



Literacy Quebec

Annual Activity Report

June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018

Literacy Quebec and its members are funded by the Ministry of Education through Programme d'action communautaire sur le terrain de l'éducation (PACTE).



Literacy Quebec is a proud member of the following organizations:



President's Message

I would like to thank and congratulate Literacy Quebec's Executive Director Margo Legault for continuing to grow the organization and for seeking innovative opportunities to forge new and very successful partnerships with McGill University and several key community groups. Thanks too to LQ's very knowledgeable and dedicated board of directors each of whom brings a plethora of skills to the work they do with

LQ. Over the 2017-2018 year, Eric Aubry, Johanna Bateman, Marilee DeLombard and Sia Spanadoukas gave generously of their time, knowledge and expertise and guided the organization through the challenges and successes of the year.

Since its creation 38 years ago, Literacy Quebec has brought literacy providers around the province together for a common cause and shared values and it's thanks to the people who have been here over the years that Literacy Quebec has grown into such a successful and] professional network.



One of the particular highlights of 2018 was being invited to sign a new \$400 000 3-year grant from the Secrétariat Aux Relations Avec Les Québécois d'Expression Anglaise for a project entitled Empowering Literacy Networks. This came about due to Margo's continued work representing LQ at various networking events and although I got the pleasure of signing the document, it was due to Margo's work that LQ's application for funding was

accepted. I'm more than grateful that I got the opportunity to step off the board in such a rewarding way.

The LQ membership will soon elect a new president and I extend my very best wishes to the incoming board for the year ahead. I have one final thank you to the members, it has been a privilege to serve this organization and I am grateful for your support and cooperation, over the last few years.

Cathy Nolan
President 2018

Executive Director's Message

Recognized as the provincial leader and champion for literacy, our organization is frequently sought after for its experience and expertise in the field. Over the past year, we have been advocating for literacy at both the provincial and federal levels of government and our hard work has produced tangible, significant results.

At the provincial level, our main donor, the Programme de l'Action Communautaire sur le Terrain de l'Education, increased its envelope from 18 million to 27 million.

At the Federal level, one of the highlights of this year was Literacy Quebec's ability to co-chair a consultation with the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills. This event brought stakeholders together from across Canada to reach a common understanding of skills development challenges faced by adult Canadians living in Official Linguistic Minority Communities.

As Executive Director, another highlight was being called as a witness for the Review of literacy and numeracy support programs in Canada organized by the Standing Committee on Official Languages at the House of Commons. This led to the drafting of the *Adult Literacy and skills development: An essential component of the education continuum in official language minority communities* report.

Attention was also brought to our cause through the Canadian Union of Public

Employees *Adult Literacy in Canada 2017* report, which included input from Literacy Quebec and its member organizations.

In other developments, we relocated our offices to Verdun. This allowed us to be an integral part of a course offered by McGill University (Community Design Workshop).

I would like to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of our wonderful group of dedicated volunteers, including our Board of Directors (Cathy, Eric, Joanna, Marilee and Sia).

I would also like to highlight the longstanding contributions of Cathy Nolan and Marilee DeLombard. After many years of dedicated service, they will be stepping down from our Board of Directors and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

As we look back on our successful past year, we can look forward to renewed success in the future. Especially with news of the creation of the Secretariat for relations with English-speaking Quebecers, new and exciting opportunities await us in the year to come.

With continued collaboration and communication, I have no doubt that we will be able to welcome, embrace and develop all upcoming projects together.

Margo Legault
Executive Director

Support to Members, Activities & Direct Services

Support to Members and Regular Activities

Literacy Quebec provided ongoing support to its members by offering training and assistance via web, email and telephone. The LQ staff fielded and responded to 950+ enquiries and concerns from its membership. They also sent out 30 email updates throughout the year. Members were brought together once in person and once via web-conference for professional developments and networking opportunities.

Our 37th Annual Members Gathering was hosted on September 20th, 2017 with 10 out of its 11 full member organizations participating from across the province.

This year, Literacy Quebec attended 3 of its members events and had 2 site visits. We were able to engage in the meaningful dialogue that was initiated by Literacy Unlimited's Educational Leadership Symposium on *How Literacy Affects our Community*. We shared in The Learning Exchange's School Perseverance Days Celebration and helped serve up many alphabet pancakes with RECLAIM at Lasalle Junior Elementary School. We also

had the opportunity to visit Literacy in Action's office and Quebec City Reading Council to offer support and learn more about the challenges faced in their respective regions.



