



## Parliament Marks Imminent Departure Of Commissioner Fraser



*Photo by Jean-Sébastien Racine, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages.*

### President's Message

**By James Shea**  
**QCGN President**

This week I had the great pleasure of attending the almost going away party for the Commissioner of Official Languages, Graham Fraser, in Ottawa on Wednesday evening. Commissioner Fraser, who was scheduled to leave office in a few weeks, recently had his mandate extended until just before Christmas. It was clear from the bittersweet celebrations he will be greatly missed.

I had the great honour of saying a few words on behalf of the Quebec Community Groups Network which has great admiration for the work the commissioner has accomplished for our Community of Communities over his past decade in office and well before that. As Commissioner of Official Languages, Graham Fraser was the first to forcefully advocate in his 2007-2008 Annual Report that Quebec's English-speaking community is one of two official language communities in Canada and that federal institutions should recognize the national status of the QCGN and act accordingly.

When questioned about his vision of the office when you took office, he described his role as part cheerleader and part nag. He fully demonstrated both these winning characteristics in successive annual reports where he encouraged the government and official language communities to do better and nagged numerous federal department and agencies to clean up their act.

Commissioner Fraser has been a frequent visitor to Quebec from the Outaouais to the Magdalen Islands and from the Townships to Rouyn Noranda. He is beloved by all our QCGN members. At our



recent Annual General Meeting there was a bevy of Executive Directors and other QCGNers lining up for a selfie with the Commish as he is affectionately called in our network. And while Commissioner Fraser spent more time in Quebec than any of his predecessors, with the possible exception of Dr. Victor Goldbloom who lived here, we were spending more time in Ottawa where our influence is growing slowly but surely due to your many efforts to help us build bridges with our federal partners and francophone allies.

While there is still a long road to hoe, we have made significant progress thanks in large part to Fraser's deep understanding of our community, and the tremendous respect he earned in federal circles and beyond as a lifelong advocate for official languages and linguistic duality. We thank him for his imagination, his wisdom, and his leadership and wish him well on his retirement, whenever that eventually occurs.

## Meanwhile in Quebec City



While I was on Parliament Hill to celebrate Commissioner Fraser, my Board colleague **Geoffrey Chambers** was at the National Assembly representing the QCGN at hearings on **Bill 105: An act to Amend the Education Act**. While the QCGN was unable to obtain an invitation to the parliamentary committee, which heard from a very limited number of educational community stakeholders, we were invited to sit at the table with the **Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA)**. Geoffrey, who is vice-president of the QCGN, appeared alongside QESBA President **Jennifer Maccarone**, QESBA Director General **Marcus Tabachnick**, and **Brian Rock**, president of the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA)**. The QCGN submitted a brief to the Committee on Culture and Education which is studying the bill. You can read our brief by clicking [here](#). The brief is summarized in an opinion piece published in today's Montreal Gazette which you can read by clicking [here](#). Briefs were also submitted by QESBA (read [here](#)), by QFHSA (read [here](#)) and by the **English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA)** [here](#) which appeared before the committee earlier on Wednesday. Full details of the Committee on Culture and Education's hearings into Bill 105 are available on the Committee's site [here](#).

## Consultation on the Next Action Plan for Official Languages



The Department of Canadian Heritage is currently holding public consultations seeking views from Canadians and key stakeholders on their priorities in the area of official languages for the development of a new multi-year action plan for official languages in Canada. Bilingual by-invitation-only roundtables were held in Sherbrooke (Aug. 5), Quebec City (Aug. 23) and Montreal (Aug. 30). These public consultations will be topped in early October, by direct talks between Canadian Heritage, the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), and provincial organizations.

All federal institutions with responsibilities under the current **Roadmap for Canada's Official Languages** are conducting their own consultation and evaluation process to provide input for the new plan. The QCGN, its member organizations and leading community stakeholders are engaged with departments like **Justice** and **Health Canada** as well as **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada** (Industry Canada) in these processes.

Finally, we understand that Quebec has been contacted by the Minister of Canadian Heritage for the province's input into the new plan. Unlike other provincial governments that benefit from federal support to offer services to their official language minority communities, in the past our provincial government has not recognized its English-speaking minority. Thanks to advocacy efforts over the past few years, we hope to ensure that Quebec will accept to participate in funding opportunities that could benefit our communities and all of Quebec.

