

**Connect with the
English-speaking
community...**

NEWCOMERS

YOUTH

MEMBERS

COMMUNITY

EMPLOYERS

Annual Report 2011 - 2012



Voice of English-speaking Québec



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Voice of English-speaking Québec

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Ellie Fleming, Community Events & Administrative Coordinator
Ayla Foers, Project Coordinator
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Mission Statement

Voice of English-speaking Québec is an autonomous non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of a dynamic English-speaking community in the Greater Québec Chaudière-Appalaches regions, and to the promotion of its interests.

The following four roles characterize VEQ's goals and all its actions:

Act as a hub of information for the community

VEQ offers information and referral services to members of the community and newcomers. Throughout the year, statistical data and information on the community is gathered and disseminated. Other activities related to this goal include the posting of employment offers on the Job Bank and the preparation and distribution of the *Community Connection* directory.

Foster community cohesiveness

VEQ creates opportunities for social interaction and professional networking for various segments of the community to gather together whether to simply get to know one another, or because of a desire to work together for a common cause.

Activities such as Fall Fest and semi-annual Happy Hours help provide these opportunities for our community.

Support the development of the community

VEQ acts as a catalyst for the development of new initiatives that will benefit the community. Generally this involves obtaining funding for and managing short-term projects, which are then expected to become self-sustaining. In addition, VEQ also helps other organizations to get off the ground.

Recent projects such as Collective Voices, Through the Lens of Our Community, the Employability and Entrepreneurship project, and Seniors, Out & About are great examples of how VEQ is supporting the development of the English-speaking community.

Promote the interests of the community

VEQ identifies issues of interest to the community, researching and preparing positions and, if appropriate, presenting these positions to the proper forums or authorities. VEQ views their advocacy role within the community as critical to ensuring the preservation of English-speaking institutions, traditions and cultural significance in the region.

This year, VEQ met with various politicians from the three levels of government in addition to being an active member of different regional consultation tables such as the Leadership Table, the *Table de Concertation en Immigration de la Conférence Régionale des Élus de la Capitale-Nationale*, and the Chamber of Commerce's Multilingual Committee. VEQ also gave multiple presentations about the needs and priorities of our linguistic community in front of governmental officials such as the Senate Steering Committee on Official Languages.

President's Message

As I review the last year of activities at VEQ, I am impressed at how this organization has once again been able to develop and implement new initiatives to better serve the English-speaking community of our region. This extensive list of activities addresses all the primary constituents that VEQ has identified in our new strategic plan: VEQ members, newcomers, youth, young families, employers, seniors and English-speaking jobseekers. As I am just completing my first year as President, I am proud to say that this organization seems to be as strong as ever.

I would like to briefly touch on some of the highlights at VEQ from the past year. VEQ has continued to be extremely active providing high quality services to English-speaking newcomers in our beautiful region. In addition to our regular services for new arrivals (a full time coordinator available in person or through phone and email, a monthly electronic newsletter, a newcomers' package, an English-speaking community directory and the traditional series of Finding Your Niche networking and information sessions), VEQ has recently developed a new initiative aimed at helping newcomers find meaningful employment and create their own companies.

An impressive total of almost 400 newcomers participated in our various services and/or benefited from our information referral service.



Helen Walling, President

VEQ was also pleased to organize regular meetings of the *Leadership Table*. In addition to meetings aimed at sharing information and establishing productive partnerships amongst the English-speaking community, the Leadership Table efforts led to several meetings with key politicians such as Quebec City Executive council member and Vice-Mayor Michelle Morin-Doyle, the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Mr. Christian Lévesque, ADQ President and Director General, and the Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs.

This year, VEQ was also in charge of two very exciting artistic projects.

First, VEQ developed and implemented a successful bilingual theatre production with students from both St. Patrick's High School and Quebec High School. This great theatre piece was presented to students from both English and French schools as well as to the

President's Message

English-speaking community at large. Over 800 youth enjoyed the amazing work of the talented group of 10 teens who worked many months to produce this bilingual theatre piece presenting how alcoholism can affect peoples' lives.

Second, in partnership with the Megantic English-speaking Community Development Corporation, our sister organization from Thetford Mines, VEQ organized a superb photography exhibit entitled 'Through the Lens of Our Community'. Dozens of community members from both regions sent pictures illustrating what the English-speaking community means to them. Selected photos were presented in both Thetford Mines and Quebec City, as well as in an electronic format and as a booklet. The electronic version of the exhibit is still available on both VEQ and MCDC websites.

