



# Annual Report

2016/2017



STUDY ON CANADIANS' VIEWS ABOUT  
MODERNIZING THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT  
ÉTUDE SUR LA PERSPECTIVE DES CANADIENS AU SUJET D'UNE  
MODERNISATION DE LA LOI SUR LES LANGUES OFFICIELLES



**Gerald Cutting**  
*President*

## President Message

This past year has been marked by a number of significant accomplishments and difficult decisions. The staff and volunteers continue to demonstrate that, through hard work and commitment to the mission of Townshippers' Association, we can enhance the importance and contributions of the English-speaking community in the regions we serve. We are the English-speaking people who have lived here for generations — this is our country, our province, our region— and we intend to take our place as fully participating members of this society.

Last fall at a Town Hall meeting in Sherbrooke, even our Prime Minister was forced to recognize that we deserve an answer in English to a question asked in English. Thanks in large part to your Association this issue was raised at the local, provincial and national level. The apology that came from the PM affirmed the commitment of Canada to the importance of official minority rights. However, for rights to work, they must be exercised.

The Annual Report is testimony to the extensive involvement of the Association in a vast number of projects, ranging from health and social services to youth employment. Overall, this has been a record-breaking year in regard to the number of projects that have been funded. These projects were made possible because of the credibility we have earned and the partnerships we have forged throughout the proud history of this Association. This is particularly important in the area of health care, the number one priority of the English-speaking community as identified in a recent survey.

When speaking of funding, it must be noted that we are one of the very few organizations in Canada to have been granted federal funding from Heritage Canada for the next five years. This extraordinary recognition is proof positive that, through careful planning, effective execution, and wise management of funds, we can succeed. This act of confidence in your Association guarantees our active involvement in the decision-making bodies of our region where we continue to bring the concerns of our community to the forefront.

The most difficult decision that arose this past year was in regard to the question of how best to rethink the future of Townshippers' Day. Over the past five years it has become evident that the original model—rotating T-Day from municipality to municipality on a yearly basis—was no longer viable. It was therefore decided not to hold a T-Day in 2017, but rather take the time needed to explore ways and means of securing the necessary project funding and location for the years to come, beginning in 2018.

We as a people are proud of our history and our pioneering spirit. Now, more than ever, we must be forward looking. The task of today is to initiate affirmative action that future generations of English-speaking Townshippers can look back upon, and know that the contributions we made will make a difference to them.

**Gerald Cutting**, President



**Rachel Hunting**  
*Executive Director*

## Executive Director Message

Dear members,

Our community is a source of inspiration and continues to be our number one priority. This annual report offers an overview of just some of the many ways we have been hard at work for our community along with some of the accomplishments that we celebrated this past year. I hope it will leave you with a sense of who we are and why we do the work we do.

Our focus in 2016-2017 has been on building the capacity of our community, its organizations, and its institutions so that the members of our Official Language Minority community not only survive here in the region but have the opportunity to thrive as well.

Through collaborative networking and online through social media, we have continued to grow existing programs, share resources and develop new projects. One new project is Our Stories – a digital community collaboration to celebrate Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation by telling our stories, the Townships stories, of moments and people that helped to shape our region and our country.

This year we paid tribute to community leadership with our two new Outstanding Townshippers and three Young Townships Leaders. We gave graduating high schoolers – three of them – a chance to tell their story with the community about overcoming challenges and their plans for the future. We were also thrilled to have the privilege of distributing \$20,000 in bursaries to Townships health and social services students with English and French language skills through the McGill Health and Social Services Community Leadership Bursary Program. In the office, we enjoyed having the energy and enthusiasm of four university students who joined our team last summer through federally funded summer employment programs!

While it’s important to celebrate our achievements, we must acknowledge our challenges. While our activities are being enjoyed by more people, audiences were sparse at the November Think Falling concert with Townships Expression musician Keenan Wilcox and special guest Kyra Shaughnessy as well as at the January performance of Home Child, a stage production written and directed by Laura Teasdale. Cultural activities such as these directly support local artists and help cultivate regional arts. The good news is we are planning other events this year and hope you will come!

Not all decisions are popular but sometimes they are necessary for progress and we are always working to improve our outreach to community members; our team is hard at work on Townshippers’ Day 2018 findings solutions to sustainability and declining Municipal interest in hosting the festival. We aim to come back with an event that is better than ever and can be run with relative ease for years to come.