Activities

Health and Wellness Fair

Literacy Quebec participated in the Verdun Health and Wellness Fair on June 8, 2017, and again on May 31st, 2018. Each event reached 100+ people.

Human Library

Literacy Quebec hosted two Human Library events, one on June 17, 2017 pulling in 100 participants, and the other on October 12, 2017 with 50 participants.

What is a Human Library? It is an initiative whose goal is to break down social barriers to allow for interesting conversation between two people who would have otherwise never spoken to each other. Participants can “take out” a human book, ask them questions, and learn about the human experience from a different perspective.



Family Literacy Day

Literacy Quebec celebrated Family Literacy Day with the Montreal Children’s Hospital Literacy Project, by handing out bookmarks, literacy materials and resources for parents on January 24th. This event reached 350 people.



Suspicious Fish

In December 2017, Literacy Quebec's office moved to the borough of Verdun (in Montreal). Through this move the organization has been able to develop a stronger partnership with Suspicious Fish, a grassroots creative writing program based in Verdun Elementary School,



as well as with McGill's Social Equity and Diversity in Education Office and the Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture and the School of Urban Planning.

Collectively we are working towards the creation of a community hub and a permanent home for the Literacy Quebec. On April 14th of 2017, this collaborative co-hosted a Community Consultation and celebrated the launch of the latest Suspicious Fish Anthology.

The event was a huge success, reaching over 200 individuals. The young writers from Suspicious Fish were able to see their stories come to life as they were read by professional actors.

For more information about this partnership and what it means for the future of the organization, be sure to check out the video "*Suspicious Fish and Literacy Quebec: Who Are We?*" on the LQ YouTube Channel!

Verdun Storytime

Through a collaboration with Verdun Storytime, 179 children from pre-kindergarten to Grade 3 were able to attend a live performance adapted from a book. Literacy Quebec provided each child with a book.



Direct Services

Literacy Quebec offers a range of training and professional development services to community organizations and front line workers. This year Literacy Quebec was able to provide three workshops on a variety of topics, benefiting 44 individuals.

- Workshop on Literacy, Plain Language and Clear Design in Verdun, Qc. Hosted by the Anglo Family Council (Network Partnership Initiative Verdun), 15 participants
- Workshop on Literacy and Plain Language in Montreal, Qc. as part of the McGill Community Design Workshop, 14 participants
- Workshop on Effective Communication in Bury, Qc. Hosted by the Eaton Valley Community Learning Centre and Literacy in Action, 15 participants

Freda Hudson Award

The recipient of this year's Freda Hudson award was Rick Valin from Western Quebec Literacy Council. Rick Valin has been a dedicated volunteer for many years. He helps facilitate the Adult Education Program which offers tutoring to students enrolled in the Shawville Continuing Education Center. He is there a minimum of 2 full days a week. The students love him and sing his praise – they say he is kind, understanding, and helps them get past roadblocks in their learning. Last year, he personally tutored over 18 students.

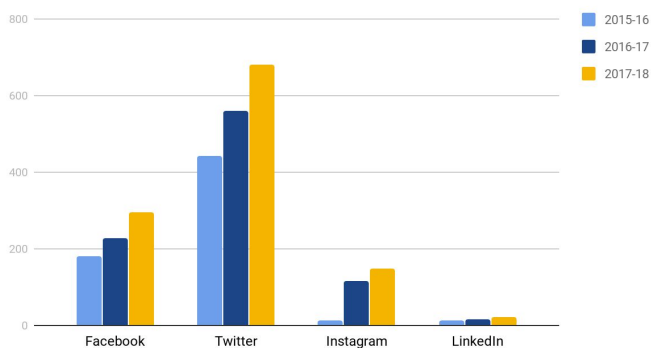


This award was inaugurated in 2007 in honour of a remarkable volunteer. It is presented annually to an active and longstanding volunteer, someone who has made a significant contribution to Literacy.

Communications & Campaigns

Literacy Quebec’s online presence continues to grow. Our Facebook page has increased from 224 to 294 followers, meaning our posts, events, and other news are reaching more individuals and groups. Our Twitter has gone from 559 to 681 followers. The most significant increase in engagement has been on our Instagram account, as we can now count 148 followers, as opposed to 14 when we first launched on this platform.

Social Media Growth



A recent addition to our social media presence has been the wonderful blog posts from our correspondent Gabrielle Thomas. While travelling to Manchester, for a university exchange program, she chronicled 7 posts dedicated to the city of literature, literacy programs and

initiatives, as well as her exploration of intriguing locations.