VEQ also organized its traditional Fall Fest. More than 400 people gathered at St. Patrick's High School to enjoy activities for kids, live entertainment, a BBQ, and a chance to learn about various institutions and groups serving the English-speaking community. In addition to our traditional partners such as the Shannon Irish Dancers and the 78th Fraser Highlanders, many other cultural communities' groups participated in the event through cultural performances, dances and food tasting. Overall, the event was a great success that we are looking forward to repeating this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to the board members that have left us during the year or that are finishing their terms now after many years of hard work. Thanks to 1st VP Denise Giguère, and Board Members Susanne Bergmann, Kathleen Poulin, Nectaria Skokos and Gale West. Your contribution has been crucial to VEQ's success!

After reviewing our success over the past year, I realize all the work that goes into every project and activity. Luckily we have such dedicated and hard working staff who truly care and have the best interests of our community at heart.

I look forward to the challenges and successes the next year will bring!

Warmest regards,

Helen Walling, President

Executive Director's Report

As we approach another Annual General Meeting, I feel a great deal of satisfaction for the successes that we have enjoyed in the past year, as well as a lot of anticipation and excitement for the numerous projects that are about to start.

Before highlighting some of the key successes that we have enjoyed this year and presenting some of the exciting projects that we are about to implement, I want to start by thanking my staff; Ellie Fleming, Community Events & Administrative Coordinator, Heather McRae, Project Coordinator, Kayress dela Cruz, Newcomers Coordinator, and Ayla Foers, Project Coordinator. As the executive director I believe that the most important asset that any leader can have is a strong, dedicated and motivated team. I am very proud to say that is exactly what you will find here at VEQ and I feel very fortunate to have such a dynamic and productive team around me.

This year VEQ has been particularly involved in developing and providing employability services to English-speakers in our region. Indeed, thanks to the crucial support of Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, the City of Quebec and the Citadel Foundation, we have been able to offer a variety of high quality new services for English-speaking jobseekers such as business coaching, professional networking events, professional workshops and free transportation to the Quebec City Employment Fair.



Jean-Sébastien J. Gignac
Executive Director

These successful initiatives will continue during the next fiscal year to the benefit of our community.

Our Job Bank was also very popular this year with an increase of more than 40% for the total number of positions posted. This tool remains a very useful bridge between English-speaking job seekers and local employers who have needs for Anglophone or bilingual resources. Once again this year VEQ will continue to build bridges with local employers looking for bilingual and qualified resources and to help community members find meaningful employment.

VEQ was also directly involved in the Multilingual Zone during the 2012 Quebec City *Foire de l'Emploi*. During the event, 435 people had their second language skills evaluated by teachers from Eastern Québec Learning Centre, and over 800 people stopped by to get information about employment services and language learning opportunities in our region.

Executive Director's Report

In addition, VEQ worked closely with the Quebec City Chamber of Commerce on the promotion of a very efficient language tool called the *Linguistic Audit*. The objectives of this guide are to sensitize employers to the importance of bilingualism as a key element to improved competitiveness and preparation for doing business in international markets. The guide also enables employers to assess the second-language learning needs of their employees and provides a comprehensive roadmap to identify and use the most appropriate teaching tools and methods available in our region to help their employees learn a second-language.

Hundreds of local employers were informed of this tool and almost 40 participated in two information / training workshops focusing on how to maximize the benefits of the guide. As a result, at the end of the project a growing number of local employers were using the guide to establish second-language teaching strategies in their companies.

VEQ was also very proactive in implementing new services for seniors of our community. Indeed, thanks to a strong partnership between VEQ and the VEQ Foundation and the financial support of the Jeffery Hale Foundation, VEQ was able to start a weekly transportation initiative for English-speaking seniors. The objective of this project is to allow English-speaking seniors to keep their independence and reduce social

isolation through safe and free transportation on a weekly basis to help them in activities that are generally considered fundamental tasks and to allow them to participate in community activities. Already 60 seniors have participated in this project that just started in March 2012 . In addition to this great new service, VEQ was recently informed by the provincial *Ministère de la famille et des aînés* that they have approved funding for an elder abuse prevention campaign for the English-speaking community of our region. This project will take place between April 2012 and March 2013.

VEQ also hosted two very successful happy hours. Our traditional holiday happy hour was hosted at the Morrin Centre with the participation of over 125 community members. The second gathering was also held at the Morrin Centre in conjunction with the official opening of our photo exhibit. Again, we had a great turnout with more than 80 people.