## It's Not Too Late to Have Your Say

For those who did not participate in the roundtables, it is not too late to have your say. You can respond anonymously to an online questionnaire or by joining a roundtable discussion online. **Click here for details**. You may also submit your suggestions or comments to the following e-mail address: [pch.consultationslo2016-olconsultations2016.pch@canada.ca](mailto:pch.consultationslo2016-olconsultations2016.pch@canada.ca). To help guide an informed discussion, PCH has prepared an **online questionnaire** and **information capsules**. Following consultation with members and key community stakeholders, the QCGN came up with a list of expectations from the next action plan. You can find them on our **website**.

## Consultations on Electoral Reform



Official Languages is just one of **many consultations** being conducted by the federal government. In addition to the official languages consultation, the QCGN has been following the work of the **House of Commons Special Committee on Electoral Reform** (ERRE). Led by **Lac-Saint-Louis MP Francis Scarpaleggia**, the special committee was established in June "to identify and conduct a study of viable alternate voting systems to replace the first-past-the-post system, as well as to examine mandatory voting and online voting, and to assess the extent to which the options identified could advance" the following principles for electoral reform. The QCGN is currently analyzing how electoral reform could impact our English-speaking communities across Quebec as we prepare to appear before this committee when it comes to Montreal on Oct. 3. We encourage you to read the update on the committee's study to date by clicking **here** and we will keep you posted on our position in the

next edition of Network News.

## QCGN Meets with Members of Parliament





The Executive Committee of the QCGN Board met recently with MPs **Anthony Housefather** (Mount Royal) and **Brenda Shanahan** (Chateauguay-Lacolle) as well as representatives from the offices of four other English-speaking MPs. The QCGN presented a demographic overview of our community and the challenges it faces. We also discussed our community's expectations from a new official languages strategy. During the exchange with MPs and their staffs we discussed the importance regarding investing in youth engagement and retention through a targeted fund; specific federal programs to attract and retain newcomers to our community; and rebuilding community-based literacy. Housefather, who helped organize and host this event in his constituency office offered his full support in making our community more visible in Parliament. The QCGN will continue to work closely with him and his colleagues to this end.

## Court Challenges Programs

Earlier this year, the **Fédération des communautés francophones et acadiennes** (FCFA) and the QCGN partnered to identify the interests of Canada's official language minority communities in the Government of Canada's process to reinstate the **Court Challenges Program**. The QCGN was represented in these discussions by the Honourable **Marlene Jennings**, **Gerald Cutting**, and **Richard Walling**. The resulting position, which sought to protect the integrity, independence, and sustainability of a fund to defend and advance Constitutional language rights, was presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, chaired by **Mount Royal MP Anthony Housefather**, by Jennings in the spring during the Committee's study on the program. The Committee's report (read [here](#)) has just been released, and the QCGN was pleased to see the bulk of our concerns and suggestions included in the recommendations. We now await the government's response, and will be closely following the renew the program.

## Community Award Winners

On behalf of the QCGN and the Board of Directors, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to **Gerald Cutting**, **Miriam Green** and **Oliver Jones**, the 2016 winners of the **Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award**, as well as **Dafina Savic**, the winner of the **Young Quebecers Leading the Way Award**. Our Goldbloom Awards jury also unanimously supported a request to extend a special honour this year to MP Mauril Bélanger in recognition of his unwavering commitment to bilingualism and the rights of minority language communities. I would like to thank the Goldbloom Awards Blue Ribbon Panel, which included past winners **Joan Ivory**, **Jack Jedwab**, **Judy Martin** and **Kevin Tierney** and was chaired by QCGN Board member **Irene Tschernomor**, who also sits on the **Fondation Notre Home Foundation** which is co-sponsoring the award ceremony. I would also like to thank the jury that adjudicated our Youth Award, which is co-sponsored by the Fondation Notre Home Foundation and **CBC Quebec**. Jurors included past winner **Alexander Gordon**, **Judy Martin** (chair), **Molly Kohli** (CBC), **Matt Aranson** (Fondation), and **James Hughes** (QCGN). Both juries had the difficult task of wading through an impressive list of nominees and coming up with winners. All of the winners will be celebrated during our annual Community Awards Evening that will be held on **October 27** at Montreal's prestigious St-James Club. The evening, which will be emceed by **Global Montreal's**



Elysia Bryan-Baynes, begins with a cocktail at 6.p.m. For details and to purchase tickets online, click [here](#). To find out more about our winners, read the story below.

