding expertise in adapting health and social services. The Centre of Expertise ACESS builds on this experience and will contribute to helping other regions make lasting changes for linguistic minorities.

Brigitte Paquette, Assistant Director to the Deputy CEO – Support to the English-Speaking Community, Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid's

The Centre of Expertise ACESS is the latest expression of our dynamic partnership with Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid's. Together, we have documented the benefits of our knowledge-centric approach to community development and improved health care access for English-speaking Quebecers. This project helps us help the community sector in other regions to make organizational and community changes through knowledge development and partnership with the public sector.

Richard Walling, Executive Director, Jeffery Hale Community Partners

JOHN ABBOTT COLLEGE

Retention Factors for staying in Québec – Students in the Health and Social Services Programs

Secrétariat funding: \$50,000 over 2 years

Mission

Founded in 1971, John Abbott College is one of five English-language CEGEPs in Québec. Its mission is to develop students' potential for success in society through excellence in education and a stimulating learning environment. The increasingly diverse student body has 6,500 full-time day students and 2,000 continuing education students.



www.johnabbott.gc.ca

Challenge

Two of the greatest determinants in ensuring the vitality of English-speaking communities across Québec are (1) youth retention through employment (especially in the regions); and (2) access to healthcare and social services in English. In 2017, John Abbott College conducted a survey of 700 of their health and social services students, measuring their inclination to pursue their careers in Québec's regions after graduation. While the study showed that 73% of rural English-speakers were interested in working in Québec's regions, only 27% had plans to return to their home region after their program of study; nearly half were undecided. At the same time, about 35% of the students surveyed suspected their current proficiency in written French could be an obstacle to pursuing a career in their home region, while about 25% considered their spoken French to be a barrier. Given the findings from the initial survey, the need for a follow up to determine the factors influencing English CEGEP Health students' post-graduation plan regarding work location was identified as a priority.

Solution

To effectively target the "brain drain" of young English-speaking Quebecers planning careers in health and social services, more data is needed about their intentions, motivations, and barriers to working in this sector in Québec's regions. With support from the Secrétariat, John Abbott is working with four other English-language CEGEPs to enlarge the data set produced among John Abbott students in 2017. Students studying in health and social services programs at Dawson, Vanier, Champlain (Saint-Lambert and Lennoxville campuses) and Heritage colleges will provide crucial insights through a similar survey. Specifically, the objective of this survey will be to determine where students plan to work upon completion of their studies and to identify factors influencing their plans. The study will provide data on French, English, and other mother-tongue students. This data will allow various government, community, and



educational stakeholders to better address youth retention in Québec's regions, improve the provision of health and social services in French and English where required, and promote the vitality of the English-speaking communities more generally.

Quote

Participating anglophone colleges in the survey regarding the post-graduation plans of Health and Social Services students found it to be a valuable project and are very interested in the results. ... More importantly, based on response rates, Health and Social Services students were also interested in answering the survey.

Douglas Brown, Dean of Technologies John Abbott

LITERACY QUEBEC

Empowering Literacy Networks

Secrétariat funding: \$400,000 over 3 years

Mission

Literacy Quebec (LQ) is a network of community organizations working in literacy in the English-speaking communities of Québec. The organization considers literacy a basic human right and envisions a Québec where everyone has the literacy skills needed to live a fully engaged life. Literacy Quebec's services include supporting and increasing the capacity of other literacy organizations in Québec; providing professional development opportunities for literacy practitioners; and working in partnership with government agencies and other literacy-related groups to raise awareness of the importance of literacy in Québec.



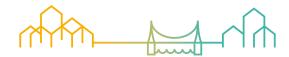
www.literacyquebec.org

Challenge

Literacy Quebec faces challenges in supporting its member organizations, which are spread out over a vast territory with a diverse set of community needs. To increase the capacity of network members to fulfill their mandates, Literacy Quebec (LQ) has identified a set of priority challenges. There is a strong need to consolidate efforts in the network, formalizing and sharing collectively acquired knowledge, practices, and strategies. Further, in order to shape policy and secure support, partner organizations need to be better equipped in interacting effectively with the relevant government bodies to build potential leverage. Collecting substantial data outlining literacy issues facing English-speaking Quebecers is also a need as it is crucial when interacting with elected representatives and media.