I am really excited to start a new year as ED of VEQ and feel most confident in our ability to keep expanding our services for the benefit of our English-speaking community.

And another special thank you to all our volunteers, partners, funders and supporters!

Sincerely,

Jean-Sébastien J. Gignac
Executive Director

Community Events



**Ellie Fleming
Community Events &
Administrative
Coordinator**

VEQ has a mandate to organize community events that bring members of the English-speaking community together to socialize. Throughout this past year, VEQ once again organized and sponsored a series of exciting events.

The AGM was held on May 26, 2011 in the Coin Soleil Room of the Jeffery Hale Hospital. Over 90 people joined us to hear about activities from the previous year as well as exciting new initiatives.



Annual General Meeting 2011

Thanks to a grant from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, hundreds of community members joined VEQ on Saturday, September 24 at St. Patrick's High School for the 2011



Fall Fest 2011

Fall Fest. The beautiful warm weather brought a great crowd to enjoy cultural performances and activities for kids outside as well as gathering together in the gym to learn about a wide variety of community groups and businesses from the English-speaking community. Attendees were also invited to cheer on St. Patrick's High School Fighting Irish at their football games on the Plains of Abraham.

An expanded performance roster this year brought back the Shannon Irish Dancers and a historical demonstration from the 78th Fraser Highlanders, along with new groups such as the Filipiniana Dance Troupe, Musica Andina, and Ritmo Cubano. Several of these performances were brought about thanks to VEQ's new partnership with CASA Latinoamericana, a local association representing Spanish-speaking communities in the Quebec City region.

Over 30 community groups and 12 businesses gathered to share

Community Events

information about their services, and many also contributed great door prizes won by lucky attendees. Quebec High School's Work Oriented Training Path program organized a fantastic BBQ, raising funds for their activities throughout the year. Thanks to everyone who participated!



Holiday Happy Hour 2011

VEQ's Holiday Happy Hour was held on December 15, 2011 at the Morrin Centre in Old Québec. More than 125 community members gathered to enjoy great food and live music. Thanks in large part to our partners, a number of attendees were the lucky recipients of great door prizes. A special thanks goes to Loews Hôtel le Concorde for providing delicious desserts.

This year's spring Happy Hour was held in conjunction with VEQ's photography project, Through the Lens of Our Community. The official Quebec City exhibit opening was held on March 29 at the Morrin Centre, with over 80 people coming out to view the exhibition and celebrate together with great food.

VEQ once again offered free

transportation to the Shannon Irish Show on March 10. Almost 20 people rode the bus out to Shannon and enjoyed a great show celebrating Irish heritage in Québec.

VEQ has also continued work on the Twinning Program. This program pairs English and French individuals, couples and families, allowing them to exchange their respective language and culture. People who are interested in the program complete a short questionnaire that captures their interests, level of language, address, etc. Groups are then paired based on interests, availability, and geographic considerations.

A total of 192 people participated in the twinning program: 121 individuals, 15 couples, and 19 families (63 people). VEQ hosted a series of activities to bring the participants of the twinning program together. In total, over 150 people attended these activities, giving participants the opportunity to meet each other and share in a social and bilingual setting.



Twinning Board Game Day 2011

Community Outreach

As a community-based organization, it is crucial for VEQ to stay closely connected to the needs and priorities of the local English-speaking community.

That is why VEQ continues to organize yearly surveys of our membership to better serve the needs and priorities of the English-speaking community and adapt our activities to meet these needs. Over 260 individuals responded to this year's Community Consultation. Among other important data, we learned that over 75% of our members feel well connected to the community, that members consistently rank the VEQ website as one of our most useful tools, and that Fall Fest is one of our most popular events, with almost half of survey respondents attending. Thanks to everyone who took the time to participate!

In December, VEQ once again proudly contributed to the 16th



Jean-Sébastien J. Gignac and Heather McRae volunteering at Christmas Hamper headquarters



St. Patrick's Day Parade 2012

Annual Community Christmas Hamper Campaign. The Christmas Hamper Campaign remains a vibrant testimony that a small community can do great things when everyone is aiming at the same objective. VEQ was very happy to offer a contribution through drafting, printing, and helping to distribute this year's publicity material for the campaign. VEQ staff were also extremely proud to volunteer in preparing, loading and delivering hampers.

