



2022-2023

Activity Report



Literacy Quebec would like to acknowledge that we are committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in our workshops, professional development and programming, as well as our social media presence.

Contributors

Niamh Devaney
Jessica Leahy
Margo Legault
Chris Shee
Laura Thompson
Zoe Welch
Annie Gaumond (design)

Land Acknowledgement

Literacy Quebec would like acknowledge that our office is located on land that has been traditionally known by the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation as Tiohtià:ke. This has been a traditional meeting place for many First Nations and continues to be such for people from around the world. We are committed to learning more about the Indigenous people of our regions, their history and their current realities.

The 2022-2023 Team



Margo Legault
Executive Director



Laura Thompson
Operations Manager



Niamh Devaney
Community Development,
Communications & Outreach
Coordinator



Jessica Leahy
Administrative Assistant



Ève Buisson St-Cyr
Policy & Partnerships
Manager



Zoe Welch
Project Manager, Community
Empowerment through
Literacy Initiative



Peter Morgan
Communications Specialist

Funding

Literacy Quebec est financé par le Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise et le Ministère de l'éducation par le Programme d'action communautaire sur le terrain d'éducation (PACTE).



Special projects funded by:



Literacy Quebec is a proud member of the following organizations:



Message from the Board of Directors

Post pandemic, the growth of Literacy Quebec continues – both with the addition of staff, as well as the addition of partners & programs in 2022.

Thanks to the support of the Secretariat for Relations with English Speaking Quebecers, the organization has become the voice of English Literacy in Quebec, opening many doors and enabling us to partner with organizations such as the CHSSN & Éducaloi, as well as collaborate on the Community Empowerment Literacy Initiative.

Even with the incredible growth and expanded outreach, our wonderful executive director, Margo Legault, and her team continue to be at the forefront of support for our current 15 member organizations, with workshops, member updates and fundraising opportunities (via the 21k de Montréal race).

As a Board of Directors, we have been kept busy overseeing the many grants and projects currently underway. In addition to external projects, the Board worked with Human Resource professionals to ensure that the staff of Literacy Quebec are provided with the best possible working conditions. An extensive report was developed to help our Board, as well as the Boards of our member organizations, have access to salary scales and benefits specific to our field of work. The retention and recognition of our staff remains a focus of LQ's Board.

With the increasing number of grants, more monitoring of the fiscal position of Literacy Quebec became a major focal point of the Board in 2022-23. During the first half of the year, our fabulous treasurer, Eric, kept us up to speed and on task. Sadly, Eric departed the Board for family obligations in early fall. We were, however, extremely fortunate to have brought Carolyn on board, who has taken on the role of treasurer and continues to keep us on track.

As usual, our thanks go out to the Literacy Quebec team, who keep the day to day operations moving forward.

Finally, to our wonderful and dedicated Board of Directors...thank you! Wendy, Carolyn, Eric, Sia and Michèle, it is truly a pleasure to work with you. Your varied fields of expertise enable us to continue to do our job of governing this ever-growing organization.

-Joy Fyckes, President

Message from the Executive Director

"Storms make trees take deeper roots."

- Dolly Parton

What we have all lived through in the past three years has been challenging to say the least, but it has also brought us together, and I believe that we have used “the storm” as an opportunity to adapt and grow stronger as a network.

Despite the departures of staff member Chris Shee and long standing contributor Jaimie Cudmore who both went on to pursue new endeavours, this year saw the expansion of the Literacy Quebec family. Four new staff members were recruited and two new member organizations were welcomed. It was an honour to add Mother Goose Montreal and Suspicious Fish to our membership list.

Our team of dedicated staff continued to raise awareness of literacy issues, supported grass-roots literacy organizations across the province, collaborated with stakeholders and represented the network of literacy practitioners. Thank you to Laura, Niamh, Jessica, Peter, Zoe and Ève for your contributions over the past year.

We have been able to accomplish so much in 12 months and we continue our pledge to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in our workshops, professional development and programming, as well as our social media presence.

This year has been another milestone year as we continue to grow. Our committed Board of Directors was busier than ever reevaluating working conditions and ensuring that all organizational obligations were met. As Executive Director, I felt supported in my role and was reassured that the organization was being governed by a wealth of knowledge and expertise. I cannot thank Joy, Wendy, Eric, Sia, Michèle and Carolyn enough for the time and effort that they give. Thank you to our funders who continue to support us. Without you, we could not do the work we do.

At the root of every organization's success is its people. With that thought, it is no surprise that we have another amazing year of accomplishments to report. I cannot wait to see what next year has in store for us.

-Margo Legault, Executive Director

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Funding from the Programme de l'action communautaire sur le terrain de l'éducation supports direct services and professional development.

Services and Support

Like the previous year, Literacy Quebec held all its training and services online due to the ongoing pandemic. This allowed for more flexibility in attendance from our members. We had workshop facilitators from Montreal, Ottawa, Newmarket, Vancouver, and Edmonton.

Total: 10 professional development workshops, 97 participations

Topics & Presenters

OLM Dashboard: Part 2 - Martin Durand (Canadian Heritage)

Evaluating Impact - Angela Briscoe & Mark Anto (Frontier College)

Covid-19 Reports - Julie Nicolas (Observatoire de l'ACA)

Intro to Canada Learning Code - Shelby Bastarache (Canada Learning Code)

Demystifying LGBTQ+ realities - Chloé Provost & Charlotte Biché (Interligne)

Inclusive Posture - Chloé Provost & Charlotte Biché (Interligne)

Digital Justice - Suzanne Smyth (SFU) & Dionne Pelan (UBC)

Learning Journey Conversation - Jeremy Fisher (singer-songwriter)

Toddlers and Tech - Kristin Dmytriw (Centre for Family Literacy)

Intro to Community Empowerment Literacy Initiative - Zoe Welch (CELI)

We also hosted **5 legal workshops** as part of our project with Éducaloi, in which experts presented a variety of topics, including volunteers' rights, fraud, and medical decisions.