Solution

Literacy Quebec (LQ) is using Secrétariat support to fulfill its mandate in empowering its network and strengthening the operational capacity of its member organizations. LQ is formalizing and sharing knowledge, practices, and strategies; creating a solid statistical portrait of the literacy needs of Englishspeaking Quebecers; and learning to better communicate and work with government bodies and policyand decision-makers. In this way, LQ's members will be able to make their services more responsive to the literacy needs of English-speaking Quebecers. Increasing the capacity of these literacy organizations has indirect implications for both employment and youth retention.



Quote

We are grateful for the financial contributions from the Gouvernement du Québec that has allowed us to empower our network and increase the capacity of our network members.

Gabrielle Thomas, Executive Director (acting)

PHELPS HELPS

Phelps from A to Z

Secrétariat funding: \$40,352 over 2 years

Mission

Phelps Helps was founded in 2012 to address the problem of a high dropout rate in the four municipalities of the Stanstead region in the Eastern Townships. Working with community and regional partners, its mission is to provide youth and young adults with a necessary support system to help finish secondary school and achieve their future training and career goals. Its portfolio of free services has grown to include 6 uniquely designed educational and career support programs, each with specific goals but all geared towards improving attitudes towards education and the recognition that opportunities exist and can be created. Phelps Helps has worked to decrease the local dropout-rate, strengthen employability, and increase the level of bilingualism of the community.



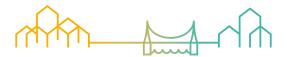
www.phelpshelps.ca

Challenge

Phelps Helps has developed a model for combatting youth dropout that is well suited for rural communities, but could potentially be adapted to both more isolated or urban contexts. Following a results-based approach, the organization is continually adapting its model to best serve its community. Other organizations and municipalities have contacted Phelps to gain advice in starting similar programs for their communities but Phelps has not had sufficient resources to document and share its approach.

Solution

With support from the Secrétariat, Phelps Helps is creating a suite of knowledge-sharing tools based on its innovative model for reducing youth dropout rates and encouraging educational and career attainment. The model Phelps: From A to Z will be published in both paper and digital formats, allowing the organization to transfer its knowledge, best practices, and organizational structure to other organizations and communities, thereby expanding the impact of the Phelps Helps approach.



Quote

The benefits of receiving financial support from the Gouvernement du Québec are two-fold for our relatively young organization. Not only does the secured funding provide us with the necessary means to attain named objectives, but it demonstrates to other funders that Phelps Helps is a sound investment.

Katie Lowry, Executive Director

QUEBEC COMMUNITY GROUPS NETWORK

Reinforcing Policy Research Capacity

Secrétariat funding: \$219,545 over 2 years

Mission

Founded in 1995, the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) is a not-for-profit organization linking 56 English-language community organizations across the province. As a centre of evidence-based expertise and collective action, the QCGN identifies, explores and addresses strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of the English-speaking community of Québec and encourages dialogue and collaboration among its member organizations, individuals, community groups, institutions and leaders.



www.qcgn.ca

Challenge

Historically, English-speaking community groups have sought public support almost exclusively from the federal government. The creation of the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise in November 2017 marked an important step in forging stronger links between English-speaking Quebecers and their provincial government. Building such relationships will translate to better use of the services and programs offered at the provincial level; help make community needs and priorities known to provincial decision makers; allow community stakeholders to participate in policy development; and strengthen senses of belonging for the community. With two-and-a-half decades of experience listening to its member organizations, consolidating pertinent data and carrying out research, and advocating on behalf of English-speaking Quebecers, QCGN is a key partner in establishing better dialogue with the Gouvernement du Québec.

Solution

With support from the Secrétariat, the QCGN will develop and maintain expertise in public policy analysis and research in areas of provincial jurisdiction. QCGN's multi-faceted project will support research and policy activities related to the vitality of English-speaking Communities of Québec-especially in underdeveloped sectors and in support of vulnerable communities. Its goal is to establish an effective relationship with the Gouvernement du Québec and sensitize it to the communities' realities and priorities. To this end, QCGN will produce and publish an up-to-date portrait of the English-speaking communities as well as a report analyzing gaps in public policy that impact English-speaking community vitality. Four days of dialogue between QCGN and key stakeholders in the provincial government will take place, leveraging the research produced during this project.



Quote

As always, the QCGN's main goal is to strengthen the institutional, political and service infrastructures supporting English-speaking Québec to build the capacity of our Network and Community organizations to work effectively on the issues affecting the development and vitality of our Community of Communities. After years of relying almost entirely on federal support to accomplish these important goals, we are thrilled that Québec is stepping up to the plate to support its English-speaking minority communities.

Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General

QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION

Impact of Local Media on Québec's English-Speaking Communities

Secrétariat funding: \$118,989 over 2 years

Mission

The Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA) is dedicated to the professional and economic development of English-language community newspaper industry in Québec. Founded in 1980, the organization is recognized as the official representative of Québec's English-language community newspapers by the federal and provincial governments, the public, and the vast majority of Québec's community press. The association's English and bilingual publications reach 824,000 readers across the province with a focus on local news and important information, thereby strengthening senses of belonging for English-speaking Quebecers. Working in partnership with municipal, provincial, and federal governments, as well Québec's French-language press and media, the QCNA addresses industry challenges for official language markets. It provides its members with advocacy services, government representation, and marketing and promotion support.



www.qcna.org

Challenge

English-language community newspapers and local media are a pillar of community vitality. They inform and engage citizens on local issues and reflect their identities and perspectives. This creates a stronger sense of belonging. At the same time, small community newspapers and local media are facing a range of challenges such as declining advertising revenues; attracting, training, and retaining high-calibre local journalists with a deep knowledge of the community; and the destabilization of the traditional print industry in the wake of the digital revolution. Across the province, as community newspapers and broadcasters struggle with shrinking budgets, many of them closing down, English-speakers have seen a significant erosion of their access to and participation in the local media space, whether as readers, listeners, or journalists.

Solution

The QCNA has received support from the Secrétariat to produce a study about the impact of local media on remote, rural and urban English-speaking communities throughout the province. This study will allow its member organizations working in local media to better understand the evolving media landscape and its local impacts in order to conceive of new delivery platforms that better serve their English-speaking community audiences. The study will investigate questions in several broad areas such



as, for example, what happens following the closure of a community's only English-language media outlet or how CEGEP and university newspapers and radio stations are able to attract and retain young audiences.

The project will establish partnerships with university and CEGEP media, providing opportunities for journalism students to contribute content to English-language community media. These partnerships will contribute to internship and job opportunities for these students. In this way, the project will contribute to youth retention in these communities and help establish a milieu where English-speaking Quebecers participate in and benefit more fully from community media, both print and radio.

Quote

Some QCNA members are barely hanging on and are having difficulty maintaining their operations, forcing them to cut staff or reduce the frequency of their publications to avoid closing down. It is essential to examine the impact on a community when a newspaper establishes itself there or when a local newspaper closes. The Secrétariat is supporting us to conduct such a study, and it is very encouraging for the local media and their readers and audiences, especially at a time when journalism is changing rapidly.

Lily Ryan, President

QUEBEC ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRODUCTION COUNCIL

Canadian Regional Audiovisual Production Report, 1996-97 to 2016-17

Secrétariat funding: \$12,500 over 1 year

Mission

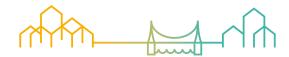
The Quebec English-language Production Council (QEPC) represents the English-language production industry in Québec, a net importer of capital and major exporter of programming outside of the province. With over 2,500 members representing about 80% of the people working in the English-language industry in Québec, QEPC seeks to increase English-language production output and funding in the province. Through research and strategic lobbying, QEPC members have successfully reversed a serious and steady decline in Québec's English-language film and television programming and revenues; increased the provincial tax credit and federal funding for productions; and created minimum English-Québec requirements among broadcasters.



www.qepc.ca

Challenge

English-language production in Québec has been a volatile landscape over the last two decades. The picture varies considerably between more-regulated (TV) and less-regulated (film) industry sectors but overall, Québec lost nearly half its English-language production volume between 2000 and 2016. One significant factor is the exodus of young English-speaking talent seeking work in production hotbeds like Toronto, Vancouver, and Los Angeles. This exodus has shrunk the capacity of Québec's English-speaking production industry to generate new work and, as a result, the production cycle continues its downward trend. Other considerations include asymmetric Federal requirements imposed on the Canadian Media Fund (CMF) which, while ensuring French-language production outside of Québec receives at least 10% of the CMF's French-language envelope, have no similar requirements for the English-language envelope for English-speaking production within Québec. Still, in rallying its members, conducting research, and acting as industry representatives with both Federal and Provincial governments, the QEPC contributes to reverse the decline.