VEQ representatives attended numerous other important events in the community, including the Jeffery Hale Community Forum in May 2011, the Jeffery Hale Friends' Foundation Golf Tournament in September 2011, and the Quebec City Women's Club Book Fair in October 2011. A brilliant team made up of VEQ staff and board members participated in Quebec High School's Trivia Night in May 2011, coming in third place overall.

March 2012 brought the third edition of the Québec St. Patrick's Day

Community Outreach

Parade. VEQ was thrilled to participate again, bringing a group of staff, board and families together to dress up in green and hand out hundreds of VEQ balloons and lollipops. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time, while showing people in the community a bit of what VEQ is all about.

In addition, VEQ was approached by several new partners looking to reach out to the English-speaking community. In February 2012, VEQ teamed up with *Actions Interculturelles*, an organization based in Sherbrooke, to offer an information session for parents on Registered Education Savings Plans. In addition, VEQ helped a volunteer group called *Canadian Parents for French* reach out to the community to hold a focus group in March 2012 to discuss French second language learning with Anglophone and Allophone parents.

VEQ's Community Directory continues to be a key tool in



**VEQ Team at QHS
Trivia Night 2011**

connecting with English-speaking community groups, institutions and service providers. Over 5,000 copies were distributed to individuals and partners in the initial release in 2010-11, with over 650 additional directories going out in 2011-12.



**VEQ Staff at the St. Patrick's Day Parade
2012**

Employment Services

VEQ maintains a well-consulted online Job Bank, which can be viewed at www.veq.ca. Employment positions that require English-language skills or bilingualism are posted. The site features both full-time, part-time and summer employment opportunities available locally.

Ninety-one employment positions were posted on the site during the year, an increase of 40% from the previous year. Examples of positions featured on the site include:

- Accounting Technician
- Assistant Business Manager
- Daycare Educator
- ESL Instructor
- Event Coordinator
- Executive Secretary
- Manager - Corporate and Regional Communities
- Marketing Development Manager
- Special Education Technician

VEQ also continues its involvement with the Quebec City Multilingual Committee, working in collaboration with many organizations such as Emploi-Québec, the Quebec City Chambre de Commerce, and Parc Technologique du Québec Métropolitain to expand the visibility of our organization's employment services. Moreover JS Jolin Gignac, VEQ's Executive Director, was appointed President of the committee this year.

In addition, VEQ once again held a leadership role in the Multilingual

Zone during the 2012 Quebec City Foire de l'Emploi. VEQ helped coordinate this valuable initiative that continues to build on the success of the previous six years, thanks to the partnership of CEDEC, Central Québec School Board, Eastern Québec Learning Centre (EQLC), École de langues de l'Université Laval, Emploi-Québec, Chambre de Commerce et d'industrie de Québec, Cégep Ste-Foy, Cégep de Lévis-Lauzon, and the Valcartier Family Centre.



Foire de l'Emploi 2012

The success of the Multilingual Zone was indisputable, with more than 435 people having their second language skills evaluated by teachers from EQLC, and more than 800 stopping by to acquire more information about employment opportunities for English speakers and bilingual people in the Quebec City region.

Employment Services

VEQ also developed a new program aimed at improving English-speakers' employability and entrepreneurship skills, thanks to the funding of Economic Development Canada for Quebec Regions, the City of Quebec and the Citadel Foundation.

VEQ realized that there was a crucial lack of services for English-speaking jobseekers and entrepreneurs in our region. Consequently, VEQ developed this project that will directly help English-speakers find meaningful employment or create their own business.

To achieve this objective, VEQ has started organizing professional networking events and implementing direct services for entrepreneurs.

In October 2011, VEQ organized the first professional networking event. A total of 10 employers and 49 English-speaking jobseekers participated in this successful event. At least 2 more professional networking events will be organized before the end of this project in February 2013.

The entrepreneurial aspect of the project was developed in partnership with Youth Employment Services (YES). The main services offered as part of this project are: Business coaching (in person), Online business coaching and professional workshops for entrepreneurs.

Since the beginning of this aspect of

the project in December 2011, a total of 20 different English-speaking entrepreneurs have participated in the business coaching program. These entrepreneurs come from diverse business sectors such as: marketing consultant, translation services, online wholesale distribution, tour guide company, civil engineering consultant, construction, organization of events, resource management consultant and 3D Art.



Entrepreneur Workshop with YES

VEQ also organized 2 professional workshops for entrepreneurs. These workshops focused on various funding options available for entrepreneurs and on essential steps to go from a business plan to the actual creation of a business. A total of 25 individuals participated in these 2 sessions.