See the Éducaloi section on p. 12 for more information.

Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise

Funding from the Secrétariat focuses on capacity-building and awareness efforts, such as:

- Community of Practice
- Research & Data
- Literacy & Clear Language 101
- Literacy Helpline
- What's Literacy? Literacy Quebec Podcast
- The Lace Up 4 Literacy Charity Challenge

Community of Practice

Literacy Quebec offers its members a space to share, collaborate and support one another.



Member Meetups	Participants	Weekly Update email	Subscribers
7	24	40	38

Literacy Quebec attended 8 of their members' events, including the Annual General Meetings of:

South Shore
Literacy Council

Gaspésie
Literacy Council

Quebec City
Reading Council

The Learning
Exchange

Research & Data

Literacy Quebec conducted its second annual membership survey. We contracted Social Impact Consulting to update and administer the survey, as well as summarize the responses. The 49-question survey was conducted between December 2022 and January 2023 with a report being presented in March 2023.

This year, we included all levels of membership in the survey and gained valuable insights into the greater network.

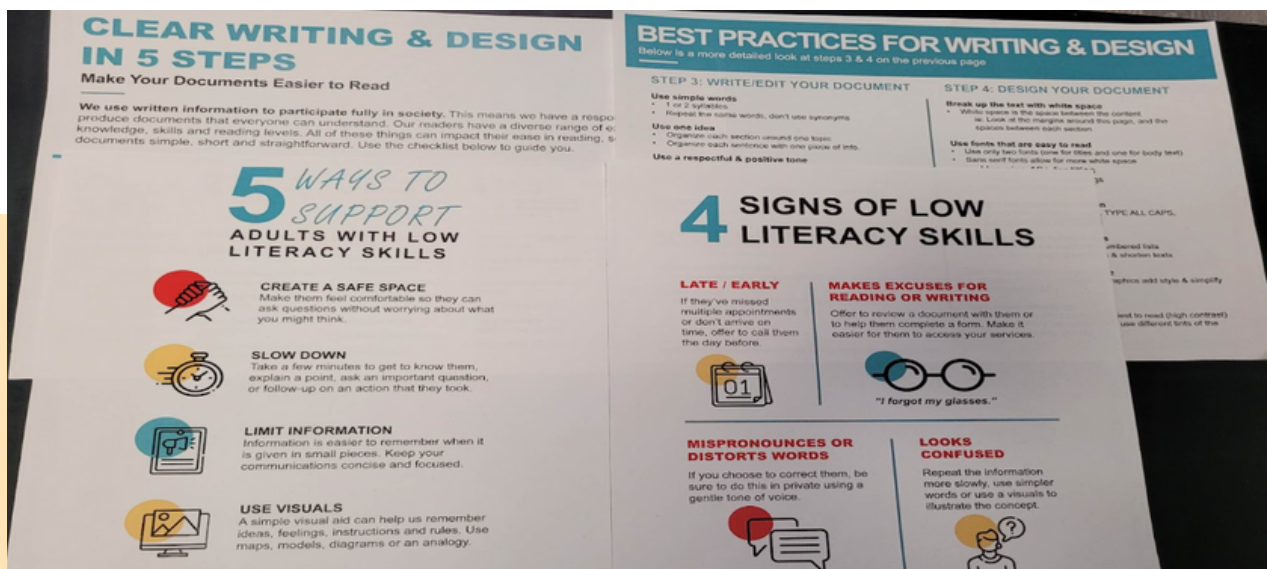
We were thrilled to see that there is a strong appreciation of Literacy Quebec's role and the support offered to the network. The top 3 types of support that member organizations are interested in are:

- Professional development opportunities
- Support (for funding, reporting, etc)
- Advocacy at a provincial and national level

Literacy & Clear Language 101

Literacy Quebec's eLearning course, Literacy & Clear Language 101, saw an increase in participants this fiscal year. We had **67 registrants**, which to our delight, was 22 more than last year.

We continued our promotion and outreach, and saw various staff and teachers from libraries, organizations and schools within and outside of the province take our course. Additionally, **302 Job Aids** were given out, which included *the 4 Signs of Low Literacy Skills*, *5 Ways to Support Adults with Low Literacy Skills* and *the Clear Writing and Design Checklist*.



Literacy Helpline

The Literacy Helpline saw **13 calls** from **13 different callers** this fiscal year. Many asked for help with improving their reading and writing skills, navigating the internet and understanding and printing government information and documents.



“What’s Literacy?” Literacy Quebec Podcast

The podcast underwent a makeover in 2022-23! Hosts Jaimie Cudmore and Chris Shee handed the podcast over to Niamh Devaney and Jeff Taylor. The title was shortened to “What’s Literacy?” and the branding edited slightly. There was lots learned during this transition and Margo and Laura even took to the mic to interview a few guests!



The podcast in numbers

Number of Episodes: 12
Number of Guests: 28
Number of listens: 672
Number of listens (all-time): 5,951
Main countries people are tuning in from: Canada, U.S., Australia, Ecuador & Germany
Number of countries reached: 70
Spotify followers: 90

Episodes discussed a variety of topics such as writing careers, teaching through music and hip hop, civic and financial literacy, Black History, and celebrating Family Literacy Day. Some guest highlights were singer-songwriter and children’s entertainer Jeremy Fisher, award- winning poet Roen Higgins, the Hip Hop HEADucatorz and Samantha Reusch from Apathy is boring.

Charity Challenge 2022

#LaceUp4Literacy



“Literacy is a journey, not a race.”
- Bonnie Campbell Hill

21k de Montreal: Charity Challenge

The 2022 Charity Challenge was an incredible team effort which saw a total of **30 participants** who Laced Up 4 Literacy and raced 1K, 5K, 10K, 21K and even the Hat-Trick of 5K, 10K, 21K!

