

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



From the President



As president of your Association I am once again tremendously impressed as I reflect back upon the challenges of this past year. Winter has now moved into spring but the pandemic caused by the COVID19 virus is still very much with us.

Despite these obstacles, Townshippers' Association, thanks to our staff and volunteers has once again delivered a sterling performance. Read all about what has been done on your behalf in this Annual Report.

As if the pandemic were not enough, the identity and well-being of the English-speaking minority language community (ESC) must now prepare for a full frontal assault as the Quebec government prepares to adopt what it calls “a robust revision” of Bill 101 to protect and promote the French language. In the past, such measures have always led to a reduction in access to services for the ESC, particularly in rural areas.

As members of the ESC we understand only too well what it means to see our community's vitality fade away, year after year. For this very reason, we strongly believe that this can be a time when our two linguistic communities could and should be looking at partnerships, consultations, and the establishment of common goals to promote the prosperity and wellbeing of all Quebecers. We are a nation within a nation and we are all proud Quebecers.

Instead, our values, our history, our right to manage our schools, to have access to services in English in the hospitals and towns we built, continue to be the targets of marginalization by legislation as we have seen with Bill 21, Bill 40, and once again in Bill 96.

At the same time, when we ask about our legal options as a community, the harsh reality is that any provincial government can pass the most reprehensible laws it wants to because our *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* can be set aside by the use of the *Notwithstanding Clause* as is outlined in the Constitution; it is alarming and clearly unacceptable in any present day constitutional democracy that even the courts cannot ensure that the rights of its citizens are not trampled upon.

We are at a point when the federal government must step up and make it clear that a Canadian citizen, no matter where they may reside in Canada, must be protected from the tyranny of the majority, especially when it comes to the question of language policy.

In closing, rest assured that your Association will be very active in the coming months working with other organizations to mount our own “robust campaign” to champion our right to the status of equal citizenship in the province we helped to build.

Gerald Cutting

From the **Executive Director**



Well...it's been quite the year now, hasn't it?!

The words adaptability, resiliency and, perseverance come to mind when I reflect back on the past year and the success of our initiatives in the face of an ongoing global pandemic; as an organization who managed to maintain the vast majority of its personnel and accomplish much of the activities anticipated in its work plans for 2020-2021 (albeit they reimagined and offered remotely) , fortunate feels too small a word.

Despite the personal and professional challenges faced this last year, your Association team rose to the occasion and then some! **Once again, our Project Managers and administrative team successfully ran more than a dozen funded projects and programs to the benefit of the region's English-speaking community**; you will see throughout this year's activity report example upon example of the extraordinary work each team member has accomplished over the last 12 months to adapt their activities, reorient their actions to meet new and emerging needs, and provide our membership and the wider community with the quality and consistency they expect from the Association.

Despite the inability to represent the interests of English-speakers in our region live and in-person during 2020-2021, our community's voice was still heard at the provincial level through remote consultations and networking opportunities organized by Quebec's Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers (SRQEA), the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN).

At the federal level, your President and I continue to advocate strongly to our Members of Parliament against the territorialisation of Canada's Official Languages through recently proposed changes aimed at modernizing the Official Languages Act; combined with the impending update to Quebec's Bill 101, our community has much to be vigilant about at the legislative level.

In keeping with our Strategic Objective to provide opportunities for young people to thrive in the region, Townshippers' Association's Estrie and Montérégie-East *Partners for Health and Social Services* networks supported five students in health and social services programs who are committed to working in the Townships after graduation with bursaries totaling \$50,000.00 this year through the *McGill Health and Social Services Community Leadership Bursary Program*. We also provided five other students from the Université de Sherbrooke with remote learning opportunities with the team in our Sherbrooke office (law and health sector students).

In closing, I couldn't be more proud of the work accomplished this year and the grace and humanity with which the team did it, and I hope that you enjoy this report on our activities.

Rachel Hunting



ACTIVITY REPORT DATA 2020-2021

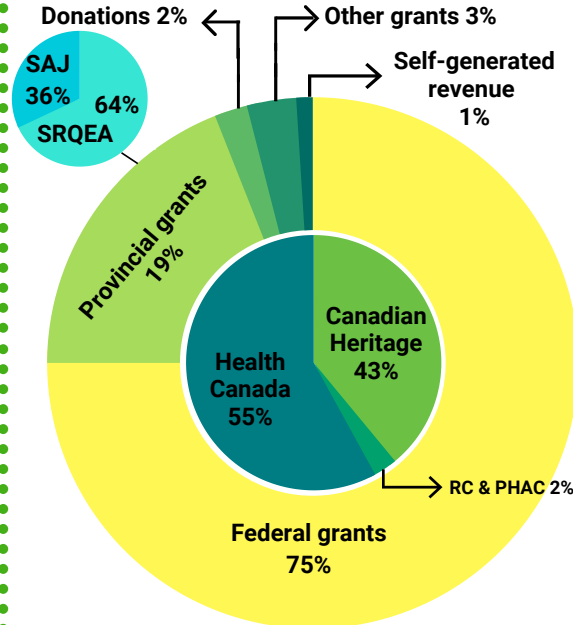


OBJECTIVES

2017-2022

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

FINANCIALS



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

HEALTH & WELL-BEING



In the COMMUNITY

TA represented the English-speaking community (ESC) by participating on 54 committees, tables and boards that touch on:

SENIORS & CULTURE

YOUTH & FAMILIES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Contributions to the knowledge-base



- 2021 Federal Pre-Budget consultation brief submission
- *Cellule de veille régionale* created by the Observatoire Estrien du développement des communautés (OEDC)



YOUTH MIGRATION



38

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

15

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

5

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



Presentations made to GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES highlighting ESC needs and interests



- Meeting with MNA Isabelle Charest, riding of **Brome-Missisquoi** & MNA Christopher Skeete, **Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers**
- 2x community consultations organized by the **SRQEA**

PROVINCIAL

FEDERAL

- Meeting with the Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture & Agri-food, riding of **Compton-Stanstead**, MP Lyne Bessette, riding of **Brome-Missisquoi**, and MP Elizabeth Brière, riding of **Sherbrooke**
- Meeting with the Hon. Mélanie Joly's team, **Minister of Economic Development & Official Languages**
- Meeting with MP Alain Rayes' team, riding of **Richmond-Arthabaska**



Team members & volunteers drove approx. 14,723 km while representing the Association and community

Team members & volunteers consumed approx. 12,045 caffeinated beverages

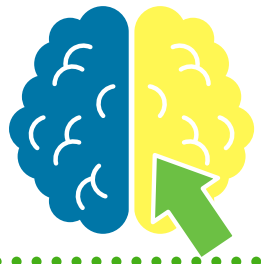


36 web shows were produced to promote organizations and services in communities across the Townships as part of the *About Townshippers Web Series*



5 students benefited from remote learning via student internships with Townshippers'; 2 from the Université de Sherbrooke who managed the free legal information clinic & 3 from the Université de Sherbrooke who worked with the Association's Eastern Townships Partners for Health and Social Services, Estrie Network.

LEARNING CURVE



IN THE NEWS

- 27 radio shows by Townshippers' aired on CIDI 99.1 FM
- 54 mentions of Townshippers' Association in print, radio & television media
- 1,734 Townshippers' magazines distributed (fall '20, spring '21)

RESOURCE

- 27 health and social services information sessions held via Zoom
- 8 PAJ Eastern Townships Discovery Days showcased MRCs in the Estrie to young professionals aged 18 - 35 years old
- 165 informative care packages delivered to ESC members in lieu of in-person activities
- 171 job & 3 student bursary opportunities shared on TA's online Job Bank; 328 job opportunities posted through PAJ ET
- Formally supported 12 organizations applying for funds to increase the vitality of the ESC in the Townships



52 people benefited from information and referral via TA's Legal Info Clinic

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

580 sec. 4 & 5 from the Eastern Townships' 3 regional high schools benefited from 8 different panels from the employment, community and post-secondary sectors via the

Rooted in the Townships: Skills Days activities.

Social Insights

4,952 followers

unique visitors 10,921

www.Townshippers.org

Townships Expressions

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



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Board of Directors

Executive

Gerald Cutting	President	Coaticook
Cheryl Gosselin	Vice-President	Sherbrooke
Don Warnholtz	Secretary / Treasurer	Sherbrooke
Heather Bowman	Past President	North Hatley

Directors

Salim Hashmi	Sherbrooke
Steve Lawson	Brome Lake
Alice McCrory	Eastman
Olivier Dickson	Sherbrooke
Wade Lynch	Sherbrooke
Jayne Marrotte	North Hatley
Katie Bibbs	North Hatley
Doug Bowker	Sherbrooke
Murray McDonald	Magog

Rachel Hunting
Executive Director

Cathy Turner
Office Manager &
Townships Expressions Coordinator

Mary Gunter
Assistant Accounting Clerk

Phuong Nguyen
Staff Resource Development Officer

Heather Ancliffe
Project Manager,
Inclusive Mentorship Initiative

Ed Humphrey
Project Manager, ERCC/SAJ

Supporting team

Bethany Vanasse
PAJ Eastern Townships Migration Agent

Vanessa Asselin
Agent, ETPHSS, Estrie Network
Project Manager, OLMC Initiative

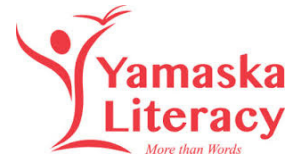
Michelle Lepitre
Agent, ETPHSS, Estrie Network

Maggie Severs
Agent, ETPHSS, Montérégie-East
Network

Lisa Payne
Agent, ETPHSS, Montérégie-East
Network

Sponsors & Partners

The activities and programs offered by Townshippers' Association in 2020-2021 would not be possible without the support of the following organizations, businesses and institutions. **Thank you!**



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



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

Avante Women's Centre CAAP-Estrie

Champlain Regional College CEDEC

CLSC Cowansville Stanstead College

Lennoxville & District Women's Centre

Centre des femmes du HSF, La Passerelle

Lennoxville & District Community Aid

Dobson-Lagassé Eaton Valley CLC

Bedford-Farnham CLC Job Links



Townships Life and Culture: Past Present and Future





@TOWNSHIPPERS   

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