

VOICE OF ENGLISH- SPEAKING QUÉBEC

● ANNUAL REPORT ●



2022

—
2023

VEQ

QUÉBEC OFFICE

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QUÉBEC, QC G1S 2M4

SHANNON OFFICE

438, BOUL. JACQUES-CARTIER, SUITE 206
SHANNON, QC G3S 1N5

ABOUT VOICE OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUÉBEC

As an active, non-profit organization that currently has over 4000 members, VEQ has played a vital part in the preservation and development of community life for the English-speaking community for over four decades. Currently, VEQ has active partnerships with over 60 community organizations, institutions, and groups in the area.

Furthermore, VEQ helps individuals participate in community life in the Québec City region in both French and English. We welcome newcomers, sponsor community celebrations, research needs, inform citizens, and provide a framework for effective action on behalf of English-speaking people and institutions.

OUR MISSION

The 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 and Chaudière-Appalaches regions and to the promotion of its interests.

OUR GOALS

- Act as a hub of information for the English-speaking Community
- Foster community cohesiveness
- Support the development of the community
- Promote the interests of the community - Advocacy

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past year we had the wonderful possibility of seeing so many of you in the flesh! With the return of social programming in-person, VEQ and community members came out to our events with enthusiasm. As a team, it is always inspiring to meet our English-speaking community members. This year, between Fall Fest, Holiday Happy Hour, and Spring Fest we met nearly 800 people! And that is just the beginning of the incredible accomplishments we can attribute to our VEQ team this year.

As always, the continued dedication and passion of our Executive Director, Brigitte Wellens, inspires her amazing and talented team. With her leadership, they successfully pursue the objectives of VEQ: acting as the hub for English-speakers, supporting community development, encouraging cohesiveness, and promoting the interests of our community.

As a result of this commitment, I have had the privilege of witnessing the continual development in excellent and diverse programming for our community.

I am so proud of our Newcomers Program. This year the growth continued from last year at an incredible pace. 998 Newcomers were supported by VEQ, an increase of 56% from last year! In addition, 487 individuals participated in the Newcomer events, geared at continuing to support individuals and families making connections and settling their roots in our wonderful region.

Investment in the cohesive nature of our community has also been a great success this year with the renewal of many important partnerships. The positive outcomes of these

partnerships have been stakeholder meetings, many events, and the engagement and participation of many community members.

Among the diverse and incredible programming VEQ brought to the table this past year, I want to highlight the incredible success of the activities for our members that are 50+. Out and About, knitting circles, and pottery workshops were among the many incredible opportunities for our members to spend time together and feel the support within our English-speaking community.

Once again, I end my year as head of the Board of Directors with so much pride. I am excited to see what new and exciting ways the VEQ team will continue to support us all in the coming year.

KRISTY FINDLAY
PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a remarkable year it has been, and we're lucky, we didn't do it alone!

We maintained our strong partnership with the Jeffery Hale Community Partners (JHCP) and the Jeffery Hale Community Services (JHCS) and continued to collaborate on valuable programming for the English-speaking community. This was done through committee work, info sessions, and jointly run programs such as the Volunteer Income Tax Program.

Through the Employment Strategy, we established strong partnerships with 10 employment sector organizations, worked together to increase the accessibility of their services to English speakers, and collaborated on the implementation of several events. We also continued to publish our weekly #JobTipTuesday posts, highlighting job search tools, workshops, and events, helping connect community members to relevant resources.

Our satellite office and Community Space in Shannon were bustling with activity over the course of the year. 52 activities and workshops were carried out in our Community Space between April 2022 and March 2023. Having that local presence has allowed us to solidify important partnerships with many stakeholders and decision makers and allowed us to bring programming directly to residents living in the northern perimeter of the city.

The My Québec City Podcast project saw the recording of 42 episodes by 53 participants. VEQ delivered 14 podcast workshops and supplied the high schools, CEGEP

and Eastern Québec Learning Centre with the equipment they will need to continue podcasting in the future. I can't wait to hear what they record next! You're in for a treat if you haven't yet had a chance to listen to it.

VEQ's accomplishments are the result of a dedicated and passionate group of individuals who carry out the organization's mission and work together to implement interesting programming and activities for the benefit of the community. Working alongside such a great group of collaborators is a privilege. The team responsible for carrying out VEQ's activities in the 2022-23 fiscal year was composed of the following individuals: Catherine Baboudjian, Dominique Paddack, María Castro, Maria Hoyt, Melissa Wan, and Susanna Tang. Thank you for being part of the VEQ family and for everything you do!

I end my message with a THANK YOU to our Board of Directors, our dedicated volunteers, our partners, funders, stakeholders, and community members. Your continued support is essential to our success.

BRIGITTE WELLENS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022-23 ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMUNITY EVENTS

41st Annual General Meeting held on June 29, 2022

Fall Fest was held on September 24, 2022 and welcomed **over 625** attendees

107 people attended Holiday Happy Hour on December 17, 2022

Spring Fest gathered **61** people at 3 Brasseurs Laurier on March 22, 2023

33 participants learned a new creative outlet via **2** felting workshops offered

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA



WEBSITE

61,163 UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITORS

7,470 JOB BANK PAGEVIEWS



FACEBOOK

510 NEW PAGE LIKES AND FOLLOWS

> 296 K ACCOUNTS REACHED VIA OVER **365** POSTS



INSTAGRAM

56 NEW POSTS AND STORIES CREATED

70 NEW FOLLOWERS



NEWSLETTERS

7 NEWSLETTERS SENT OUT

> 2,600 RECIPIENTS VIA EMAIL

> 240 RECIPIENTS VIA MAIL



NEWCOMER E-BULLETINS

13 NEWCOMER E-BULLETINS INFORMING NEWCOMERS SENT

32 K TOTAL EMAILS SENT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS HAMPER CAMPAIGN

VEQ contributed to the 27th edition of the campaign, by being part of the organizing committee, contributing to printing and distribution of publicity material, as well as organizing fundraising activities.