Solution

The Quebec English-language Production Council (QEPC) is being supported to produce a research report about English-language film and television production in the province. In addition, the report compares data collected on Official Language Minority Community productions across Canada. The report will be useful for both industry workers and government policy makers, providing detailed statistics that reveal long-term trends, highlight the needs of English-speaking film and television industry workers, and demonstrate the impact of policy decisions. With this information, QEPC will be better equipped to carry out its mandate and governments will be better positioned to assess needs and make informed decisions, especially those related to young English-speaking Quebecers working in the industry.

Quote

The work of the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise systematically connects the policies of the Gouvernement du Québec with the vitality of the English-speaking minority in Québec.

Kirwan Cox, Executive Director

QUEBEC ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY RESEARCH NETWORK

Developing and Mobilizing Knowledge to Support English-speaking **Community Vitality**

Secrétariat funding: \$318,182 over 2 years

Mission

Founded in 2008, QUESCREN is the only research body focusing exclusively on English-speaking Quebecers. It was created as a joint initiative of the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities (Moncton) and Concordia University's School of Community and Public Affairs (Montréal). The network consists of researchers, stakeholders, educational institutions and other organizations. Its mission is to offer opportunities to better understand English-speaking Quebecers and strengthen their vitality through research, training, knowledge mobilization, networking, and awareness building.



www.concordia.ca/artsci/scpa/quescren

Challenge

One key to supporting more effectively the vitality of Québec's English-speaking communities is the development, consolidation, and mobilization of a solid evidence base. As a research network, QUESCREN has both individual and organizational research partners in the educational, health and social services, community development, and economic sectors. The challenge ahead is in bringing together these diverse actors to consolidate, share, and mobilize their respective expertise in specific sectors and regions across the province. This will allow the QUESCREN to work more effectively with the Gouvernement du Québec, researchers, and community partners to strategically address community vitality priorities and challenges.

Solution

QUESCREN is using support from the Secrétariat to increase and mobilize knowledge in the areas of minority-language education, social economy, employment, and burgeoning research into Englishspeaking communities in Québec (ESCQ studies). With its Inter-Level Educational Table, QUESCREN is empowering Québec's English-language educational sector to contribute more directly to community vitality: a forum and two reports identifying priority research are expected. With Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA), QUESCREN is collaborating on a feasibility study to increase the awareness and participation of English-speakers in Québec's growing social economy sector. Funding will also allow QUESCREN to build a core team of researchers, students, and stakeholders to plan future



projects, apply for major grants, and develop ESCQ studies. Students will be tasked with priority research projects; one of which will be a baseline study to lay the foundations for an internship program with the provincial government that will address the under-representation of English-speakers in Québec's civil service. QUESCREN will also participate in the annual conference of l'Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences (Acfas), sharing its research with the broader francophone social science community in Québec and Canada.

Quote

As the director of the École des affaires publiques et communautaires (ÉAPC), I believe that this research opportunity will enable QUESCREN to develop research projects with community partners in Québec, matching the community engagement approach put forward by the ÉAPC.

Chedly Belkhodja, Co-director

QUEBEC ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY RESEARCH NETWORK

Permanent Research Center Devoted to English-speaking Communities.

Secrétariat funding: \$361,776 over 3 years

Mission

Founded in 2008, QUESCREN is the only research body focusing exclusively on English-speaking Quebecers. It was created as a joint initiative of the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities (Moncton) and Concordia University's School of Community and Public Affairs (Montréal). The network consists of researchers, stakeholders, educational institutions, and other organizations. Its mission is to offer opportunities to better understand English-speaking Quebecers and strengthen their vitality through research, training, knowledge mobilization, networking, and awareness building.



www.concordia.ca/artsci/scpa/quescren

Challenge

An academic research centre devoted to the study of English-speaking Quebecers is an essential resource for the mobilization of knowledge for Québec's English-speaking communities as well as for government. Having access to solid research reflecting the realities, issues, and needs of English-speaking Quebecers will allow the Gouvernement du Québec to better account for these while developing policy and programs. It will alsoallow English-speaking Quebecers to more effectively and strategically mobilize to address community priorities and common challenges. At present, QUESCREN has limited staff and requires support to strengthen its capacity and sustainability in fulfilling its mandate.

Solution

QUESCREN will use Secrétariat resources to mobilize knowledge and support staffing needs to meet its mandate. Through the project, solid research about the realities, issues, and needs of English-speaking Quebecers will be produced. QUESCREN will work with the Secrétariat and community organizations to identify priority themes and methodologies for research, such as research-action methodologies. This new research produced, as well as other relevant research already known to QUESCREN, will be mobilized through a series of awareness-building and knowledge-sharing activities during the project, such as conferences. These events will also help build partnerships and networks among participants. Overall, with Secrétariat support, this project will make the needs, issues, and realities



of English-speaking Quebecers better known to Québec's government agencies as well as the general public. In so doing, and in promoting networking and partnerships, this project will help build and support community vitality.