We hope we can continue to count on your support. I invite you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter (and share what we post with your friends, both online and in person) come out to our events such as the Expressions concert planned for later in the year, Food For Thought luncheons, or even volunteer at one of our many activities. There are many ways our communities can work together and we look forward to exploring them with you.

**Rachel Hunting**, Executive Director

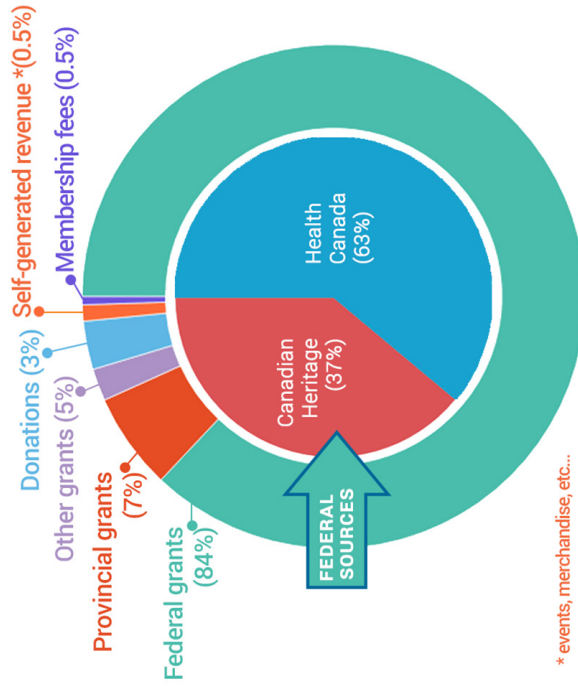


# ANNUAL REPORT DATA 2016-2017

## OBJECTIVES 2012-2017

- ✓ Access to Services in English
- ✓ Economic Opportunity
- ✓ Cultural Identity & Visibility
- ✓ Community Renewal
- ✓ Representation & Advocacy
- ✓ Organizational Capacity

## Financials



## NETWORKING & RESOURCE SHARING

**250** approx. number of legal info requests processed by 2 volunteering UdeS law students

People helped by TOWNSHIPERS' free VOLUNTEER-RUN income tax clinic **242**

**185** job postings [ & 2 student bursary opportunities ] shared on TOPPOTUNITY.CA

Local artists used the Townships Expressions initiative to promote & sell their works **84**

**36** avg participants per event, accessed info & resources at 16 lunch conferences for English-speakers

avg participants per event attended 13 HEALTH MATTERS sessions in the Montérégie-East **31**

**13** Entrepreneurs benefitted from specialized business coaching through partner resources (YES)

**12** organizations seeking funding for projects that support & increase the vitality of the region's ESC were supported by TOWNSHIPERS'

**3** Make Way for YOUTH Discovery Days held in HAUT-SAINT-FRANÇOIS, VAL-SAINT-FRANÇOIS, & MEMPHRÉMAGOG MRCs



## IN THE COMMUNITY

The English-speaking community (ESC) was represented on 38 different committees/tables/boards.

**28** Health & well-being

**3** Youth & Families

**3** Cultural

**2** Economic Development

**2** Seniors



## GOVERNMENT

Presentations on behalf of the ESC:

### FEDERAL

Cross-Canada Official Languages Consultations Bishop's University Aug 2016

ESC consultation with MP Denis Paradis, Chair, House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages Sept 2016

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## IN THE NEWS

radio shows were produced by Townshippers' airing on CIDI 99.1FM, Jan - March

**19**

mentions of the Association in print, radio & television media

**228**

copies of the spring & fall editions of the Association's magazine were distributed

**2,038**

## SOCIAL INSIGHTS

**11,418**  
unique visitors  
Townshippers.org

**2,812**  
unique visitors  
Toppportunity.ca

**2,670**  
unique visitors  
TDay.ca

**16,900**  
TOTAL WEB VISITORS

**+2,357**  
FOLLOWERS

**3,840**

approximate number of caffeinated beverages consumed by Townshippers' staff while on the job

**68** initiatives & activities across the region!

**5,000+** VISITORS AT THE **37<sup>th</sup>** annual

## TOWNSHIPERS' DAY

- DISCOVERED - cultural, artisanal, educational, entrepreneurial, & government exhibits during the festival.