## New QCGN Website launched

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

Founded in 1995, the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) is a not-for-profit organization linking more than 48 English-language community organizations across Quebec.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES CONSULTATIONS | COMMUNITY INNOVATION FUND | COMMUNITY PRIORITIES | YOUTH ENGAGEMENT | QCGN INITIATIVES

**The Daily Briefing**

The Daily Briefing is a free daily news clipping service on English-speaking minority communities.

**News**

**Educational Institutions Must Tie Their Activities to the Vitality of the Communities They Serve**

September 22, 2016 / In Press Releases

For many months the QCGN website [www.qcgn.ca](http://www.qcgn.ca) has been undergoing a major facelift to make it more user-friendly for all of our visitors, including QCGN members, our stakeholders and the general public. The site, which was launched last week, had a colourful new look and easier to access information about the news and views of the QCGN, information about our member organizations, as well as details about our projects such as Young Quebecers Leading the Way. There is also a library filled with useful documents and a photo gallery as well as a calendar of network events across the province. We invite you to come visit and sign up to our Daily Briefings or view our Twitter feed. Feel free to share any comments with us at [info@qcgn.ca](mailto:info@qcgn.ca).

## QCGN COMMUNITY AWARDS TO CELEBRATE OUR MOVERS AND SHAKERS



By Rita Legault  
QCGN Director of Communications

The Quebec Community Groups Network is pleased to announce that Montreal jazz legend Oliver Jones, social worker and community volunteer Miriam Green and Townshippers' Association president Gerald Cutting will be honoured with the eighth annual Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award in October. Community activist Dafina Savic will receive the second annual Young Quebecers Leading the Way Award.

A week before he passed away on Aug. 16, the Goldbloom Awards jury also decided to extend a special honour to federal MP Mauril Bélanger for his lifelong commitment to linguistic duality and his groundbreaking work in empowering the Official Languages Act. Under Bélanger's leadership, Canadian parliamentarians voted to amend Part VII of the act to oblige federal institutions to take "positive measures" to translate the government's commitment to promoting linguistic duality and community development into action.

### **Going Above and Beyond**

"This year's honorees have all gone above and beyond in contributing to the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking community," commented QCGN board member and jury chair Irene Tschernomor, explaining that is the main goal of the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award, created by QCGN in 2009. "Our juries are always impressed with the quality of nominees who are all outstanding and effective in their particular areas of community involvement."

An educator and former director general of Champlain Regional College, Gerald Cutting has totally immersed himself in community affairs since he retired in 2008. Over the past years, he has been an eloquent spokesperson for the English-speaking communities of the Eastern Townships and the whole of Quebec during public hearings on legislation to reform both health care (Bill 10) and education (Bill 86) that threatened to remove our community from the governance of our own institutions.

A social worker by training, Miriam Green's professional and volunteer contributions have helped to bolster the English-speaking community of Quebec and its institutions. Now the president of the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex board, Green was the first woman to serve as director general of a regional health authority at Ville Marie Health and Social Services Centre. A long-serving member of Alliance Quebec in the '80s and '90s, Green also played a pivotal role in saving Montreal's Benny Farm low-cost housing project as a not-for-profit community venture.

One of Canada's best-known jazz pianists, Oliver Jones is as passionate about his community as he is about his music. When he is not performing, the soon-to-retire jazz great mentors young musicians and gets directly involved in his community of Little Burgundy. Recently, Jones spearheaded a fundraising campaign to revive Canada's oldest Black congregation performing several benefit concerts to repair and restore Union United Church. He also headlined a fundraiser for Seniors Action Quebec, with proceeds of the Dr. Oliver Jones Golf Tournament going to enabling accessibility for the seniors of his congregation where he gave his debut performance at the age of five.

### **Second Annual Youth Award**

Dafina Savic is the second winner of the Young Quebecers Leading the Way Award, which QCGN created in 2015 in cooperation with the Fondation Notre Home Foundation and CBC Quebec to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of young English-speaking Quebecers engaged in innovative initiatives that create change in our communities. At 23, Savic founded Romanipe, a Montreal-based organization that fights for the rights of the Roma. Proficient in six languages, she has completed a United Nations training program aimed at promoting dialogue in the defense of minority rights and has volunteered for the Social Justice Committee in Montreal.

Candidates for the Young Quebecers Leading the Way Award must be under the age of 30, have demonstrated outstanding leadership and contributed to an initiative with measurable impact in their community.

Recipients of the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award and the Young Quebecers Leading the Way Award have been invited to attend a special community recognition ceremony on Oct. 27 at Montreal's St. James Club. Elysia Bryan-Baynes, host and anchor at Global Montreal, will emcee the event. Tickets can be reserved [online](#) now.