This high level of participation clearly indicates that there is an important need for direct services for this clientele. VEQ is looking forward to continue working with YES on this important project in 2012-2013.

Leadership Table

The VEQ Leadership Table is an efficient tool to facilitate networking and communication among institutions serving the English-speaking community (ESC). Indeed, by meeting several times per year, key leaders of the community are able to keep abreast of important issues each of the different sectors are facing. Often as a result of our collaborations, ESC organizations are able to work together to find solutions, increase funding for local initiatives and share resources to better serve our linguistic community.

The Leadership Table also continued to meet with politicians and regional leaders. The important relationships that we maintain and create through advocacy efforts make politicians from various governmental levels and multiple political parties more aware of the issues and priorities of the English-speaking community.

Leadership Table members first met with Quebec City Executive council member and Vice-Mayor Michelle Morin-Doyle. Following this meeting the City of Quebec confirmed the renewal of their funding for the VEQ English-speaking Newcomers' Integration project.

In July 2011, the Leadership Table met with the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, to discuss the priorities and challenges of our linguistic minority community and to better understand the position of the federal government



Leadership Table members meeting with the Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs

on linguistic minorities.

The Leadership Table representatives also met in September 2011 with Christian Lévesque who was at that time the ADQ's President and Director General and has now moved to a similar function with the provincial party called *La Coalition Avenir Québec*. The meeting represented an excellent opportunity to explain that we are a dynamic community that can significantly contribute to the success of the larger community.

Finally in November 2011, the Leadership Table had the opportunity to meet with the Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs, to present some important funding issues affecting many English-speaking institutions and organizations.

Newcomer Services



Kayress dela Cruz
Newcomers
Coordinator

The members of the Newcomers Committee included board members Brigitte Wellens, Jan Anderson-Toupin, Lori Godon, Tracy Anne McGregor, Jeanne Grégoire, William Hush and staff member Kayress dela Cruz.

The committee's mandate involves:

- Assisting English-speaking newcomers in establishing and integrating themselves and their families into a predominately French-speaking region.
- Assisting newcomers in locating and accessing services in English and helping them to connect with the local English-speaking community
- Accelerating the integration process of new families and individuals in the region.
- Developing a more vital and dynamic English-speaking community over time.

Thanks to the financial support of the Ville de Québec and Canadian Heritage, VEQ helped successfully integrate many English-speaking newcomers, who are vital to the growth of the community. Every five years, 25% of our region's population is renewed through newcomers. This year VEQ provided

a range of services to 220 newcomers in the Quebec City region. A total of 741 services were provided to newcomers, which ranged from in-office visitations, information sessions and numerous phone and email inquiries.

VEQ distributed more than 250 newcomers packages with the help of supportive community partners such as Jeffery Hale Community Services, Valcartier Family Centre and the various schools and churches of our community.



Walking Tour June 2011

VEQ once again presented the popular Finding Your Niche for Newcomers (FYNN) series of events. FYNN consists of social networking and information sessions free-of-charge. The sessions are designed to assist and support English-speaking newcomers as they adjust to life in the capital region.

VEQ organized five FYNN sessions with 151 total participants:

- Newcomers Walking Tour of Quebec City (June 2011). 36

Newcomer Services

newcomers participated in the walking tour of Quebec City. Participants enjoyed a beautiful day while learning more about Quebec City's rich history.

- Newcomers Meet and Greet (October 2011). 49 newcomers attended the event, which was an opportunity for newcomers to discover French as a Second Language (FSL) institutions and English as a Second Language (ESL) teaching opportunities, as well as meet and mingle with other newcomers. Over the course of the evening, participants were given the opportunity to meet one-on-one with prospective employers and schools, while making new friendships. Thanks to the following language partners for their participation: École de Langues, Université Laval; Eastern Québec Learning Centre; Les Ateliers de Conversation Anglaise; Les Services Emchar Inc.; CLIC; Une Affaire d'Anglais; Langue Anglaise & Coroporative & Cours de Langues Québec.