208 families in need received help from the campaign

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

VEQ coordinated the program and helped low income English-speaking families and individuals in Québec City file their taxes with the precious collaboration of volunteers.

32 tax files were completed

27 hours clocked by our dedicated volunteers

YES EMPLOYMENT + ENTREPRENEURSHIP

YES Business Coaches meet entrepreneurs every month at our Québec office.

137 business coaching sessions offered by YES in partnership with VEQ

31 English-speaking entrepreneurs benefited from the sessions

LOCAL VOCALS

The choir group was able to meet every week virtually and in-person to indulge in one of their favourite pasttimes.

26 sessions offered

208 singing participants

SMOOTHIE BIKE

VEQ's smoothie bike added some smoothie mileage to its counter--a fun gadget we are always happy to lend out.

>500 delicious smoothies made using VEQ's smoothie bike

2022-23 ACTIVITY REPORT

NEWCOMERS

998

Newcomers served



WOW! We have served **56%** more newcomers than the previous fiscal year and they came from **71** different countries!

NEWCOMER EVENTS



13

Individuals benefited from 1 Canada Revenue Agency session

3

Community events hosted by Valcartier Military Family Resource Center, Limoilou terre d'accueil and the City of Québec were attended by VEQ

6,010

One-on-one services provided

> 350

Newcomer packages distributed with help from our partners

Some of the events organized: guided visits to the Museum of Civilization, interpretive visits to the Jacques-Cartier National Park, an initiation to curling, and a virtual bilingual magic show.

PODCAST PROJECT

VEQ FACILITATED HANDS-ON ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORKSHOPS AND PROVIDED PODCAST EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE AND TRAINING.

53

participants



14

podcast workshops delivered



42

podcasts recorded

VEQ partnered with the **3** high schools to create an intergenerational podcast series. **9** community members were interviewed by students for the My Québec City 50+ Edition.

VEQ's first Podcast Club regrouped **9** podcast enthusiasts.

VEQ also partnered with Y4Y Québec to record interviews with students attending Y4Y's Youth Forum, where **5** interviews were recorded.

ENHANCING REGIONAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY

16

events attended by over **690** participants were organised in partnership with local stakeholders

2

focus groups held with community members and stakeholders

16

meetings with stakeholders



52

activities and workshops organised in our Community Space

RENEWED PARTNERSHIPS

- Municipality of Shannon
- Municipality of Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier
- MRC de la Jacques-Cartier
- Valcartier Military Family Resource Center
- Dollard-des-Ormeaux School
- Valcartier Elementary School
- Historical Societies of Shannon and Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier

2022-23 ACTIVITY REPORT

EMPLOYABILITY

55

#JOBTIPTUESDAY

FACEBOOK POSTS HIGHLIGHTING JOB SEARCH RESOURCES, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

35,867

people reached

Update to our list of

10

employment sector organisations VEQ has strong links with

+ 250

regional employers with jobs requiring English-speaking skills

EVENTS CO-HOSTED BY VEQ

1st

English edition of *Événement Emploi Éclair* organised in collaboration with Libre Emploi and the FORT Program. **42** job seekers attended, **100** phone calls were made and **5** employers participated.

31

participants attended **2** CQSB info sessions co-hosted by VEQ

6

participants benefited from an interview skills workshop facilitated by the FORT Program

17

individuals were at a Government of Canada careers info session hosted by VEQ

15

students from Ecole secondaire Samuel-de-Champlain practiced in mock interviews with Libre Emploi and VEQ

50+ ACTIVITIES



OUT & ABOUT

Out & About is strong as ever as participants were excited to explore and connect with their city and community again.

74

Out & About outings offered

857

Out & About participants

WALKING DISTANCE

36

kms walked

12

participants

KNITTING CIRCLE



> 45

articles created

18

participants

POTTERY WORKSHOPS



12

participants

learned the art of pottery making in **2** intergenerational workshops with CECEP St. Lawrence students

CHAIR YOGA

Fun fact! Chair Yoga was offered at a second location due to its popularity!

>285

participants

42

yoga sessions

OUR FUNDERS

Canada 

Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

Québec 

VILLE DE
QUÉBEC 

Secrétariat aux relations
avec les Québécois
d'expression anglaise

Québec 

RDN
Regional Development Network
Réseau de Développement Régional



Partenaires
communautaires
Jeffery Hale
Community Partners

Une communauté de soins
A Community of Care


FONDATION
Jeffery Hale
FOUNDATION

Fondation
VEQ
Foundation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristy Findlay – *President*
Warren Thomson – *Vice-President*
Razvan Petre – *Treasurer*
Chantal Dubois – *Corporate Secretary*
Kaley Hall – *Member-at-large*
Loch Baillie – *Director*
Ashley Byrne – *Director*
Joan Chandonnet – *Director*
Amanda Heath – *Director*
Maximilienne Machungwa – *Director*
Aliyeh Rasooli Zadeh – *Director*
Marguerite Spik – *Director*

OUR DEDICATED TEAM

Brigitte Wellens – *Executive Director*
Catherine Baboudjian – *Project Coordinator*
María Castro – *Newcomers Coordinator*
Maria Hoyt – *Administrative Assistant*
Jeanne Nivischiuk – *Project Coordinator*
Dominique Paddack – *Project Coordinator*
Susanna Tang – *Project Coordinator*
Melissa Wan – *Communications Agent*