**90+**

## YOUTH MIGRATION

Make Way for **YOUTH** ESTRIE

**29**

young English-speaking professionals benefited from individual support through the MWFY program

**17**

young English-speaking professionals participated in two MWFY Discovery Days weekends

**3** young English-speaking professionals who joined in the MWFY program, migrated to the Estrie!

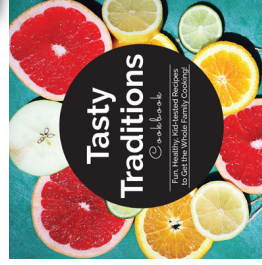


## PROVINCIAL

**4**  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION : La renouvellement de La Politique Culturelle du Québec Aug 2016  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION : La réussite éducative Oct 2016  
The ministère du Conseil exécutif & Secrétariat à la jeunesse during the Stratégie d'action jeunesse 2016-2021 Aug - Nov 2016  
Journées Annuelles de Santé Publique Demi-journée thématique Nov 2016

Ask Us

about our latest PUBLICATIONS:



Townshippers' Association is a non-profit, non-partisan community organization focused on promoting & supporting the interests of the Eastern Townships' English-speaking minority community.

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# Board of Directors 2016-2017

<b>Gerald Cutting</b>	President	<i>Coaticook</i>
<b>Peter Quilliams</b>	Vice-President	<i>Fulford</i>
<b>James Kanner</b>	Treasurer	<i>Cookshire-Eaton</i>
<b>Melanie Cutting</b>	Secretary	<i>Sherbrooke</i>

## Members

<b>Heather Bowman</b> <i>Sherbrooke</i>	<b>Steve Lawson</b> <i>Brome Lake</i>
<b>Salim Hasmi</b> <i>Sherbrooke</i>	<b>Alice McCrory</b> <i>Eastman</i>
<b>Cheryl Gosselin</b> <i>Lennoxville</i>	<b>Russell Merifield</b> <i>Magog</i>
<b>Kohl Kelso</b> <i>Sherbrooke</i>	<b>Peter Riordon</b> <i>Sutton</i>
	<b>Eric Smith</b> <i>Sherbrooke</i>

## Supporting Team

**Rachel Hunting**  
Executive Director

**Corrinna Pole**  
Administration & Communications Officer

**Cathy Turner**  
Office Manager/  
Townships Expressions Coordinator

**Norma Salisbury**  
Accounting Clerk

**Mary Gunter**  
Assist Accounting clerk

**Evelina Smith**  
Community Information Coordinator/  
Cultural Community Liaison

**Debbie Bishop**  
Agent, Eastern Townships Partners for  
Health & Social Services

**Kate Murray**  
Agent, Eastern Townships Partners for  
Health & Social Services

**Maggie Severs** *[on leave]*  
**Emily Prangley Desormeaux** *[replacement]*  
Agent, Eastern Townships Partners for  
Health & Social Services

**Michelle Lepitre**  
Health & Social Services Special Projects  
Coordinator

**Jenny Ménard** *[on leave]*  
**Holly McMillan** *[replacement]*  
Make Way for YOUth – Migration Agent

**Kate Holbrook**  
Culture & Community Coordinator

**Katie Bibbs**  
Employment Liaison Coordinator

**Kyl Chhatwal**  
Resource Adaptation Coordinator

**Jody Robinson**  
Rooted in the Townships Project Coordinator

# Supporters 2016-2017

The events and programs that Townshippers' Association has offered this year would not be possible without the support of the following organizations, businesses and individuals.

*Thank you!*



Canada



Assurances Arthur Malouin

Député de Orford,  
Pierre Reid

Avante Womens Centre

Député de Saint-François,  
Guy Hardy

Caisse Populaire de  
Brome-Missisquoi

Centre d'action bénévole du  
Sherbrooke

Député de Richmond,  
Karine Vallières

Centre d'action bénévole du  
Haut-Saint-François

Dr Alain Côté, Opto-Réseau  
Lennoxville

Centre Lac-Brome

Haut-Saint-François Fou de  
ses enfants

Champlain Regional College

CIDI 99.1

La Relève du  
Haut-Saint-François

CIUSSS de l'Estrie-CHUS

Mental Health Estrie

CLSC Cowansville

Path Production

Community Learning Centres

Quebec Anglophone  
Heritage Network

Corporation Municipale du  
Village de Brome

St. Paul's Anglican Church

Député de Sherbrooke,  
Luc Fortin

Townships Sun

Député de Brome-Missisquoi,  
Pierre Paradis

Ville de Lac Brome

Député de Mégantic,  
Ghislain Bolduc

Ville de Sherbrooke

Yamaska Literacy Council





[Townshippers.org](http://Townshippers.org)

[Toppportunity.ca](http://Toppportunity.ca) | [TDay.ca](http://TDay.ca)

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