Quote

QUESCREN strengthens the vitality of English-speaking Québec through research, training, knowledge mobilization, networking, and awareness building. Our Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise Support Program funding helps ensure that we can continue our activities and ensure better understanding of Québec's biggest language minority group.

Chedly Belkhodja, Co-director

QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL **ASSOCIATIONS**

History of Achievements

Secrétariat funding: \$43,000 over 2 years

Mission

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. is an independent, incorporated, not-forprofit volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the education and general well-being of children and youth. The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations promotes the involvement of parents, students, educators and the community at large in the advancement of learning and acts as a voice for parents.



www.qfhsa.org

Challenge

The QFHSA has faced a challenge it its efforts to collect and archive documentation from its member associations in relation to their history, local initiatives and best practices. Having a database would help QFHSA share with its members, past, present, important research, and knowledge-sharing tools to strengthen the capacity of the network to carry out innovative future projects.

Solution

In honour of its 75 years of service to parents, students, and schools in English-speaking communities across Québec, the QFHSA is being supported to create a database of member association activity. QFHSA is also creating a travelling exhibition on home-and-school associations in Québec from 1944 to 2019. The exhibition will feature an interactive map with the historic locations of 370 such associations in the province with access to basic information about each of these. This map will also be shared on the QHFSA website and presented at the 2019 Fall Conference celebrating the organization's 75th anniversary.



Quote

We appreciate very much the interest the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise has shown in our long history and its willingness to offer financial support so that we can harvest data from our archives to highlight the contributions of our local associations, some continuously active for over 75 years. This has given us an opportunity to present a snapshot of an important social movement in Québec, coming out of the turmoil of the post Second World War era and illustrating the determination of parents to improve the health, welfare and education of children and youth in Québec.

Linton Garner, President

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WEST QUEBECERS

Monograph about the community tv program, CityLife (MAtv Outaouais)

Secrétariat funding: \$17,600 over 1 year

Mission

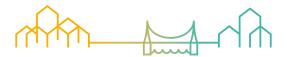
The Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ) was established in 1982 as a not-for-profit organization supporting the English-speaking minority in the Outaouais. RAWQ advocates for the community's increased access to services and creates programs addressing the social, health, educational, and cultural needs of community members, including increased access to instruction in French as a second language. They network with other community groups with shared interests and build bridges with the francophone community to share information. They encourage English-speakers in the Outaouais to participate within the region's decision-making bodies and support youth through programs to enhance their employability, leadership, and bilingualism.



www.westquebecers.ca

Challenge

English-speakers in rural and isolated communities throughout Québec struggle to access and participate in their local media space. In the case of the Outaouais region, the regular CBC programming originates from Ottawa and rarely covers Québec local or provincial issues. As a result, compared to their francophone neighbours, opportunities for encountering and sharing their perspectives, concerns, and ideas through local media are significantly more limited. While the situation is mitigated somewhat by the presence of small English-language community newspapers, broadcast media (radio and television) is an area of particular concern. In general, English-speaking communities throughout Québec have seen their access to and participation in local broadcast media slowly decline during the previous decades. Accessing and participating in the local media space is essential for community vitality: It strengthens local and regional identities, creates better-informed communities, and encourages a sense of belonging to Québec society. One promising development has been a recent collaboration between the Regional Association of West Quebecers and Vidéotron Ltd. to establish the CityLife program on their as part of Vidéotron's MAtv community television programming.



Solution

The Regional Association of West Quebecers is being supported to produce a monograph documenting its recent partnership with Vidéotron. Importantly, this will elaborate how the CityLife program resulting from the partnership has helped community development for the English-speaking community in the Outaouais. The monograph will describe current productions and identify lessons learned as well as promising avenues for future work. It will also provide a model for English-speaking communities elsewhere in Québec, helping them develop similar community media partnerships in their regions and thereby establish stronger representation and participation in local broadcast media.

Quote

The monograph is an invaluable opportunity for RAWQ to validate the hard work, effort and time the organization has dedicated to the CityLife program and our desire to be present in the lives of the English-speaking community in our region. Media increases our footprint in the area as well as affording us an opportunity to showcase the people, places and issues our community has deemed important in their lives. This project funding will help us demonstrate CityLife's impact and the importance of this type of tool in developing organizational capacity and community vitality.

