



# 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

TOWNSHIPPERS' ASSOCIATION

@TOWNSHIPPERS   

# From the President



Once again, we are at that point in the calendar year when Townshippers' Association is putting the final touches on the fiscal year that has ended and is planning for the year ahead. In my case, this end of year report is of particular significance. I have had the distinct privilege of serving on Townshippers' Association's board of directors since 2007, and in the capacity of President of the Association for twelve of those years. My tenure with Townshippers' has been one of the greatest adventures of my life. To have been involved with so many people who are so truly passionate about the mission of this Association and its commitment to our community has been inspiring for me, year after year. Even so, it is time now for me to step down.

Throughout this past year, the pandemic forced everyone to adapt to a way of life that is challenging, to say the least, for a community-based organization such as Townshippers'. Thanks to the dedication of our staff and volunteers, however, we found ways to continue offering services and programs to our community, day after day; our mission was not compromised. As we move into the post-pandemic era and adapt to the "new normal," we find ourselves confronted with a host of issues that must be addressed with new approaches.

On the political front, your Association was called upon in the past year to engage in a major advocacy effort on behalf of our community in response to Bill 96, a bill intended to promote and protect the French Language in Quebec. Despite the fact that we have stated on numerous occasions that we recognize the unique status of the French language in North America and the need to support and protect this integral part of Quebec and Canadian society; despite how we, as an English-speaking community, have made great strides in becoming bilingual so as to become better integrated into Quebec society; despite the reality that our rural community is struggling with major issues, such as unemployment, poverty, and mental illness that far exceed the provincial norms... Bill 96 was recently adopted into law. For the most part, it is a piece of legislation that limits, controls, or outright criminalizes the use of the English language as the main way to address the stated intent of this legislation – the protection of the French language.

Townshippers' Association has always taken the position that, as a founding people of this region, we need to be involved in the decision-making process that establishes policies that will impact us as a community. This approach will not be put aside as the Association moves into planning and goal setting for the coming years. Once again, thanks to outstanding staff members and volunteers, you can count on this pledge to develop a strategic approach that will ensure our vitality as an English-speaking community – one that is committed to building a Quebec society where there is a place for everyone.

Once again, I thank you for the confidence you have placed in me over the years.

*Your fellow Townshipper.*  
*Gerry Cutting*

# A word of thanks...



Has it been a decade already?! I'm truly happy to have the opportunity to address our members and supporters one last time. Your tireless support of Townshippers' and the work its team does across the region has been appreciated and important to all of the success and progress that we have enjoyed as a team during my time at the helm.

I have no doubt that the organization is in wonderfully capable hands and that it will continue to be a strong and influential

presence in the community development sector and a staunch advocate for the rights of Quebec's vulnerable English-speakers.

I wish you all the very best,

*Rachel Hunting*

## From the Executive Director

When I reflect on this past year, many thoughts come to mind. While it was a year that saw many changing paradigms, it has instilled in me a tremendous gratitude. Townshippers' Association is a product of the community that it serves and, in supporting the best interests and vitality of this community, TA will persist. That said, the accomplishments and growth of TA must be attributed to our incredibly capable and passionate team of staff and board of directors. The talent that is brought to the table by the professionals at TA is exceptional. They are members of our community, innovators in their sectors, and the champions of our mission. I am grateful for two things: 1, the opportunity to work alongside these individuals, and 2, as an English speaker in Quebec, that these are the people that are looking out for my best interests and the vitality of my future here in this province.



*Marguerite (Maggie) Severs*

## From the Director of Programs and Communications



Spring is here again and, with it, comes a sense of freshness and newness - things we've been feeling at Townshippers' Association for a few months now! Before we get too far into our new year and our new projects, though, it's important that we take some time to review last year and all of the great things our Association accomplished. And we're so glad to have you here with us to do just that!

I'd like to take a moment to thank our outgoing Executive Director, Rachel Hunting, and our outgoing President, Gerald Cutting, for the incredible work they have both done in the past decade - their

dedication and passion for supporting the English-speaking community has build a strong foundation for Townshippers' to build on in the coming years and we wouldn't be here without both of them. We will miss you both. And now, to the future!