They **raised \$7,212.38** from **136 donations** for our member organizations. The Literacy Quebec members and friends who participated in the 2022 Charity Challenge were RECLAIM Literacy, Literacy Unlimited, Suspicious Fish, Western Quebec Literacy Council, Gaspésie Literacy Council, Yamaska Literacy Council and Laurentian Literacy Centre.

The team at Literacy Quebec also worked incredibly hard to create the “Lace Up 4 Literacy” logo and hooded jumpers, sporting an inspirational quote on the rear, and allowing participants to represent, wearing something a little warmer in the month of April!

When all was said and done, Literacy Quebec even earned a prize from the 21k de Montreal for the most improved average of money raised per runner.

The Charity Challenge in numbers:

30 people laced up for literacy
136 donations
\$7212.38 raised
286 Kilometres walked, jogged, and run for literacy

Meilleure Amélioration - Moyenne Amassée Par Coureurs

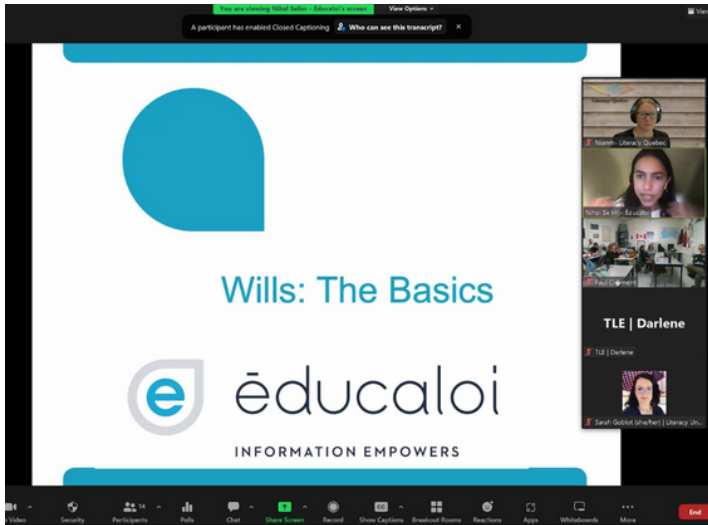
Organisme de bienfaisance	Résultats	Bourse
Literacy Quebec / Alphabétisation Québec	+ 4%	500 \$



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The Éducaloi Community Mobilization Project



This was the second year of Literacy Quebec's two-year project with Éducaloi, continuing the goal to increase the legal knowledge of English-speaking Quebecers. We hosted **5 workshops**.

We helped Éducaloi **pilot 1 brand-new workshop** on the rights and responsibilities of volunteers. As well, we continued to distribute print materials and to develop our network's capacity to provide referrals to legal services.

This project was made possible with the financial support of the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise.

Fraud - Richard Goldman (Éducaloi)	15
Medical Decisions - Richard Goldman & Nihal Selim (Éducaloi)	12
Wills - Nihal Selim (Éducaloi)	45
Landlords and Tenants: Rights and Responsibilities - Nihal Selim & Rebecca Schur (Éducaloi)	19
Volunteers: Rights and Responsibilities: Nihal Selim & Julianne Chu (Éducaloi)	16
Volunteers: Rights and Responsibilities (workshop pilot) - Nihal Selim & Julianne Chu (Éducaloi)	6

Total of 113 participations

Secrétariat aux relations
avec les Québécois
d'expression anglaise



Salary Scales & Benchmarks Project

This project supported members in implementing and improving working conditions throughout the network. This was possible through funding from Service Quebec.

This project allowed for a salary survey within the network as well as benchmark analysis, compensation policies and the development of salary scales.

Alain Rouleau from Groupe Mission was able to provide individualized coaching and support to Executive Directors and Boards of Directors within our network.



“We couldn’t have undertaken that work on our own, and it gave us benchmarks that we never had. Thank you LQ!!!”

CHSSN Mental Health Project

This year, Literacy Quebec was invited to apply and got approved for a grant for a project to promote mental health among its network. The project will take place in the next fiscal year.



L-R Jennifer (CHSSN), Margo (LQ), Katia (SAQ), Russ (CHSSN), Anne-Marie (CHSSN) and Walter (SAQ) at the CHSSN Mental Health Forum in March 2023.

As part of this new mental health project, three members of the Literacy Quebec team attended the Montreal Community Forum on Mental Health #empower, hosted by the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN) in March 2023. Over 100 people were in attendance at the daylong event, which included speakers on various topics and introduced us to new research studies and perspectives on mental health.

Community Empowerment Literacy Initiative



Literacy Quebec collaborated with Quebec Community Groups Network on the Community Empowerment Literacy Initiative (CELI).

The purpose is to increase the availability and access to English literacy and essential skills programs and services. This year, CELI activities included the launch of a community grants and partnerships framework and two research projects. The first was a Service Inventory to identify programs, services, and resources available in the fields of English language literacy and essential skills, and employability and employment. The second was conducting Key Informant Interviews in which eleven of Literacy Quebec's then-thirteen member organizations participated to identify how and where their services and programs excel, what kinds of challenges they face, as well as where support is needed and in what form.

A Project Advisory Committee was formed in January 2023 and consists of seven members who represent:

- education;
- training and skills development;
- research;
- social and economic development; and
- Quebec's regions.

The Committee's work includes sharing project-specific research; informing the development of the CELI community grants framework; and creating a plan for strategic partnership development for CELI's grant recipients. The Committee met twice to advise on best practices for the launch of the community grants call, and to identify potential candidates to consider for the CELI Community Grant's Project Selection Committee.

Book & Resource Distributions



Through an ongoing partnership with First Book Canada and First Book Canada Marketplace, Literacy Quebec was able to coordinate the donation and distribution of approximately **1432 brand new English books (value \$18 689.12)** to various community organizations across the province.