Linton Garner, Executive Director

SENIORS ACTION QUEBEC

Supporting Québec's English-speaking Seniors

Secrétariat funding: \$400,000 over 3 years

Mission

Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ) was formed in 2012 following a provincial consultation on the status of Québec's seniors. The organization works to maintain and enhance the vitality of English-speaking seniors in Québec by promoting healthy and active lifestyles and addressing specific issues and challenges facing the community. The organization establishes partnerships to support and develop leadership among seniors at local and provincial levels; celebrate the contributions of English-speaking seniors to the province; and monitor and address issues important to seniors. Seniors Action Quebec also ensures that English-speaking seniors have access to information and services by collaborating with other organizations with common objectives and working with various levels of governments.



www.seniorsactionquebec.ca

Challenge

For Seniors Action Quebec to effectively play its role in interacting with government, gathering data, mobilizing, informing, and addressing the needs of English-speaking seniors throughout Québec, sustainable funding is essential, as the organization has operated through a team of dedicated volunteers since its beginnings.

English-speaking seniors face many complex challenges as identified in the 2007 provincial government report, "The Living Conditions of Québec Seniors" These challenges range from a feeling of isolation in Québec society to struggles in accessing public services and information in English; from housing and long-term care to financial and legal counsel; and cultural life, to name but a few. Supporting the operational capacity of SAQ would enable it to grow as a network, work with its member associations and develop partnerships with government.

Solution

Seniors Action Quebec is receiving Secrétariat support for three years to increase its capacity to directly address the complex challenges faced by English-speaking seniors in the province. The organization will collaborate with existing community organizations already working closely with English-speaking seniors across the province. In doing so, SAQ hopes to become a provincial hub for gathering, analyzing,



and accessing information from diverse sectors, a necessary resource for properly understanding relevant issues and challenges. By consolidating knowledge and pertinent data, SAQ will develop more sustainable relationships with government and municipalities. In the process, it should become an important and trusted partner for assisting government and municipalities in developing policies and public programs that improve the well-being of Québec's English-speaking seniors.

Quote

The support of the Gouvernement du Québec for the SAQ project is important in two ways. First, it provides essential infrastructure to accomplish the objectives of the project, which in summary are to create a strong network of senior-focused community organizations, equipped with expertise on the situation and needs of English-speaking seniors, and equipped with the communications capacity to share this knowledge widely. Second, it enables SAQ to connect well with those branches of local, provincial and federal governments who may not be familiar with the needs of English-speaking seniors, but whose programs can support them.

Michael Udy, President

TOWNSHIPPERS' ASSOCIATION

Inclusive Mentorships for Health Professionals

Secrétariat funding: \$148,568 over 2 years

Mission

Since 1979, the Townshippers' Association has strengthened the cultural identity of English-speakers in the Eastern Townships by promoting their interests, celebrating their heritage and history, and encouraging the community's participation and collaboration with key stakeholders.



www.townshippers.qc.ca

Challenge

Two of the greatest determinants in ensuring the vitality of English-speaking communities across Québec are (1) youth retention through employment (especially in the regions); and (2) access to healthcare and social services in English. Like other non-urban regions in Québec with historic English-speaking populations, decades of youth outmigration from the Eastern Townships has led to a devitalized population with a range of pressing social and health care challenges. Concerns of not being able to adequately understand health care professionals as well as a limited knowledge of available services in English constitute barriers to accessing health and social services and navigating the health care system for rural English-speaking Quebecers. While there are two English-speaking educational institutions in the Eastern Townships with health and social services programs, data from the CUISSS de l'Estrie suggests that less than half of the students from these two institutions are hired into the Estrie's public health care system.

Solution

With support from the Secrétariat, the Townshippers' Association is collaborating with the CIUSS de l'Estrie-CHUS and with educational institutions in the region to bolster essential French-language skills among recent English-speaking graduates of health and social services programs to ensure they can work and thrive in the Eastern Townships following their studies. A career-specific French immersion program and mentorship will allow these students to more readily participate in the regional health and social services sector, serving both of the Eastern Townships' historic linguistic communities. The Townshippers will play an advisory role when this initiative is expanded to other Québec regions under the leadership of the Community Health and Social Services Network.



Quote

We are pleased that the Secretariat has chosen to support this initiative because its development and deployment in our region will not only facilitate access to French second-language training opportunities for English-speakers working in the region's health care facilities, but will also create stronger links between the community, education and health and social service sectors in the Eastern Townships. We are quite excited to roll up our sleeves and get to work on this project.