*Michelle Lepitre*



# ACTIVITY REPORT DATA 2021-2022



## OBJECTIVES

2017-2022

- ☒ Access to Services in English
- ☒ Economic Opportunity & Youth Engagement
- ☒ Community Mobilization & Organizational Capacity
- ☒ Community Identity & Cultural Heritage



## Contributions to the knowledge-base

- Bill 96, An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec, Brief, October 2021
- Official Languages Reform Project Study, Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages, Brief, May 2021

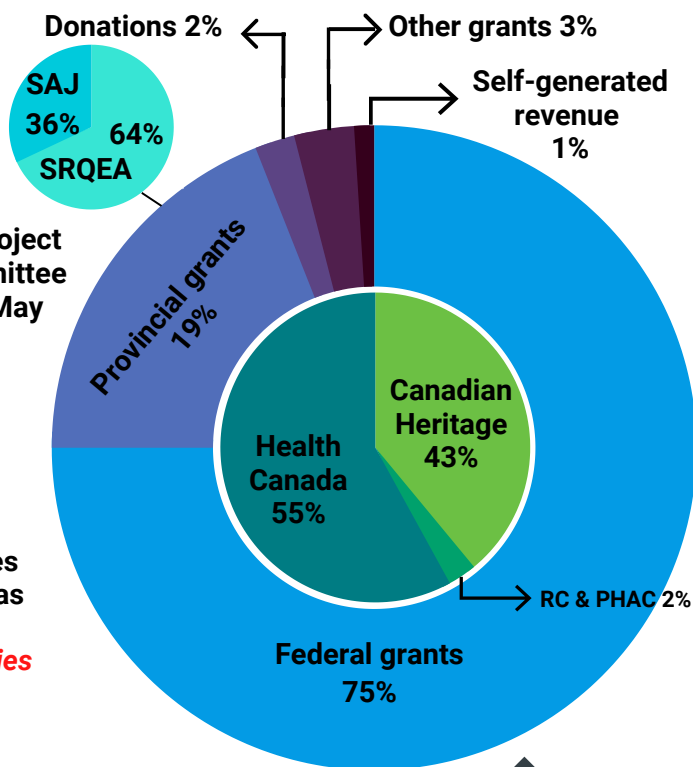


ABOUT TOWNSHIPPERS

**27 web shows** were produced to **promote organizations and services** in communities across the Townships as part of the **About Townshippers Web Series**

## FINANCIALS

RC & PHAC: Red Cross & Public Health Agency Canada  
SAJ: Secrétariat à la jeunesse  
SRQEA: Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise



## YOUTH MIGRATION

Place  
aux Jeunes  
Eastern Townships

38

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

15

young English-speaking professionals participated in eight Discovery Days video tours via PAJ Eastern Townships

9

young English-speaking professionals migrated to the Estrie with support from the PAJ ET program!



## Presentations made to GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES highlighting ESC needs and interests



**FEDERAL**

- Consultation with Official Languages Department of Justice concerning federal priorities for 5-year action plan.
- Bill 96 public hearings with the Commission de la culture et de l'éducation at the National Assembly
- Meeting with local MNA representatives concerning the implications of Bill 96 for the ESCs in their riding



**PROVINCIAL**



## In the COMMUNITY

TA represented the English-speaking community (ESC) by participating on **55** committees, tables and boards that touch on:

SENIORS & CULTURE

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

YOUTH & FAMILIES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



# RESOURCE SHARING



**22** radio shows by Townshippers' aired on CIDI 99.1 FM

**4,616** Resources downloaded from our website

**1,986** Townshippers' magazines distributed (fall '21, spring '22)

## LEARNING CURVE



**14** post-secondary students benefited from remote learning opportunities via student **internships** with Townshippers': **2** from the *Université de Sherbrooke* who managed the free legal information clinic & **12** from the *Université de Sherbrooke's Faculté de médecine et des sciences de la santé* who worked with the Association's Eastern Townships Partners for Health and Social Services, Estrie Network.

**91** artists from the Eastern Townships participated in the *Townships Expressions* initiative and benefited from the sale of their work through their participation in

## Townships Expressions



**350** regional high school students benefitted from Townshippers' support through the development of a Bursary Directory for students pursuing higher education.