Holiday Book Blitz

In December 2022, Literacy Quebec donated **1185 books** to **9 organizations**, including Chance Foundation, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, Montérégie West Community Network, LGBTQ+ Family Coalition, and Concordia University Students Parents Centre.

Literacy Quebec's Family Literacy Tool Kit; Second Edition

A total of **88 copies** were requested by **14 different organizations**.

Learning with Your Child Booklets

A total of **138 booklets** were given to **12 different organizations**.



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Community Events

Literacy Quebec hosted 4 virtual Community Events throughout the year and participated in 5 local in-person events.

Total number of people reached through Community Events: 1510 participations.

Over the year, LQ participated in 5 in-person events:

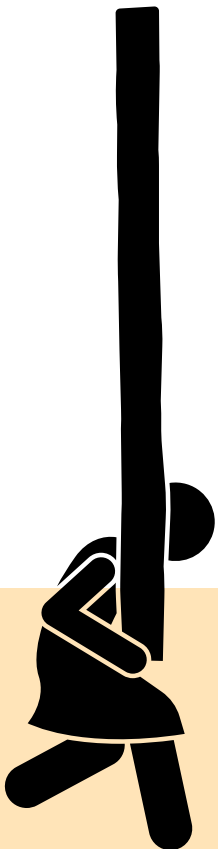
The Montreal Highland Games: 200
Reclaim & Suspicious Fish Literacy Fair: 500
Launch of Hooked on School Days: 300
Concordia University Student Parents Centre
Halloween Party: 60
Concordia University Student Parents Centre
Christmas Party: 70



L-R Lily, Caroline, Catherine, and Laura enjoying the shade of the LQ tent at the Highland Games!

Highland Games - July 31, 2022

For the first time in recent history, Literacy Quebec joined RECLAIM Literacy and Suspicious Fish to have a booth at the 46th Annual Highland Games. Amongst the cabre toss, the bagpipers, a bouncy house and some mediaeval combat, we were able to connect with people from all over and say hello to some of the campaigning MNAs for the 2022 fall election, including Isabelle Melançon and Dominique Anglade.



Literacy Fair - August 20, 2022

Literacy Quebec had a table at the local summer literacy fair hosted by RECLAIM Literacy and Suspicious Fish on August 20, 2022. The event was a great success, with an estimated **500 people** visiting tables, playing literacy games, writing stories, getting books and enjoying refreshments.



LQ Volunteer Lily ready to talk about Literacy Quebec!



Jeremy and Daniel writing a story together.

Webinars & Virtual Events

Adult Learners' Week and Learner Kits

24 attendees • 79 learner kits

As part of Adult Learners' Week, LQ hosted poet and motivational speaker, Roen Higgins, for an uplifting, inspirational session. Roen spoke of her own struggles and how she overcame them. She ended the session by making a poem out of our comments...for we are all poets! 24 learners and teachers attended. But the most powerful highlight was a learner feeling inspired to share her own poem with the rest of the group.

We also distributed 79 Learner Kits to learners across the province. The kits contained two Rapid Reads novels, a notebook, a pen, tea and chocolate. Learners, their tutors or their organizations could request kits.



"You are inspiring and I'm glad I participated"

- Participant

"This was very powerful and gives me courage for what is to come" - Participant

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Children's Book Week

13 attendees



Through an initiative with the Canadian Children's Book Centre, Literacy Quebec hosted author/illustrator Nancy Vo.

Nancy was a delight, telling us about her research for illustrating, "As Glenn as Can Be," a biographical picture book about the childhood of Canadian pianist Glenn Gould, written by Sarah Ellis. Nancy showed us how she did some of the illustrations and pointed out many Easter eggs that she had included in the book. 13 staff and learners attended.

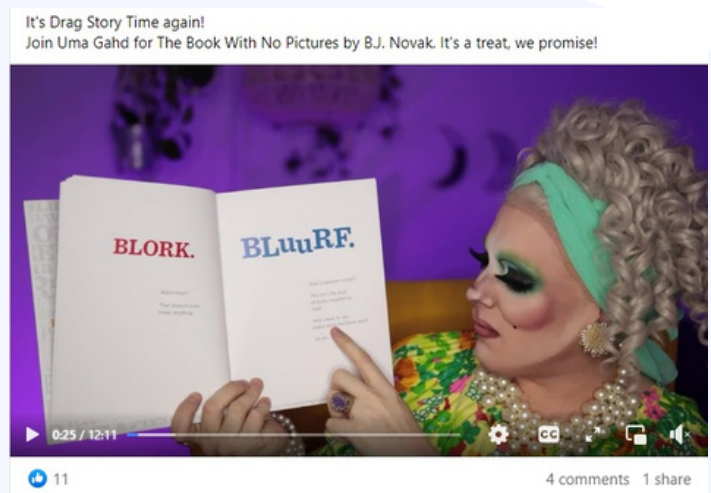
Drag Story Time with Uma Gahd

In June 2022, Literacy Quebec added to our Drag Story Time playlist. Two children's books were read by everyone's favourite unofficial aunty, drag queen Uma Gahd.

'P Is for Pterodactyl, the WORST Alphabet Book Ever' by Raj Haldar and Chris Carpenter + illustrated by Maria Beddia and 'The Book With No Pictures' by B.J. Novak.

Total views - 536

Total reach - 1312



SAY WHAT?? Video series with Uma Gahd

During July and August, Literacy Quebec published a series of videos starring Uma Gahd sharing language and grammar tips, tricks and head-scratchers!