Rachel Hunting, Executive Director

Y4Y QUEBEC ASSOCIATION

Building Capacity to Enhance Youth Engagement

Secrétariat funding: \$63,900 over 2 years

Mission

Youth 4 Youth Quebec (Y4Y) is a non-profit network that addresses issues facing English-speaking youth aged 16 to 30. Incorporated in 2018, it is a youth-driven initiative that began through consultations in 2016. Its core members are youth who seek to foster a strong sense of community among Englishspeaking youth and a strong sense of belonging to Québec society. Y4Y is a key partner in collaborating with other community organizations to maximize their youth impact; it creates a link with Englishspeaking youth and communicates available supports to ensure these youth reach their full potential and remain in Québec. Y4Y provides an outreach platform to communities throughout Québec that shares information about resources, training, and employment and career opportunities for youth. Y4Y is a vehicle for empowering English-speaking youth to assume leadership roles in their community; to inspire their peers to become involved and active members of society; to improve French-language skills and engage with the French-speaking majority; and to mobilize the full age-spectrum of Englishspeaking community around issues affecting community's vitality.

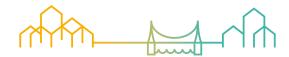


www.y4yquebec.org

Challenge

Provincial out-migration is higher among English-speaking Quebecers than among any other language group in Canada. More recent data suggest that younger and better educated cohorts are more likely to leave the province; this may be explained in part by the desire to continue their education or to seek employment. A 2003 General Social Survey from Statistics Canada, however, showed that Englishspeaking Quebecers had the lowest sense of belonging to their province of residence.

In 2016, Canadian Heritage held a focus group to consult Québec's English-speaking youth on their needs and how to help them engage in their communities. The youth present expressed a lack of opportunities to get involved and a lack of representation of their issues. A consensus emerged from this consultation that young English-speaking Quebecers needed a voice – an organisation to represent their issues. Until recently, no formal provincial organisation specifically dedicated to English-speaking youth existed. The Secrétariat recognises that Y4Y is filling a structural gap in this respect. To address community need, the Secrétariat's support will ensure Y4Y has the resources to build its capacity.



Solution

The Secrétariat is supporting Youth 4 Youth Quebec to develop its organizational capacity. This support will allow the organization to train staff and support certain administrative expenses; organize consultation and awareness-building activities in various regions of province; and defray transportation costs so English-speaking youth can participate in the Québec's Forum Jeunesse and Y4Y's annual general meeting.

Quote

Before Y4Y Quebec was launched, as English-speaking youth we had no network to tie us together. There was little attachment to Québec politics and culture, even amongst English-speakers with a high level of French. Last fall, the Gouvernement du Québec recognized the need to immediately increase the participation of English-speaking youth in activities that help create a place for our demographic in society. Ultimately, the funding that Y4Y Quebec is receiving through the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise will contribute to preparing a strong next generation of changemakers that are committed to strengthening Québec's economy and making life better for their peers.

Malcolm Lewis-Richmond, President

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES MONTREAL

12K Jobs! Bridging the Employability Gap

Secrétariat funding: \$419,350 over 3 years

Mission

Youth Employment Services (YES) was founded in 1995 from a provincial task force to stem the outflow of young, English-speakers from Québec. YES strengthens community vitality and economic development by improving the economic integration and stability of young English-speaking Quebecers. The organization provides free career counselling, business coaching, workshops, mentoring, conferences, and networking opportunities. YES works with a crucial network of partners from the business, nonprofit, media, academic, and corporate sectors who help deliver services, act as mentors, and provide strategic direction.



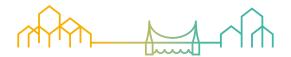
www.yesmontreal.ca

Challenge

While Québec's economy approaches full-employment, there is still an unemployment gap between the province's francophones and anglophones. The 2016 census reveals that compared to Québec francophones and when accounting for their proportion of Québec's total population, there are an additional 12,000 English-speakers unemployed. These 12,000 people live in both urban Montréal and in Québec's regions and struggle to find work for a variety of reasons: their real or perceived deficiencies in French; lack of relevant job skills; residence in rural communities where unemployment is prevalent; or real or perceived barriers related to their visible minority status. Lower job prospects are one reason why English-speaking Quebecers are leaving their communities, often for other provinces. Census data shows that English-speaking Quebecers are more likely to leave the province than other linguistic groups and that in 2016, more than half of English-speaking Quebecers had already left. This tendency is especially prevalent among English-speakers with post-secondary degrees. The money and labour Quebecers are investing to educate our youth and cultivate their potential is largely being reaped by other provinces. Meanwhile, this "brain-drain" is lowering the socioeconomic status of the Englishspeaking communities and is depriving the province as a whole of a number of skilled workers.