## YOUNG QUEBECERS LEADING THE WAY TO THE FUTURE

By Lianne Gamelin  
QCGN Youth Project Coordinator



**2017**  
YOUNG QUEBECERS  
LEADING THE WAY  
LES JEUNES QUÉBÉCOIS  
AUX COMMANDES

After exploring Canada's past and present over the last two years, the QCGN's **Young Quebecers Leading the Way** project returns for its third and final year. This year,

participants will reflect on "A Plan for the Future: Quebec Youth and Canada in 2067" during regional workshops and our final provincial forum that will take place in the National Capital Region in the spring.

In partnership with the **Institut du Nouveau Monde** (INM) and the **Association for Canadian Studies** (ACS), the three-year project, funded by the **Department of Canadian Heritage's** Youth Take Charge program, involves youth in celebrations around Canada's 150th anniversary by encouraging them to reflect on Canada's past, present and future and develop a stronger attachment to their country through civic engagement.

English- and French-speaking youth from across the province are given an opportunity to offer their views on the significance of youth engagement in shaping their country through six lenses: Indigenous Peoples; Canadian Identity; Politics and Democracy; Social Issues and the Environment; Canada in the World; and Economy.

### Seeking Regional Coordinators

To kick off this third year of the Young Quebecers Leading the Way project, we are looking for six bilingual youth between the ages of 20 and 30 to become our regional youth coordinators in the following six regions: Eastern Townships, Gaspésie, the Greater Montreal area, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the provincial capital region.

The coordinators will recruit youth participants from different linguistic, cultural and Indigenous communities between the ages of 15 and 25 to attend regional youth workshops in their respective regions as well as the third annual provincial youth forum held from March 3 to 5, 2017 in Gatineau. For the full job description click [here](#). The deadline to apply is Sept. 30. Please send your CV and cover letter to [Lianne Gamelin](#).

Registration for this third project year will open early October on the project's website. Participation requires the attendance of three regional workshops in January, February and in late March as well as the Young Quebecers Leading the Way third annual provincial youth forum to be held in Gatineau in early March.

To read last year's youth declaration on "Quebec Youth speak about Canada Today", click [here](#). Keep up to date on Young Quebecers Leading the Way by visiting the project's bilingual [Facebook](#) page.

## ÉDUCALOI: TAKING THE LEGALESE OUT OF THE LAW

By Sarah Dougherty  
Lawyer and Plain Language Specialist, Éducaloi

Ever grappled with a legal question and wondered where to turn?

Éducaloi is a non-profit organization that explains the law in easy-to-understand language. This language is sometimes called "plain" language.

Founded in 2000, Éducaloi helps citizens understand their rights and responsibilities in everyday situations: signing a cell phone contract, making a will, renting an apartment, going to vote, etc. Based in Montreal, Éducaloi serves all of Quebec through three kinds of activities: information, education and consulting.



The organization runs a bilingual legal information **website** with hundreds of articles and videos. Éducaloi also produces print documents, gives talks in the community, and trains workers in community organizations and public agencies.

The website features a “**Youth Zone**” reserved for 12- to 17-year-olds that is pictured above. Éducaloi also offers services for **high schools and adult education centres** which includes workshops with volunteer lawyers and guides for educators so they can talk about the law with students.



Finally, Éducaloi has a consulting service which helps other organizations "translate" their legal documents and communications tools into more simple language.

### **Collaboration with Community Groups**

A major pillar of Éducaloi's services in English is collaboration with community and educational organizations and their networks. These include the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), as well as Community Learning Centres and English school boards.

This strategy helps Éducaloi reach English-speaking communities all over Quebec and ensures services are adapted to the needs of these communities.

As an example, Éducaloi is in the second year of a community empowerment pilot project. A main goal of the project is to equip grassroots organizations to orient citizens with legal questions and problems.

This year's pilot includes organizations serving English-speaking communities on the North Shore and the Lower Saint-Lawrence, in the Laurentian and Gaspé regions, in the area historically known as Megantic County, and in Rouyn-Noranda.

### **A Practical Resource for Citizens**

Ruth Pelletier coordinates a community health education program for CCS Collective Community Services in Montreal. She invited Éducaloi to give a workshop for seniors. The session dealt with wills, "advance medical directives" and other legal documents.

"How does health and legal go together?" said Pelletier. "Anything that empowers seniors to manage their affairs and remove stress is key to their well-being."

At 4 Korner's Family Resource Centre in the Laurentians, Éducaloi gave a videoconference workshop to staff and volunteers to help them help citizens find reliable legal information and other legal resources.