Total views - 4,123

Total reach - 8,249

Topics of the 8 videos:

- Question words
- Cononyms
- Homophones
- The word "Wednesday"
- Onomatopoeia
- The word "Sandwich"
- The word "Hamburger"
- The word "Colonel"

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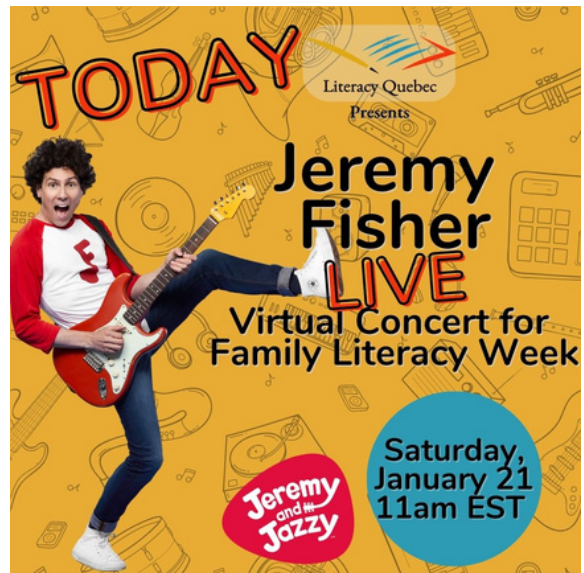
Family Literacy Week with Jeremy Fisher

Literacy Quebec hosted two events with singer-songwriter and star of the kids' show, *Jeremy and Jazzy*, **Jeremy Fisher**.

Virtual Concert

313 views on Facebook and Youtube, as of March 31, 2023

We kicked off the week with a Live Virtual Concert on Facebook Live. Jeremy played a mix of songs from his whole catalogue, including some from *Jeremy and Jazzy*.



Conversation

14 people in attendance • 16 views of the recording

Later in the week, Jeremy was back for a Zoom discussion about his work and the joys of learning. He regaled us with stories of his cross-Canada bicycle tour.

“By recounting his own journey from a small-time busking musician to a published children's author and entertainer, Jeremy Fisher encouraged us to embrace the unexpected in our own lifelong relationships with literacy - Jeremy combined guitar work with personal reflection to remind us that songwriting is a form of storytelling and to show us how music can provide an important avenue for family literacy programming. I had a very good time!”

- Participant

Family Literacy Fun Packs

In celebration of Family Literacy Week, Literacy Quebec had **21 requests** from schools, organizations and individuals within Quebec in anticipation for Jeremy's live virtual concert. In total, a whopping **985 fun packs** were sent out. We sure were busy getting all those fun packs ready, but the enthusiasm and joy from those wanting various goodies for Family Literacy Week, such as stickers, magnets, postcard resources and writing kits the whole family could enjoy, definitely made it worth it!

Requests for fun packs: 21
Number of fun packs sent out: 985

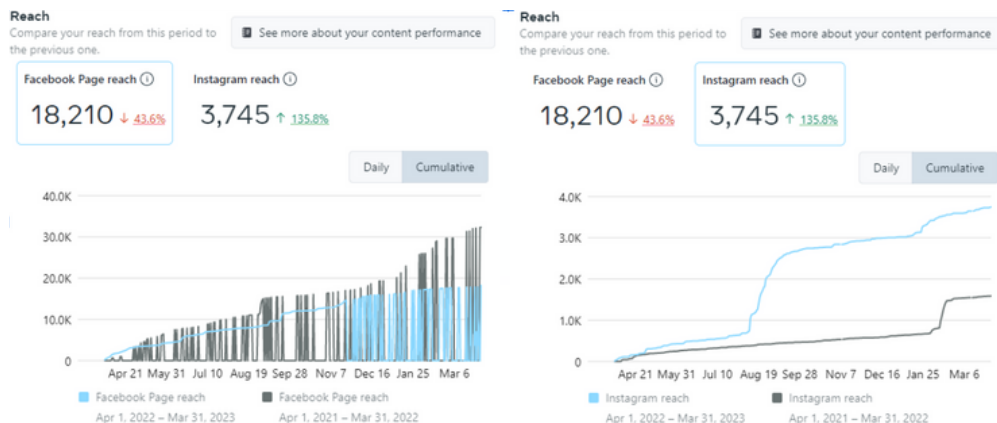


Communications & Campaigns

Social Media

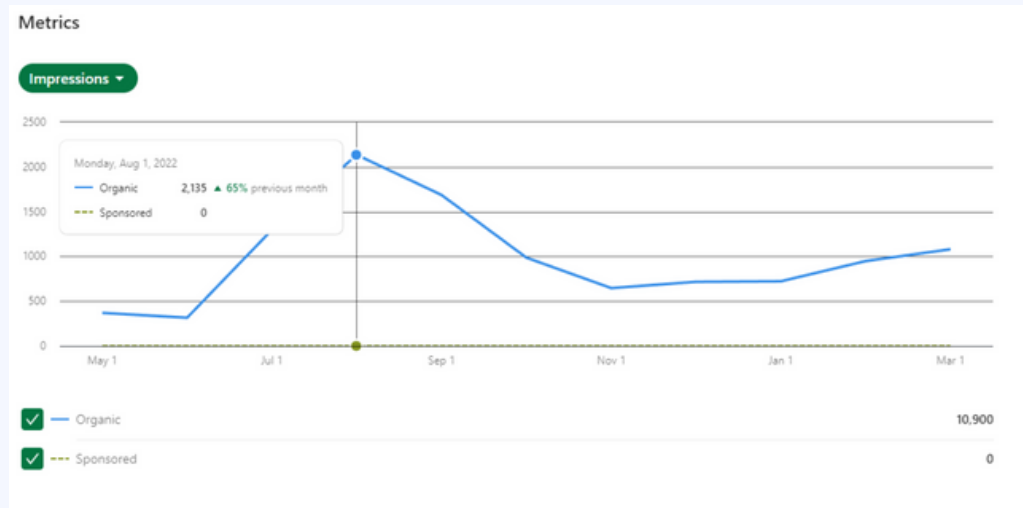
This past year, Literacy Quebec pushed our social media through various targeted campaigns and interactions. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter were used almost equally while LinkedIn was utilized for more specific content.