Our website has also increased in number of views per page with an average of 3 pages per visit, meaning more people who read the blog posts explore our website at the same time. These blog posts have enriched and diversified our social media presence, and we are grateful for their impact on Literacy Quebec’s reach and engagement.

Literacy Quebec has also participated in several social media campaigns, such as Adult Learners Week in collaboration with RGPAQ’s Semaine de l’alpha pop, using the hashtag **#ProudToLearn** and asking followers to share their lifelong learning experiences.

Other campaigns included **#WomenInLiteracy**, highlighting women’s contributions to the field of literacy.

Finally, Literacy Quebec developed content for **#FamilyLiteracyDay** and **#InternationalLiteracyDay**.

Networking and Partnerships

Literacy Quebec participated in many networking opportunities and instances for concertation throughout the year. These opportunities allowed us to create new partnerships and strengthen existing ones.

- Anglo Family Council (5 meetings) sept, oct, march, march, april (conc) (8 people)
- 7 people AMIES PACTE (6 meetings) sept,feb, march, apr,may,may (conc)
- 60 ROCQLD rencontre national nov (reseautage)
- 75 YES Youth Unemployment: it's everyone's issue Dec (R)
- 3 RQACA jan (C)
- 22 Art Hive Open Forum May (concertation)
- 46 National Literacy Conversation (concertation) 1 meeting in June
- CHSSN Bright Beginnings (concertation)
- 20 Réseau québécois de recherche et de transfert en littératie (concertation)
- 28 5th Annual Consultation of the Committee of Assistant Deputy Ministers on Official Languages (CADMOL)
- 26 Consultation Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (Co-chair with RESDAC)

Representations/Advocacy

Literacy Quebec was invited to speak and participate at the following events/meetings:

- Meeting with Catherine Bennett, acting Director of corporate planning and accountability at ESDC, organized by Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN)
- Dialogue Day with the English-speaking minority community representative, organized by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) on May 3, 2018.
- Essential Skills Forum hosted by ESDC
- Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) conference calls in September and December 2017
- PACTE comité mixte Dec 14, 2017
- Information session on the Placement Réussite in January 2018
- Appeared as a witness before the Standing Committee on Official Languages at the House of Commons for their [Review of literacy and numeracy support programs in Canada](#) on February 13th, 2018
- Kathleen Weil exchange with the English-speaking minority community representatives in February 2018

Our team also attended the following events:

- Press conference, Minister of Health Gaétan Barette's announcement on the Dispensing of Health and Social Services in the English Language (April)
- Conseil des relations international de Montreal, with announcements from Jean-Francois Lisee et Veronique Houvion on Education (April 2018)
- Canada Summer Jobs announcement with MP David Llametti in May 2018



The Collaborative

Securing partnerships with McGill University's Social Equity and Diversity in Education Office, the Peter Guo-hua School of Architecture and their School of Urban Planning has been a priority this past year. As part of this ongoing collaboration with Suspicious Fish Creative Writing Program, we



ARCH 514/URBP 514 WINTER 2018 COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTORS: JAIMIE CUDMORE AND NIK LUKA

met 8 times throughout the year to plan, develop and implement a community based university course.

The course was delivered by Associate Professor Nik Luka and Course Lecturer Jaimie Cudmore.

WHEN
MONDAYS
16H05-19H55

FRIDAYS
11H35-13H25

WHERE
MDHAR ROOM 409

ABOUT THE COURSE

Community Design Workshop

This four credit course explores methods of critical service learning that are vital for future design and planning professionals who will increasingly work with situations marked by social difference.

The course is part of a joint project between the Schools of Architecture and Urban Planning, the Faculty of Management, the Social Equity and Diversity Education Office (SEDE), and two community-based organisations in Verdun (Literacy Québec and The Suspicious Fish).

DELIVERY

Opportunities to learn outside the University including with youth in the Verdun community :

1. Develop moderation skills for public participation through an equity lens,
2. Use visual representation and storytelling as a method of community-led participation ,
3. Create Asset maps with local residents