4 Korner's staff member Amanda Fougere calls Éducaloi "an excellent resource touching on current concerns."

### **Legal Information, Not Legal Advice**

Éducaloï does not give specific legal advice or represent clients: it only explains the law generally. For advice or representation, Éducaloï refers citizens to other resources, such as legal aid.

Éducaloï's funding comes from various sources: fundraising, governments, foundations, Quebec's professional orders for lawyers and notaries, the Société québécoise d'information juridique and its consulting service.

The organization's services in English get funding from **Justice Canada's Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund**.

Éducaloi's team of 21 employees is made up of lawyers, notaries, experts in information technologies and communications and support staff.

Want to learn more about Éducaloi's services? Contact Sarah Dougherty: [sarah@educaloi.qc.ca](mailto:sarah@educaloi.qc.ca) or 514-954-3408 ext. 3660.

*This is another in an ongoing series about Network and community stakeholders.*

## **LAUNCH OF THE CHSSN/CROP 2015 VITALITY SURVEY RESULTS**

### **Submitted by the Community Health and Social Service Network**

On Aug. 24, 2016, the **Community Health and Social Services Network** (CHSSN) in collaboration with the **Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network** (QUESCREN) organized a special presentation entitled: Citizen participation, culture, economy, education, health, information technology, law, media and social services.

The launch took the form of a one-hour "lunch and learn" presentation of the report on the 2015 CHSSN-CROP Survey on Community Vitality. The inter-sectoral survey, conducted in 2005, 2010 and now 2015, gathers the opinions and experiences of more than 3,000 English speakers (18+) across the province. Questions included concerns in the following key areas: arts and culture, media and information technology, economic development, education, health and social services, legal services, social participation as well as general issues pertaining to Quebec's English-speaking minority communities.

The event featured researcher Dr. Joanne Pocock who presented the main findings and answered questions from other researchers, policy makers and program managers. "The 2015 survey process added focus groups in a number of regions where English speakers were under-represented in the telephone interviews," she explained, noting, "the focus groups resulted in very insightful commentary and illustrative examples of the experience of English speakers in their diverse circumstances."

#### **A few important highlights:**

- Only 34 per cent of survey respondents agreed with the statement that the situation for the English-speaking community of Quebec has improved in the past 20 years.
- A substantial 64.7 per cent of respondents agreed that the future of the English-speaking community in their region is threatened. English speakers 45-64 years of age are the age group most likely to feel the future of their English-speaking community is threatened and individuals with a low-income are comparatively less likely to be confident in the future of their community.
- The two top barriers in seeking employment are level of French-language skills and the lack of access to employment services in English. The level of satisfaction with employment services — federal government office or agency/private business — in English declined from 2005 when 37.5 per cent of respondents indicated high satisfaction to 2015 when 34.6 per cent did so.
- The level of volunteering, an indicator of social participation, continues to be high among English speakers. The highest level is found in the Capitale-Nationale region where 75 per cent of survey respondents reported being involved in volunteer activity.
- English-speaking respondents form a strong consensus when it comes to the role of English language public schools in the vitality of their communities. A substantial 96.2 per cent agree that English public schools are important to the English-speaking community in their region, 93.7 per cent agree English language school boards play an important role and Community Learning Centers (CLC) are also strongly supported (97.6 per cent).
- Access to information about services in English from health and social service institutions continues to be an area of concern. Among survey respondents, 74.1 per cent reported they had not received information from public health institutions in English in the past two years.

- When respondents were asked how satisfied they are with the legal information offered in their region in English, an average of 43.1 per cent reported being satisfied. When sliced by region, those who are satisfied vary from 83.3 per cent in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region to 31.6 per cent in Laurentides.

“The study results provide a relevant and current evidence-base that can be used by all sectors within our English-speaking community,” commented CHSSN executive director Jennifer Johnson.

The study findings can be downloaded by clicking [here](#). Those interested in receiving more information regarding the study, can contact [Jennifer Johnson](#).

## HERITAGE NETWORK DREAMS OF ATTRACTING NEW DONORS

### Submitted by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network

We’ve all heard the words, but who heeds the advice?

The financial health of Quebec community groups – including those active in heritage and culture – would be a whole lot brighter if ordinary people could be persuaded to give just a little bit more.

Or, to use the current parlance of public funding agencies, if charities and non-profits would somehow manage to diversify the sources of their revenue.