An at-a-glance metric for determining the impact of our social media presence is via “reach” on Facebook and Instagram. While our Facebook Reach did see a decline, it was still steady and the platform had good results throughout the year. Instagram, on the other hand, experienced a large jump in numbers with a 135.8% Reach increase.





On LinkedIn, we also saw some dramatic gains in followers from last year (+130 new followers) and total Impressions for the year at 10,900.

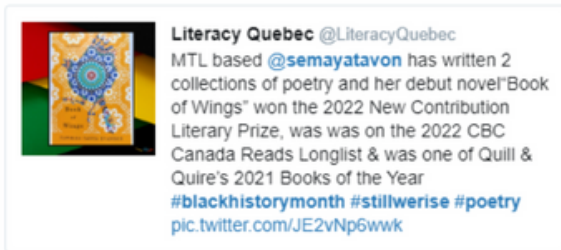


The Twitter account was used with more frequency, and despite global issues and a mass exodus from the platform, we saw some positive growth, reach and interactions.



Total Reach for the period was 22,774 and our Followers increased by 51. Our Top Tweet was part of our Black History Month and #StillWeRise campaigns.

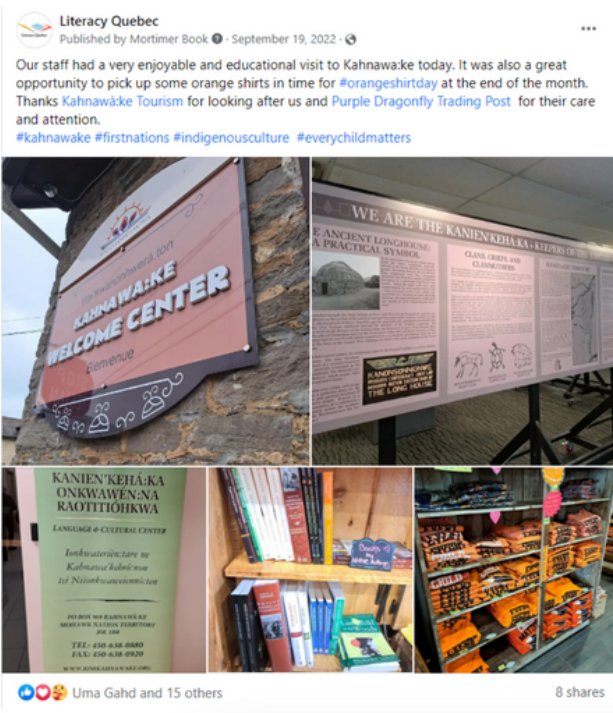
Tweet activity



Impressions	752
Total engagements	11
Likes	5
Retweets	3
Media engagements	1
Follows	1
Detail expands	1

Overall, our presence on social media appears to have been a successful one, as we are growing in reach and followers year over year. We have experienced successful reach and engagement with video posts and the use of 'Stories' on Facebook and Instagram. Overall interaction with other accounts is also increasing our success and reach. Liking, Following, Sharing, Commenting and Retweeting are all important to remember as we aim to continue to grow online.

Post Highlights



The highest performing post of the year was our staff outing to Kahnawà:ke, September 19, 2022. **Reach - 1,988** and **72 reactions**, comments and shares on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Our build up to International Literacy Day post was also very popular, with **1,105 Reach** and **15 interactions** on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. This video post's success is an indication that it can be worthwhile to create video content for important social media campaigns.

SAY WHAT?? with Uma Gahd was our most successful Reel on Instagram with a total of **1117 plays** and **33 interactions**.

Our top tweet (pictured above) had a total of **752 Impressions** and **11 Engagements**.

Get Caught Reading Month

May was Get Caught Reading Month. Literacy Quebec and our friends had lots of fun reading all over the place!

Clockwise starting top left:
 Robin Sales (Mother Goose Montreal);
 Chad Polito (Dawson BGC);
 Laura & Niamh (LQ);
 Author Nancy Vo;
 Margo (LQ)



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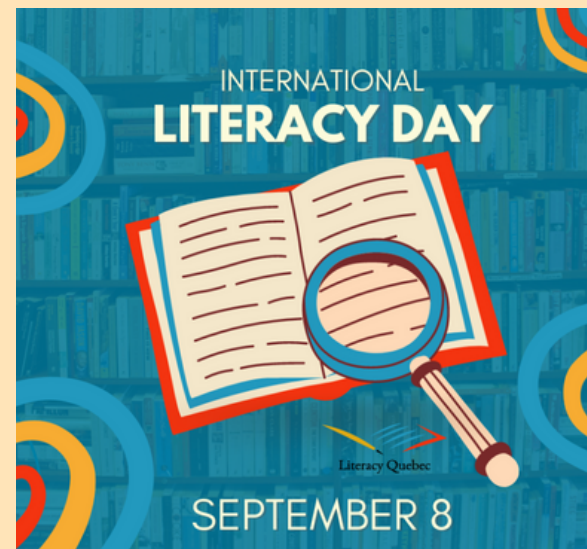
International Literacy Day

We launched a social media campaign in the week leading up to International Literacy Day. We suggested ways to celebrate, like promoting the Literacy Helpline, taking Literacy & Clear Language 101 or exploring your local library.

We also had a sticker mailout campaign which was hugely popular.

We sent out **740 stickers** to **140 addresses** far and wide!

Who doesn't love free stickers!?