**Holiday Happy Hour
December 2011**



Winds of Change November 2011

- Winds of Change Workshop (November 2011). This event was held in partnership with Jeffery Hale Community Services in order to provide newcomers with information and tools on how to adapt to life in Quebec. 23 newcomers came to the event to understand how change impacts their life and what methods can be used to overcome the hurdles and challenges of living in a French-speaking region.
- VEQ's Happy Holiday Hour (December 2011). More than 125 community members and approximately 30 newcomers attended this event which took place at the Morrin Centre. This night was made extra special with some of the catering done by Loews Hôtel le Concorde.
- Newcomers Information Fair (February 2012). VEQ and other

Newcomer Services

community organizations presented a fun and informative evening that was aimed at helping newcomers discover vital services in the English-speaking community. 13 newcomers attended the event to learn more about the health and social service institutions that serve our community. Thanks to the following partners for their participation: Jeffery Hale Community Services, FORT Program, Eastern Québec Learning Centre, Cégep St. Lawrence, Morrin Centre, Quebec City Reading Council, Quebec City Women's Club, Quality Speakers, Toastmasters Quest and Viewpoint, CEDEC and the Bilingual Committee from Valcartier Family Centre.

VEQ was able to offer more to newcomers this year through the Night-goers initiative. Monthly Night-goers evenings had been originally introduced as complement to the Newcomers' activities by Diane Kameen, an employee of the former Holland Centre, who volunteered to coordinate this activity for nearly ten years! In December 2011, Night-goers was revived as a way for newcomers (no matter how long they had been here) to create their own social networks and social-mingling activities in an informal, supportive and English-speaking environment. As a result, a Night-goers Planning Committee was created. The role of the committee was to plan, organize, and host

events for English speakers. The Night-goers Planning Committee is still actively recruiting.

As of January 2012, Night-goers hosts and hostess have provided 16 nightly activities and events. In total 154 participants have attended Night-goers events.

The Night-goers Planning Committee 2011-2012 is comprised of 11 volunteer hosts and hostesses.



Night-Goers Divas & Desserts Event

Through the Lens of Our Community



**Ayla Foers
Project
Coordinator**

Through funding from Canadian Heritage, VEQ was able to organize and produce the photography project "Through the Lens of Our Community".

From mid-November 2011 until March 31, 2012 VEQ worked alongside The Megantic English-speaking Community Development Corporation (MCDC) to plan, promote and produce the project, which invited community members of all ages to submit a photograph that represents what the English-speaking community means to them and to write a short sentence to explain why.

To promote the project, 100 posters and 500 brochures were distributed throughout schools, churches,



Thetford Mines Exhibit Opening



One of the beautiful photos submitted

community centres and businesses in Quebec City and Thetford Mines.

To freshen up the community's photography skills, professional photographer and photo journalist Laëtitia Boudad was hired to give a free photography workshop in the two regions. The event brought out 26 eager participants to Québec High School's media room for the workshop. It was a full house! Laëtitia also gave a photography workshop to 15 students and community members in Thetford Mines at A.S. Johnson School. A Life Long Learning session on photography was also given by the project coordinator to 12 participants.

Between the regions of Thetford Mines and Quebec City, 99 photos were submitted. A selection committee composed of two community members from each region and the project coordinators from VEQ and MCDC selected 50 of the 99 photos to be part of a showcase that would be held in Quebec City and Thetford Mines. The

Through the Lens of Our Community

photos were selected based on their content and the sentence that went along with the photo explaining why the photo represents the English-speaking community to the person that submitted it.



Quebec City Exhibit Opening

The show opening in Thetford Mines was held on Thursday March 22, 2012. Over 50 people came out to the event, which was held at the Musée Minéralogique et Minier de Thetford Mines. The show continued Friday and Saturday with another 25 people coming out to see the show. In Quebec City, the show opening

was held on March 29, 2012 at the Morrin Centre. Over 80 people came out to enjoy the evening. The show continued on Friday where 44 visitors came to see the exhibit, and Saturday where 32 more visitors came out. Seniors of the Thetford Mines region also visited the exhibit on Friday, where they also enjoyed a tour of the Morrin Centre with the Thetford Mines project coordinator.

All photos submitted are part of an electronic exhibit for the viewing pleasure of the community. Links to the online exhibit can be found on the VEQ and MCDC websites. A DVD and book have also been made with all of the photos. They are available, free of charge, while quantities last at the VEQ and MCDC offices. All of the framed photos that were part of the exhibit in Quebec City and Thetford Mines have been given back to the participants.

To view the online exhibit, visit:
www.communitylens.veq.ca

You are cordially invited to the official opening of *Through the Lens of Our Community* - a photography exhibition showcasing the English-speaking community of Quebec City and Thetford Mines through the art of photography.