Solution

Led by YES this project will borrow the proven networking approach developed by the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN) to address employability issues for English-speaking Quebecers. It will build on YES's employment roundtable to create a new non-profit network, bringing



together partners and stakeholders from the various regions of Québec. The network will serve as a hub, incubator, and support mechanism for collaboration and action to influence programs and policies. It will work to establish and develop relationships with partners and future network members, including municipal, provincial, and federal ministries and organizations. The network and the new organization will not be service providers or displace bilateral relations between groups and their funders.

A conference bringing together members of organizations and ministries whose mandates concern employability is scheduled. Consultations will be held to identify issues, propose solutions, and create consensus. A founding meeting will be held in the third year of the project to officially establish the new network. Through these exchanges, the project will produce an action plan to bridge the employability gap between anglophone and francophone Quebecers and reduce the number of highly educated English-speakers leaving the province in search of work.

Quote

Doris Juergens, President

This is a very important initiative to enhance the employment prospects of English-speaking Quebecers in all regions of the province. Our goal is to set the stage so that any English-speaking person—especially our youth—who wishes to stay and work in Québec will have the opportunity to do so.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES MONTREAL

Addressing Unemployment for Québec's English-speaking Youth

Secrétariat funding: \$462,731 over 2 years

Mission

Youth Employment Services (YES) was founded in 1995 from a provincial task force to stem the outflow of young, English-speakers from Québec. YES strengthens community vitality and economic development by improving the economic integration and stability of young English-speaking Quebecers. The organization provides free career counselling, business coaching, workshops, mentoring, conferences, and networking opportunities. YES works with a crucial network of partners from the business, nonprofit, media, academic, and corporate sectors who help deliver services, act as mentors, and provide strategic direction.



www.yesmontreal.ca

Challenge

While Québec's economy approaches full employment, there is a marked unemployment gap between francophones and English-speakers. To bridge this gap and reach the same unemployment rate as francophones, an additional 12,000 unemployed English-speakers across the province would need to secure employment in Québec. A significant factor in this gap are deficiencies—both real and perceived—in French second-language skills among English-speaking youth and young professionals. Their perception of lower job prospects has exacerbated their tendency to leave the province in search of careers. By the 2016 Census, more than half of all English-speakers born in Québec were now living in another province. Other provinces are largely reaping the money and labour that Québec invests in educating its youth. Meanwhile, this "brain-drain" has lowered the socioeconomic status of Québec's rural and urban English-speaking communities.

Solution

YES is using Secrétariat support to help over 300 youth find meaningful employment so that they can remain and thrive in Québec. Keeping English-speaking youth in Québec could help address the predicted labour shortages that many companies are already beginning to experience. This project targets youth retention and employment through four strategies. (1) Providing first-time job opportunities: through paid internships coordinated by YES, new graduates can more quickly integrate into the job market while developing practical skills and work experience. (2) Connecting employers and English-speaking youth: YES will host a series of networking events to match over 70 companies with 170 youth. (3) Strengthening



linguistic connections: YES will identify francophone companies and partners interested in mentorships or "buddy systems" to successfully integrate English-speaking youth into their workforce; they will also establish "chit-chat" groups for French- and English-speaking participants interesting in practicing each other's language. (4) English-language employment support: YES will expand its existing services tailored towards recent graduates to also include students, the underemployed, and those seeking career transitions in the Greater Montréal area; this expanded support will include one-on-one career counselling, soft skills workshops, job shadowing and inclusion strategies for the workplace. In all, YES is taking a proactive approach to breaking down the linguistic silos and employment barriers faced by many young English-speaking Quebecers.

Quote

Last year YES helped more than 4,000 people. We offer services that concretely help people integrate into the economy and stay in Québec, but we have never had enough resources to help all those who need these services. This new funding from the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise has strengthened our outreach and accompaniment of young English-speaking Quebecers, helping more of them to build their lives and careers here in Québec. Investing in the future of all our youth is a winning strategy for all of us.

Aki P. Tchitacov, Executive Direction



Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise

Québec