**53** Community activities and/or events were added to TA's Community Calendar.



**24** health and social services information sessions held through the Senior Wellness Centres project

**11** PAJ Eastern Townships *Discovery Days* organized for young professionals aged 18 - 35 years old

**45** volunteers supported the Senior Wellness Centres project activities.

**410** job opportunities posted through PAJ Eastern Townships

**442** community members received information on legal topics/resources through the Educaloï project

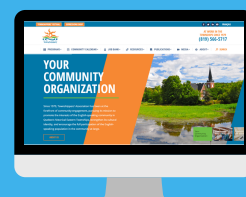
## Social Insights

**4,637** followers

unique visitors

**6,893**

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



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

### SHERBROOKE (HEAD OFFICE)

3355 College, Sherbrooke, QC J1M 0B8  
819-566-5717 / toll-free 1-866-566-5717



### LAC-BROME (BRANCH OFFICE)

3-584 Knowlton Rd, Lac-Brome, QC J0E 1V0  
450-242-4421 / toll-free 1-877-242-4421

# Board of Directors

## Executive

<b>Gerald Cutting</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Cheryl Gosselin</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Don Warnholtz</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Jayne Marrotte</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Heather Bowman</b>	<b>Past President</b>

**Coaticook**  
**Sherbrooke**  
**Sherbrooke**  
**North Hatley**  
**North Hatley**

## Directors

<b>Salim Hashmi</b>	<b>Sherbrooke</b>
<b>Steve Lawson</b>	<b>Brome Lake</b>
<b>Alice McCrory</b>	<b>Eastman</b>
<b>Wade Lynch</b>	<b>Sherbrooke</b>
<b>Katie Bibbs</b>	<b>North Hatley</b>
<b>Doug Bowker</b>	<b>Sherbrooke</b>
<b>Murray McDonald</b>	<b>Magog</b>

# Supporting Team

## **Rachel Hunting**

Outgoing Executive Director

## **Marguerite Severs**

Executive Director

## **Michelle Lepitre**

Director of Programs and Communications

## **Cathy Turner**

Office Manager &  
Townships Expressions Coordinator

## **Matthew Clairmont**

Accounting Clerk

## **Sunmi Lee**

Administrative/Accounting Assistant

## **Phuong Nguyen**

Staff Resource Development Officer

## **Heather Ancliffe**

Project Manager, ERCC,  
Inclusive Mentorship Initiative, Dialogue McGill

## **Ed Humphrey**

Project Manager, ERCC/Youth Employment

## **Bethany Vanasse**

PAJ Eastern Townships Migration Agent

## **Cisco Armstrong**

Project Manager, ERCC

## **Vanessa Asselin**

Agent, ETPHSS, Estrie Network

## **Kelly Bush**

Agent, ETPHSS, Montérégie-East Network

## **Nikki Moar**

Agent, ETPHSS, Montérégie-East Network

# Sponsors & Partners

The activities and programs offered by Townshippers' Association in 2021-2022 would not have been possible without the support of the following organizations, businesses and institutions. **Thank you!**

**Canada**

**FONDATION  
TOWNSHIPERS  
FOUNDATION**

**COMMISSION SCOLAIRE  
Eastern Townships  
SCHOOL BOARD**

**McGill**

**Our Townships  
CIDI 99.1  
Community  
Radio**  
CIDI991.COM

**Literacy in Action**  
Action Alpha

**QUBE 88.9FM**

**GlobalExcel** HD

**Québec**

**Carrefours  
jeunesse-emploi  
Estrie**

**Raymond Chabot  
Grant Thornton**  
L'instinct de la croissance™

**Yamaska  
Literacy**  
More than Words

**Mental  
Health  
Estrie**

**THE  
RECORD**

**The Townships Sun**  
Townships Life and Culture: Past Present and Future

Centre intégré  
universitaire de santé  
et de services sociaux  
de l'Estrie - Centre  
hospitalier universitaire  
de Sherbrooke

**Québec**

**CHSSN**

**RDN**  
Regional Development Network  
Réseau de Développement Régional

**yes**

**educaloi**  
INFORMATION EMPOWERS

**20 Years  
Ans  
QAHN  
RPAQ**

**CONSEIL  
DE LA CULTURE  
DE L'ESTRIE**

Richmond, Danville and Drummondville  
area Community Learning Centre (CLC)

Avante Women's Centre CAAP-Estrie

Champlain Regional College CEDEC

CLSC Cowansville Stanstead College

Lennoxville & District Women's Centre

Centre des femmes du HSF, La Passerelle

Lennoxville & District Community Aid

Dobson-Lagassé Eaton Valley CLC

Bedford-Farnham CLC Job Links



**CENTRE FOR ACCESS TO  
SERVICES IN ENGLISH  
CENTRE D'ACCÈS POUR  
SERVICES EN ANGLAIS**

**Cass**

**NAV  
CANADA**

**Dialogue McGill**



**Health  
Canada**

**Santé  
Canada**



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