Opening night- Thursday, March 29, 2012
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Morrin Centre
(44, Chaussée des Écossais, Quebec, QC G1R 4H3)

Light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Show will continue Friday, March 30th from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
and Saturday, March 31st from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please RSVP for the show opening by March 27, 2012 by contacting VEQ at 418-683-2366 ext 222 or info@veq.ca



Through the Lens of Our Community

Two regions, Two exhibitons, One idea:

Show us what your community means to you!





Youth



Heather McRae
Project
Coordinator

This past year VEQ received funding from Canadian Heritage to work on a project called Collective Voices with students from Québec High School and St. Patrick's High School. These students created a theatre piece which was performed in local high schools in the region in Spring 2012. In total, they presented the play to over 800 people, including a public evening performance at St. Patrick's High School.



Cast of *Wrecked*

The students chose a piece called *Wrecked* by Canadian writer Chris Craddock, and adapted it to their lives. The piece focuses on alcoholism in teens and their families, and the group translated part of the text into French to show

that bilingualism is an everyday part of their lives. After each show the actors and backstage crew led a question period and short discussion about the issues in the play.



Cast of *Wrecked*

VEQ staff was so happy to have had the chance to work with each one of the students. Here in Quebec City there are so many talented young people and it is important to continually support local talent. The kids practiced tremendously hard and had input throughout the production. They thought about each and every decision in the production such as how to say each line, how to move on stage, what they think each character is like, how to portray their character, and what costumes and props were needed. They took words in a book and made it into a production. They translated the parts they thought would happen if this play was real. For example, even if you speak English in the region, when you speak to the police it is in French, or the fact that the actors

Youth

have both English and French friends and wanted to show how easy it is in their lives to switch from French to English.



Fall Fest BBQ 2011

In addition, VEQ is proud to support the Québec High School Academic Awards by contributing to four awards for Proficiency in English and Most Improved in English.

As in previous years VEQ was pleased to work in partnership with the Work-Oriented Training Path students of Québec High School, who organized the BBQ at Fall Fest. VEQ donated the food for the BBQ which was run by the students, with the proceeds going towards their program activities.

Also, VEQ had the opportunity to work with Gail Quinn and her art program for students in the WOTP program at QHS. VEQ was there to support Gail and encourage the students learning how to paint and draw.

VEQ also held two focus groups with

youth from the local high schools and cégep in the region evaluating VEQ'S services and identifying any service gaps for people their age. This was a great opportunity for us to get new ideas from youth and learn about some of the challenges they face. A focus group was also held with French speaking youth at the University of Laval on bilingualism in their lives.

This winter VEQ worked closely with Jeffery Hale Community Services in the running of their programs for families. Take-a-Break Drop In, Baby Chat Café and Traveling Toddler Time are programs that support the development of families in the region.

50+ Activities

VEQ has continued to support the Life Long Learning Program by being an active member on the administration committee as well as the steering committee. Life Long Learning is a forum for learning in retirement where seniors act as moderators and share their experiences and knowledge with others through peer mentoring. This was done through discussion groups that were lead by a moderator who facilitated a specific topic of interest. All participants were encouraged by the moderators to give opinions and share ideas and anecdotes. Topics in the past year have included home exchange, photography, Christmas memories as well as a spring social.



Sugar Shack Lunch March 2012

VEQ was also able to develop an important new project for seniors thanks to a financial partnership with the VEQ Foundation. The VEQ Foundation was initially granted \$25,000 from the Jeffery Hale Foundation to help seniors maintain their autonomy and stay active in our community. The VEQ Foundation decided to join forces with VEQ to implement this project called *Seniors, Out & About*.

This project is aimed at allowing English-speaking seniors to keep their autonomy and actively participate in community activities through safe and free transportation on a weekly basis. The project started with the creation of a steering committee formed of seniors in the community and staff from organizations that work specifically with seniors. The committee distributed a survey to evaluate the type of activities that interest them. A total of 59 seniors completed the questionnaire and from the data received, a schedule of weekly outings was created. The outings that have taken place so far are to a Chinese lunch buffet, Sugar Shack, and Movie Matinee with 34 different seniors participating in the activities in the first month of the project.

In addition, VEQ provided transportation for local seniors to go Strawberry Picking on the Ile d'Orléans in July 2011, and to attend the Québec Art Company Fall production of *Guys and Dolls* in December 2011.