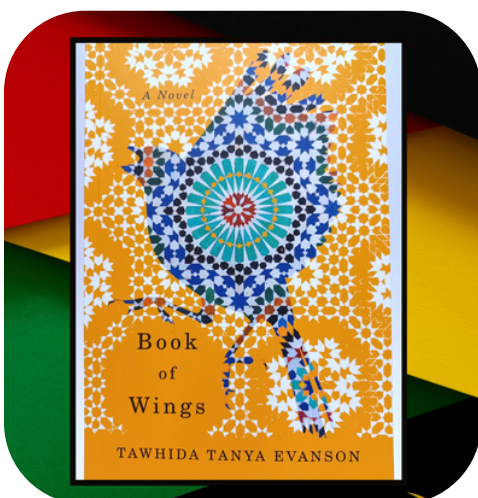


Black History Month

In February, Literacy Quebec celebrated Black History month in our newsletter, on social media and on the 'What's Literacy' Podcast. John Davids from the Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC) in Montreal joined Jeff to talk about Black History and the Black Community in Montreal.

We featured 9 authors on social media throughout the month.

Literacy Quebec is dedicated to sharing and celebrating Black authors, culture, organizations and events all year long.



Website

Our website gained a wider reach this past year with a 12.48% increase in the number of users (**5157 in total**) visiting from **132 countries** around the world.

Our top countries were:

Canada
United States
India

The most popular website pages were:

Our homepage
Literacy in Quebec
Literacy 101
Contact Us
About

Newsletter

In September 2022, Literacy Quebec launched our new monthly Newsletter using MailChimp. The aim was to share news and activities from our organization with a wider audience.

Between September 2022 and March 2023, we sent 8 editions of the Newsletter.

Our mailing list grew steadily from 234 to 390 during this period.

That's a
66%
INCREASE

In total, our Newsletters were opened 1,132 times.



Volunteers



"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." - Oscar Wilde

Literacy Quebec would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our dedicated and committed volunteers. We understand that time is precious and are grateful that you choose to donate some of yours to us.

Helpline: 3 volunteers, 276 hours

Charity Challenge: 30 runners, 52 hours

General LQ volunteers: 2 volunteers, 20 hours for book distribution and graphic design

Board of Directors 5 members, 840 hours

TOTAL of 40 Volunteers, 1188 hours

*15 volunteers were recruited through our website and referred to our member organizations.



Freda Hudson Volunteer Recognition Award

The 2022 recipient of the Freda Hudson Volunteer Recognition Award was Linda Marier, a remarkable volunteer from Laurentian Literacy Centre. Linda's contribution to literacy is truly exemplary. She has volunteered for 26 years as a tutor, Treasurer, Financial Consultant and benefactor. We are impressed with both the longevity and versatility of Linda's contributions, and find her dedication and generosity inspiring.

Networking and Partnerships

Literacy Quebec sat on **9 various working groups** and committees which have had **26 meetings**.

Over the year, LQ staff attended **31 partner events** (workshops, webinars, lunch & learns) with a total of **2451 people**.

	Number of meetings	Number of people
Active member of the RQ-ACA	1	36
Member of the organizing committee of the Week for autonomous community action	3	7
Collective of umbrella orgs funded under PACTE (Amies PACTE)	8	10
Comité mixte (PACTE)	3	17
PACTE Working group - Funding Framework	2	11
ILET: Inter-Level Education Table (QUESCREEN)	2	25
Advisory Board for Forum on Adult Education (Institut de coopération pour l'éducation des adultes)	2	14
QCGN Community Development Plan - Data Round Table	2	13
Anglo Family Council NPI, Advisory Capacity	2	5

Decoda Conference

In May of 2022, Wendy Seys and Laura Thompson represented Literacy Quebec at their first in-person conference post-pandemic.



They flew out to Vancouver to participate in Decoda Literacy Solutions's literacy conference, held every two years.



The theme was "Literacy Connects Us" and included speakers such as Dr. Ralf St.Clair, Angela Sterritt, Craig Alexander and a Canada-wide panel hosted by Brigid Hayes. With **over 200 people** in attendance mainly from British Columbia, but also from across Canada, Wendy and Laura made many connections and got lots of inspiration for podcast guests, workshop topics and new projects.

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Reading for the Love of It Conference

In February, the Literacy Quebec team went on a field trip to Toronto for the annual Reading for the Love of It Conference hosted by the East York-Scarborough Reading Association.



Left: Niamh, Laura, Margo & Jessica at the Reading for the Love of It Conference.



Above: Laura, Jessica and Margo meet with author Michelle Good at the Reading for the Love Of It Conference.

An impressive **2018 registrants** were present at the conference, which was quite a feat considering a three-year absence due to COVID-19. We had the privilege of listening to some very insightful talks from inspiring writers and teachers like Michelle Good, David A. Robertson, Jael Richardson and Ashley Spires. We also learned about new tools for learners of all ages, and attended great sessions on topics like diversity, representation in books and critical thinking.



L-R: Author/illustrator Barbara Reid; author/illustrator Ashley Spires; and author David A. Robertson

Our Partners



Canadian Heritage
Patrimoine canadien



Trip to Kahnawà:ke

This is part of Literacy Quebec's ongoing commitment to learning more about the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation in our area and other Indigenous nations of what we now call Canada.



On September 19, 2022, Literacy Quebec attended an educational tour of Kahnawà:ke to learn more about its rich cultural history. We also visited the Language and Cultural Centre with our knowledgeable guide. It was informative and engaging; we highly recommend visiting to learn more about the area and the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation.

We also visited Purple Dragonfly Trading Post, where we purchased orange shirts for The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/ Orange Shirt Day.

2022-2023

ACTIVITY REPORT

Governance & Operations

The Board of Directors continued to bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the organization. They were a tremendous support to the LQ staff and met 11 times over the course of 12 months.

Number of Board Meetings Held: 11

Topics tackled: Reviewed salary structure and pay scales; Implementation of 4-day work week

List of Committees:

Freda Hudson Volunteer Recognition Award Committee;
Human Resources Committee;
Membership Committee;
Nominations Committee

Board Members

- Joy Fyckes, President
- Wendy Seys, Vice-President
- Michèle Gagnon, Secretary
- Carolyn Hibbs, Treasurer
- Eric Aubry, Treasurer
- Sia Spanoudakas, Director

Membership Criteria

This year, we welcomed two new member organizations to our network: Suspicious Fish and Mere L'Oie/Mother Goose Montreal. This led to a review of the current membership criteria. In response, the eligibility criteria were updated to be better defined. The amendments were approved by the Board of Directors.