The problem is many groups already feel ill-equipped to carry out what most regard as the loathsome chore of raising money, whether it’s applying for government grants, seeking corporate sponsors or creating special events.

“There’s no doubt, fundraising is hard work,” said Dwane Wilkin, projects director with the [Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network](#) (QAHN). “But there is also a perception that the effort outweighs the reward. I think that’s taking too narrow a view of what it means to succeed.”

Wilkin and his colleague Heather Darch recently began conducting a survey of non-profits across English Quebec to learn how different approaches to fundraising can influence the community sector’s overall financial fitness. The online Community Fundraising Survey is part of QAHN’s new project aimed at stimulating greater charitable giving and community engagement, called Diversifying Resources to Ensure the Advancement of Mission (DREAM). The 15-month long initiative has been supported with a grant of \$123,000 from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

“Anyone working with a community group that involves or serves English-speaking Quebecers is encouraged to share their views and experiences,” said Wilkin. The survey contains 13 questions and should take between 15 and 20 minutes to complete.

Responses will be used by QAHN to develop learning tools and training events for volunteer fundraisers attending the DREAM regional conference series in 2017.

Finding innovative ways to attract new donors in support of local heritage and culture is a particular challenge for small museums, historical societies and arts groups. Many operate outside of major urban centres and face significant barriers to public funding at the best of times. Reducing services may be their only way to adjust to a sudden economic downturn or change in government funding priorities.

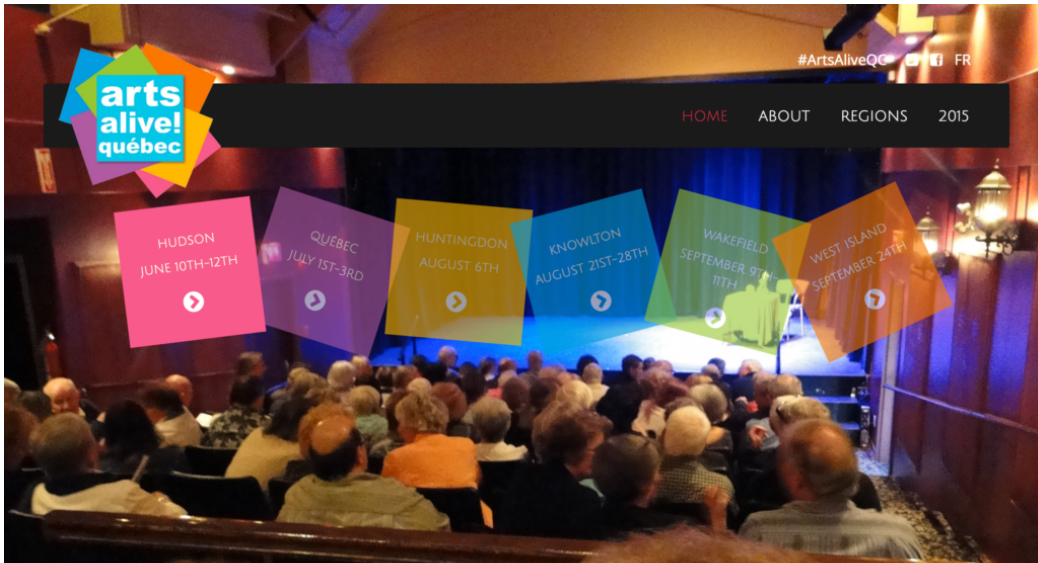
Early responses to QAHN’s fundraising survey shows that there is a strong appetite for practical ideas that might help groups avoid the risk that comes with dependence on just one or two big donors.

“Some groups are telling us they need more private donations, some would like greater municipal support. Some have quite a lot of experience doing more traditional fundraising, but they’re reluctant to adopt new techniques, such as crowd-funding. Others have created successful events in the past, but would like to try something new and are looking for inspiration,” Wilkin said. “These are the issues we’ll be exploring in the DREAM conferences.”



If you would like to receive notice of upcoming conference dates from QAHN, please send an email to **Dwane Wilkin**. Or call toll-free 1-877-964-0409. Add your voice by taking the Community Fundraising Survey by clicking [here](#).

## SUMMER OF ARTS ALIVE! QUÉBEC COMES TO A CLOSE ON SEPT. 24 IN POINTE CLAIRE



### Submitted by the English-Language Arts Network (ELAN)

Arts Alive! Québec will celebrate in Pointe Claire at John Rennie High School on Saturday Sept. 24 when Montreal's West Island hosts a packed event for the whole family. The day features local West Island artists presenting live music, theatre, visual art and a wide variety of craft workshops for both children and adults at their state-of-the-art theatre.