Strawberry Picking July 2011

Treasurer



**Revenue and Expenditure
For the Year Ended March 31, 2012**

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
REVENUE		
Government grants	337 486	297 861
Community directory	-	50 140
Job bank	3 811	2 740
Sponsorship	-	500
Citadel Foundation	-	10 000
Other	1 243	475
	<hr/> 342 540	<hr/> 361 716
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries and benefits	192 337	246 400
Honorarium	35 561	13 935
Travel	19 570	14 334
Publicity	36 324	15 806
Operating costs	54 332	62 768
	<hr/> 338 124	<hr/> 353 243
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR	<hr/> 4 416	<hr/> 8 473

*Prepared by Paule McNicoll, Comptable Agréé
Auditor's report dated May 22, 2012*



**Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2012**

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	69 575	39 065
Accounts receivable	4 363	3 875
Grants receivable	30 418	17 133
Advance to VEQ Foundation	855	855
	<u>105 211</u>	<u>60 928</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS		
	<u>4 621</u>	<u>4 297</u>
	<u>109 832</u>	<u>65 225</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	52 475	16 913
Deferred revenue	4 629	-
	<u>57 104</u>	<u>16 913</u>
NET ASSETS		
INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS	4 621	4 297
UNEXPENDED REVENUE	48 107	44 015
	<u>52 728</u>	<u>48 312</u>
	<u>109 832</u>	<u>65 225</u>

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**Changes in Net Assets
For the Year Ended March 31, 2012**

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
NET ASSETS INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS		
Balance - beginning of year	<u>4 297</u>	<u>6 037</u>
Purchase of capital assets	1 865	-
Depreciation of capital assets	<u>(1 541)</u>	<u>(1 740)</u>
Changes in net assets invested in capital assets for the year	<u>324</u>	<u>(1 740)</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>4 621</u>	<u>4 297</u>
UNEXPENDED REVENUE		
Balance - beginning of year	44 015	33 802
Excess of revenue over expenditure	<u>4 416</u>	<u>8 473</u>
Changes in net assets invested in capital assets for the year	<u>(324)</u>	<u>1 740</u>
Balance - end of year	<u>48 107</u>	<u>44 015</u>

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**Unaudited Schedule of Revenue and Expenditure
For the Year Ended March 31, 2012**

	VEQ		Job Bank/ Others		Young Canada Works		CIC Fall Fest
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
REVENUE	<u>152 000</u>	152 000	<u>4 784</u>	2 740	<u>3 705</u>	4 878	<u>6 793</u>
GENERAL OPERATIONS							
Salaries and benefits	100 141	111 173	366	654	3 705	4 878	1 678
Honorarium	6 979	3 953	-	-	-	-	1 200
Travel	9 001	7 034	-	-	-	-	301
Publicity	7 997	5 484	-	-	-	-	625
Operating costs	<u>27 882</u>	24 356	-	-	-	-	<u>2 991</u>
	<u>152 000</u>	152 000	<u>366</u>	654	<u>3 705</u>	4 878	<u>6 795</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER REVENUE (EXPENDITURE OVER REVENUE)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4 418</u>	<u>2 086</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2)</u>

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**Unaudited Schedule of Revenue and Expenditure
For the Year Ended March 31, 2012**

Collective Voices	Linguistic Audit	Through the Lens	Eco- nomic Dev.	City Project	Total	
<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>40 000</u>	<u>30 000</u>	<u>45 000</u>	<u>39 887</u>	<u>20 371</u>	<u>342 540</u>	<u>361 716</u>
<u>26 000</u>	<u>3 500</u>	<u>22 038</u>	<u>23 613</u>	<u>11 295</u>	<u>192 337</u>	<u>246 400</u>
<u>4 525</u>	<u>12 812</u>	<u>3 979</u>	<u>3 655</u>	<u>2 411</u>	<u>35 561</u>	<u>13 935</u>
<u>3 134</u>	<u>860</u>	<u>4 490</u>	<u>1 216</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>19 570</u>	<u>14 334</u>
<u>2 050</u>	<u>11 499</u>	<u>5 302</u>	<u>6 772</u>	<u>2 077</u>	<u>36 324</u>	<u>15 806</u>
<u>4 291</u>	<u>1 329</u>	<u>9 190</u>	<u>4 631</u>	<u>4 018</u>	<u>54 332</u>	<u>62 768</u>
<u>40 001</u>	<u>30 000</u>	<u>45 000</u>	<u>39 887</u>	<u>20 370</u>	<u>338 124</u>	<u>353 243</u>
<u>(1)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4 416</u>	<u>8 473</u>

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