AGM 2022

The Literacy Quebec staff were ready for the sun at our third virtual Annual General Meeting. Because we had changed our fiscal year, it was held in June for the first time. June 21 to be exact. We had **19 attendees** representing Literacy Quebec and **9 of our full member organizations**.



Members



Associate Members



Deaf Anglo Literacy Center



United for Literacy



Suspicious Fish

Affiliate Members



Mother Goose
Montreal

RECAP

Indirect Services (Occasional activities)	Number of People Reached
Podcast Guests	28
Family Literacy Fun Packs	985
Podcast Listens	672
Community events	1159
Working groups and committees	138
Representations & Advocacy	818
TOTAL	3800

Direct Services (Regular activities)	Number of People Reached
Professional development workshops	71
Workshops Éducaloi Project	78
Literacy eLearning (Literacy & Clear Language 101)	67
Helpline callers	13
Resources Distributed	616
Volunteers	40
TOTAL	885

In Memoriam

This year we remember two of our friends of literacy.

Gordon Melbrew

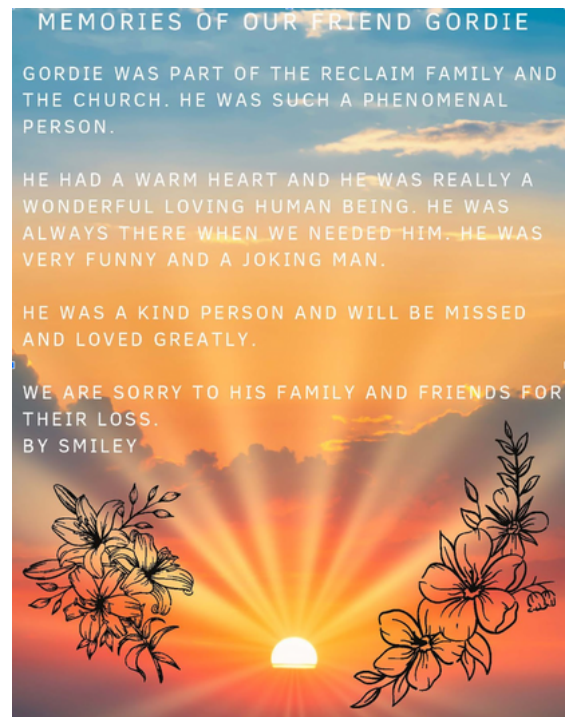


Gordie was a caretaker, supporter, volunteer and friend of RECLAIM Literacy and Literacy Quebec. He was kind, friendly, always said hello, and always found time to help. He was a legend in the Verdun community. RECLAIM wrote a lovely tribute to our dear friend:

“We were saddened Tuesday, February 28th, to have received the news that our friend and volunteer Gordie Melbrew had lost his year-long battle with cancer. Gordie was one of the first people we met when we partnered with the Church of the Epiphany, some seven years ago. As the church verger, he ensured we had everything we needed, kept our spaces clean and was around to help with any other building needs we had.

"When we moved our office and learning centre into the Church, he became a part of RECLAIM ...always eager and willing to volunteer, up for any new idea we had! He helped renovate our spaces, painting, laying flooring, building furniture, etc.

During the pandemic he became our #1 delivery person for our monthly lunch and learns, often jumping over snowbanks to get the meals to the seniors in the community. I could go on and on about the work that he helped with, and how valuable a member of the RECLAIM team he became ..but perhaps a passage written by one of our learners sums it up best RIP our friend!"



In Memoriam

Grace Saabas



From Wendy Seys at Yamaska Literacy Council:

Grace Saabas, long-time literacy volunteer, passed away, shortly after her 90th birthday. Her pioneering work in the literacy field is a significant part of her legacy.

As a member of the Lutheran Church Women, Grace first heard about the Laubach Literacy movement in the early 1970s, and took her first tutor workshop in 1972 through the St. George's-Tyndale Parish House, a Neighbourhood Centre in Montreal. She tutored there for several years, and eventually joined the RECLAIM Literacy Council in Montreal.

Grace served just about every role imaginable in the literacy field, always as a volunteer. First and foremost, Grace tutored adult learners, an important role that guided her in her work. She became a Literacy Trainer (and Supervisor). She led the national Training and Certification Committee to train and certify Literacy Trainers and establish national training standards. She served as President of RECLAIM, Laubach Literacy – Quebec (now Literacy Quebec), Laubach Literacy of Canada (President 1993-96) and was the Canadian representative to Laubach Literacy International (now ProLiteracy).

She organized conferences, workshops and meetings with Senators, MP's, Governors General, volunteers and learners. She treated everyone with equal respect, and was known for her trademark dry wit.

Grace was a mentor and a friend. I first met Grace in Bedford, Quebec in 1989, when I applied for my first job in literacy as National Development Officer for Laubach Literacy of Canada. Grace interviewed me as part of her role as Director of the organization. She was willing to take a chance on a recent arrival from Toronto, with a recent Bachelor's degree in English Literature and no relevant experience. She provided the support and the opportunity for me to learn and to grow into the position.

Over the next three decades, Grace taught me about adult literacy, the important role of volunteer action, and the meaning of service to the grassroots community. Her mentorship shaped my own approach to literacy work, and life.

I am blessed to have shared time with Grace, to have learned from her, laughed with her, stirred up some adventures, and shared a glass or two of scotch!

My hope is that I can honour Grace's memory by providing mentorship and support to others who enter the literacy field, a place I have called home for more than 30 years.

Thank you, friend, for your many contributions, and for being one of a kind. You made a difference!