An initiative of ELAN, Arts Alive! Québec empowers six communities to self-direct their own mini arts festivals abounding with talent. Programming reflects local tastes, arts and cultures.

Profit from the last great days of summer and early fall with indoor and outdoor shows and events, including hands-on creative activities led by artists and artisans. Arts Alive! Québec's family-friendly atmosphere brings out the whole community.

For Deirdre Potash, West Island events curator, the excitement is palpable. Every event in Pointe Claire will be a chance to bring the community together, to meet your neighbours, to share an activity as a family, whether it is on a small or large scale, she said.

### Multicultural Flavour

"I'm inspired by the diversity of our community. I'm honoured to bring together and showcase the West Island's perhaps little known multicultural flavour," she said, adding that different foods will be on offer, and there are a multitude of eclectic workshops for ages eight and over, including printmaking, rug hooking, oil pastels, costume design and mosaics.

"The Teddy Bear's picnic at 11 a.m. is sure to be a family hit and the area's visual and performing artists' talent will astonish you. When people walk in, they will say: 'Wow, what should we do first?'"

The evening concert headliner is Craig Morrison's retro party band, Vintage Wine, which will get people on their feet with great songs from the 1950s to the 1980s. The opening act is Greg Halpin with his just-launched, Notes from a Bedroom.

ELAN executive director Guy Rodgers said he has been enjoying traveling to the regions throughout the summer series, where thousands of artists and arts lovers have been gathering across the

communities. He said is looking forward to visiting the final region of the festival.

“Arts Alive! Québec’s Pointe-Claire event in the West Island will offer a family-friendly ‘happening’ of artistic activities and mini-performances during the day, followed by the evening concert starring local favourites Vintage Wine. John Rennie High School offers a compact, easy to access venue to stage this suburban carnival.” For more info, visit their [website](#).

## ELAN’S ACE - ARTS, COMMUNITIES, EDUCATION - INITIATIVE

The **English-Language Arts Network** (ELAN) brought 50 educators and artists together in June for a day-long ACE-JAM! event.

Participants who were nominated based on their knowledge and experience in the Arts, Community, and Education sectors reflected collectively on the current state of access to arts and culture across Quebec’s regions. Together, they came up with ideas for overall strategies and pilot projects that will enable us to test a variety of approaches to enabling schools and communities to collaborate in increasing access to arts and culture experiences.

ELAN is currently inviting communities and schools to develop test projects between October 2016 and July 2017. The goal is to integrate what has already been learned/developed by other organizations, for example by promoting knowledge gained about how to prepare school leaders and teachers to work with artists, and vice versa.

The projects all aim to meet an expressed need to ensure that community and school participants are authentically engaged throughout the creative process, not just as audiences for an end product.

For more information about applying to test one of these ACE projects, call ELAN at 514-574-6344 or by [email](#).

Successful applicants will be offered coaching and consulting support, including professional development to build teams’ capacities to develop the strongest test project models possible. To contribute to achieving the initiative’s overall desired impact, the projects in Phase 2 will be granted to four different regions.

The deadline for applications for the ACE Initiative TEST! Projects is next Friday, Sept. 30.

## FRAMEWORK GUIDES COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS TO CARE FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING SENIORS

This past spring, the **Community Health and Social Services Network** (CHSSN) worked in collaboration with more than two dozen community and government organizations to create a framework titled Promoting the Health and Well-being of English-speaking Seniors in Quebec.

This **framework** describes a community model for improving the health and well-being of the linguistic minority senior population in Quebec. This approach builds upon a decade of successful practices undertaken by the community and their public partners to improve the lives of English-speaking seniors through the province.

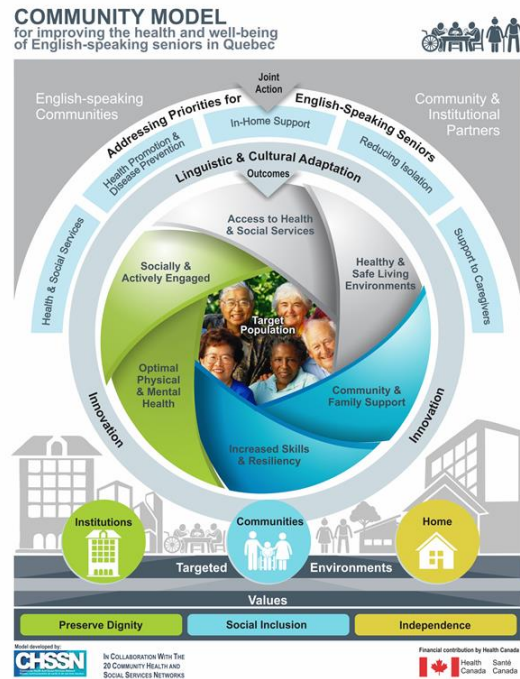
“This model communicates an up-to date evidence base on the needs and priorities of English-speaking seniors,” said Russell Kueber, author of the document. “It also illustrates a variety of successful initiatives and lessons learned occurring throughout the province on behalf of English-speaking communities and their partners.”