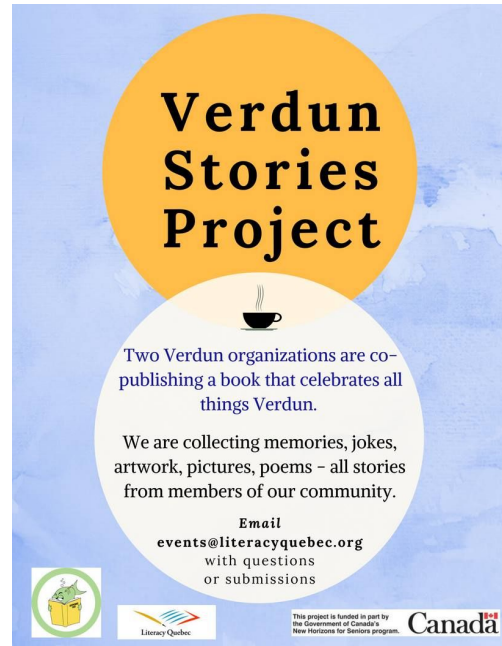
Seminars and on-site workshops will take place at McGill and in Verdun with community and university partners.

FIRST MEETING
FRIDAY 12 JANUARY
11H35-13H25
IN ROOM MDHAR 409

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
TUESDAY 23 JANUARY

New Horizons for Seniors Project

Through a grant from the New Horizons for Seniors program, Literacy Quebec was able to launch the Verdun Stories Project. This intergenerational project will allow community members the opportunity to share and revisit some of their most interesting, most unusual or most challenging experiences through creative writing workshops, interviews and exchanges.



Volunteers

Literacy Quebec welcomed 51 volunteers this year, who collectively gave 1427 volunteer hours to the organization.



Would you like to become a literacy volunteer?

Literacy Quebec is always recruiting volunteers in: Social Media, Political Science, Marketing, etc. We offer flexible volunteer and internship opportunities in English. Send your CV to info@literacyquebec.org if you are interested!

Partnerships



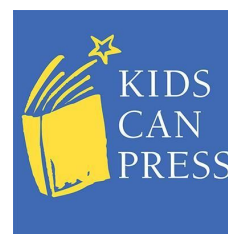
Donors



CANADA SUMMER JOBS 2018



Employee Donation Program



Dominique Anglade MNA



CRC Fonds Marie François

Governance & Operations

Human Resources

The following positions were retained by Literacy Quebec:

- **Executive Director** Margo Legault
- **Communications and Marketing Coordinator** Lauren Gruer

Literacy Quebec was also able to provide the following employment opportunities through the Canada Summer Jobs program of the ESDC:

- **Campaign Developer** Sabrina Dhaliwal
- **Outreach Agent** Laura Simon

Annual General Meeting

Literacy Quebec hosted its Annual General Meeting on the 20th of September 2017. 9 out of 11 full members were in attendance. It was held in Montreal, Quebec, at Le Tableau Blanc.

Board of Directors

- **President** Cathy Nolan, Quebec City Reading Council
- **Vice-President** Joanna Bateman, Literacy in Action
- **Treasurer** Eric Aubry
- **Secretary** Marilee DeLombard
- **Director** Sia Spanoudakis

The Board of Directors met 7 times during the course of the year. The Board of Directors continued to provide service to members and respect all legal obligations related to incorporation. They supported the submission of project proposals and the development of partnerships deemed beneficial to the organization.

Committees

The Board of Directors maintained the following committees:

- Freda Hudson Volunteer Recognition Award Committee
- Human Resources Committee
- Nominations Committee

This year, Literacy Quebec is marking the retirement of Cathy Nolan, our President, and Marilee De Lombard, our Secretary, from the Board of Directors with sadness and matched gratitude for all they have contributed. Isaac Newton once said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." As Literacy Quebec celebrates a successful past year, we would like to give special thanks to Cathy and Marilee for their wisdom and their time. Together, they represent over 40 years in the field of literacy and their experience is reflected in the care and compassion they have consistently placed in their work.



As Executive Director of Western Quebec Literacy from 1991-2017, Marilee has been at the forefront of projects such as the Reading Circle and Reading Buddies, all of which have nurtured a love of reading among children and teens.

As the current Executive Director of Quebec City Reading Council, Cathy has made improvement in digital literacy a priority. The iPad project she put in place allowed all executive members of Literacy Quebec to receive an iPad and training on how to use it. Additionally, the project led to QCRC making significant changes in the way programmes were developed and delivered and opened the door to a plethora of digital opportunities for students.



The impact that Marilee and Cathy have made is impossible to measure because it is still ongoing. We are indebted to you both.

As advice to future literacy practitioners, Marilee says to be open and know that "you will get to know some amazing people - the excellent volunteers and professionals who work in literacy." Cathy says "Learn from your students, try new things, give of your time and always remember to say thank you."

On behalf of Literacy Quebec, thank you Cathy and Marilee. We are greater because of you both.

Members

Insert member's logos here.