The model and approach integrates this evidence base and lessons learned and puts forward a comprehensive list of priorities and actions that will continue to make a positive impact in the lives of English-speaking seniors.

A variety of organizations were chosen to write case studies for the framework document. They also presented to a Montreal audience at a Community Network Forum hosted by the **East Island Network for English-Language Services** (REISA). The panel including NDG Seniors Council, AMI-

Quebec, Radical Resthomes, the Cummings Centre and REISA showcased successful initiatives in meeting the needs of English-speaking seniors.

“This initiative, in many ways celebrates the commitment our community organizations and members have taken to support our seniors and its remarkable the progress made over the past 10 years,” said Kueber. “The framework aims to inform and guide community and public partners in their continued efforts to work in partnership in caring for our seniors.”



## VEQ'S FALL FEST HELD AT ST. VINCENT'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



On Saturday September 17, 2016, an estimated 700 people attended Fall Fest and enjoyed cultural performances and activities for the whole family. Every year, the event showcases community organizations, local schools, institutions and businesses, and is a great place to meet new people and learn about what is going on in the community. This year, the day activities made way for a community dance in the evening where an estimated 150 people attended and enjoyed music from the 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s played by a live band.

## 37TH TOWNSHIPPERS' DAY OFFERS WARM CLOSE TO FESTIVAL SUMMER





**By Corrinna Pole**  
**Townshippers' Association**

It was great weather for the more than 5,000 visitors to celebrate the Eastern Townships English-speaking community at the 37th annual Townshippers' Day cultural festival and information fair on Saturday, September 17, in Brome.

Held at the Brome fairgrounds by the Town of Brome Lake and Townshippers' Association in collaboration with the municipalities Brome Village and West Bolton, the festival featured the creativity and vibrancy of the community through a day of activities, entertainment and information.

This year's festival had over 300 participants. Visitors discovered 90 artisans and exhibitors, learned lifesaving Hero in 30 CPR technique, danced to 10 local performers, and enjoyed other family friendly activities. Visitors also explored Brome on a historical bus tour which included a visit to the Brome County Museum.

The silent auction was once again a popular draw featuring a myriad of generously donated local items and services. Winning bidders who did not pick up their item at the end of the festival will be contacted in the coming days to make arrangements.

Thanks to the hard work of the Green Team and supported by visitors and vendors, Townshippers' Day kept its commitment to leaving a minimal footprint on the environment. Refuse was streamed into composting, recycling and waste, with only two bags of garbage produced by more than 5,000 participants and visitors.

Townshippers' Association and the 2016 Organizing Committee, would like to send out an enormous thank you to the many participants and volunteers who helped bring this year's festival to life and to all our visitors for sharing this wonderful event with us.

Townshippers' would also like to extend a special thank you to the 2016 partners who made the festival possible, including Canadian Heritage, CBC, the Sherbrooke Record, CASS, CJMQ 88.9 FM (The Qube), Global Excel Management, Ville de Lac Brome, Stanstead Journal, Député de Brome-Missisquoi Pierre Paradis, Député de Saint-François Guy Hardy, Député de Sherbrooke Luc Fortin, Caisse Populaire de Brome-Missisquoi, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton and the Corporation Municipale du Village de Brome.

Want to host a **Townshippers' Day** in your community? Contact Townshippers' Association at 819-566-5717 (toll free 1-866-566-5717) or email [ta@townshippers.org](mailto:ta@townshippers.org), and we'll show you how you can make it happen!

Check back with us often at [Townshippers.org](http://Townshippers.org) and [TDay.ca](http://TDay.ca) to see which town gets to be next year's T-Day host town!

***Thank you for reading our regular newsletter. For up-to-date news about the Quebec Community Groups Network you can visit our website at [www.qcgn.ca](http://www.qcgn.ca) or follow us on Facebook and/or Twitter.***

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