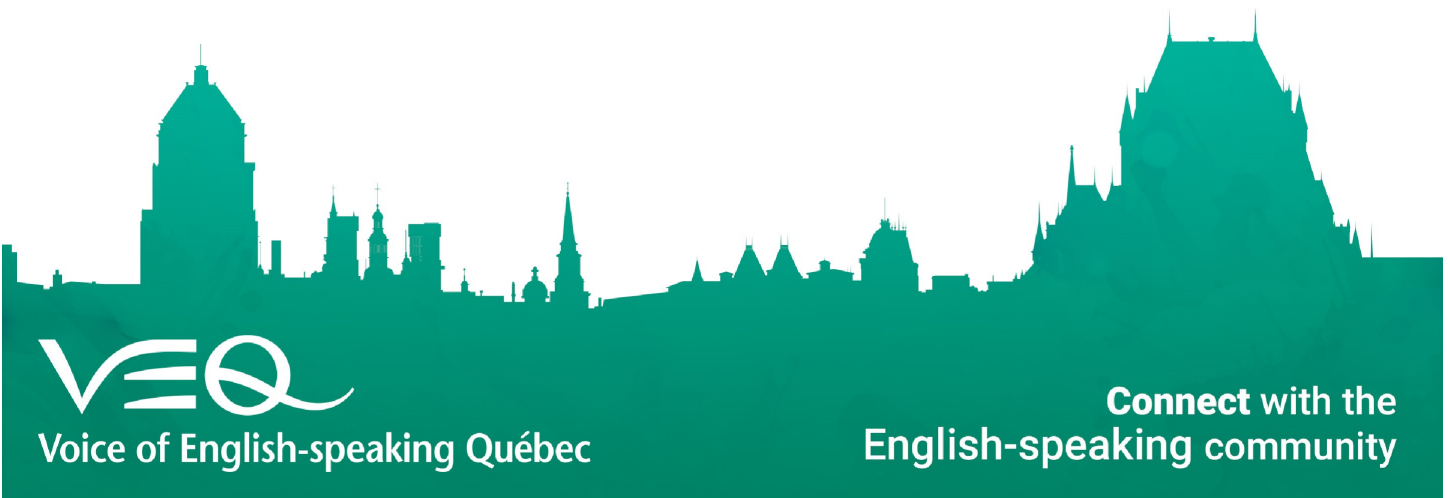


Annual Report

2016 - 2017



VEQ
Voice of English-speaking Québec

**Connect with the
English-speaking community**

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Canadian
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Fondation CITADEL Foundation



Table of Contents

Board of Directors / Staff	1
Mission Statement	2
President’s Message	3
Executive Director’s Report	5
Community Events	7
Community Outreach.....	9
Employment & Entrepreneur Services	10
Newcomer Services.....	11
50+ Activities	15
Website and Social Media.....	17
Be Active Québec	18
I Volunteer/Je m’implique	20
Collaborative Community Mural.....	21
Digital Memories.....	22
Partnership with Jeffery Hale Community Partners	23
Summer Student and Interns.....	24
Treasurer	25
Photo Gallery	33



Voice of English-speaking Québec

Board of Directors 2016-17

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Brigitte Wellens, Executive Director
Ellie Fleming, Operations Manager
Heather McRae, Project Coordinator
Khrystyna Merrithew, Newcomers Coordinator and Administrative Assistant
Jean Nivischiuk, Be Active Québec Coordinator
Daniel Potter, Project Coordinator
Jessica Price, Newcomers Coordinator
Sally St. Amant, Be Active Québec Coordinator
Emma Ahern, Summer Student 2016
Geraldine Poulin and Mélinda Noël, Interns

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. Whether to simply get to know one another, or to work together toward a common cause which supports the needs of the English-speaking community, VEQ activities such as Fall Fest and semi-annual Happy Hours support and strengthen a vital sense of 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 the Community Mural and I Volunteer projects, Performing Arts Festival with CQSB, technology workshops for seniors, and Seniors Out & About are great examples of how VEQ is supporting the ongoing 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 served its advocacy role as an active member of different regional consultation tables such as the Leadership Table and the *Table régionale de concertation en immigration de la Capitale-Nationale*.

President's Message

As I look back over the last 12 months, I am grateful for my first year as VEQ president. I have come to realize that our organization is in great hands. We have a very competent Executive director in Brigitte Wellens and a dedicated staff. I have had the opportunity to participate in many cultural, political and community events that pull together numerous people from our diverse community. We continue to advocate on the behalf of our community and our partners, offer services for integration and employment while holding community events and implementing projects.

Advocacy

VEQ continues to meet with various partners at the Leadership Table to discuss issues of concern for the English-speaking population. The future of English education in Quebec City has been a topic of discussion and members from CEGEP Champlain Saint Lawrence and the Central Quebec School Board have reached out to us to discuss the future plans for their organizations. We have also met with members of the new Jeffery Hale Community Partners Wellness Centre. We will continue to meet and support our English-speaking community institutions while we reach out to the greater French-speaking community and local levels of government to ensure that we as an organization and the people we represent are heard.



Warren Thomson, President

Employment and Integration

VEQ has been very active with our Newcomers services. This is a valuable service we provide every year to about 400-500 newcomers or about 150 to 250 families. We help recent and not so recent members of our community find employment through the job bank, we sit with other community stakeholders at the immigration table and work in partnership with the Ville de Québec by attracting and integrating immigrants and migrants to Quebec City. Through the VEQ partnership with YES Montreal we facilitate one-on-one business coaching sessions. Through one of our numerous projects: "I Volunteer, Je m'implique", we promoted linguistic duality through volunteerism. The goal is to bring the two language communities together by having English and French volunteers work in

President's Message

each other's organizations. VEQ continues to play an important role in the Quebec City region and we are recognized more and more by local stakeholders as a valuable partner in helping our region grow and retain newcomers and their families.

Community Events and Projects

Every year the VEQ staff is successful in securing funding for events and projects. This year, Fall Fest was a great success bringing together 53 community groups and over 700 visitors. In collaboration with Jeffery Hale Community Partners, we help provide valuable services to our seniors and one of our projects was aired on CTV news. This was an ongoing intergenerational project with seniors and Quebec High School students. Students provided technology workshops to seniors. On another project : Digital Memories, it was the seniors' turn to share their stories with teenagers. The interviews were recorded and a DVD was produced. During both projects a lot of laughs were shared, some friendships made and a better understanding of each other was accomplished. VEQ also brings the community together with their well-attended social events. If you haven't been to our annual Holiday Happy Hour at the Morrin Centre or our Spring Fest at Les 3 Brasseurs on Grande Allée, you are missing some fun evenings and opportunities to see some familiar faces and meet some new members from our community.

To conclude, I have enjoyed my year as president of VEQ. Our community's future is in great hands. The VEQ staff is dedicated, helpful and involved. Our community is supportive of one another and VEQ has become an integral part of the English-speaking community's vitality and the Quebec City region's growth.

Sincerely yours,

Warren Thomson

Executive Director's Report

It's not until I took a moment to reflect on the past year, that I actually realized just how much had been accomplished. As I look back on the last 12 months, I am proud of the work that was carried out and honored to have taken part in the accomplishments that we celebrated. I now look ahead with a great deal of enthusiasm for the exciting new projects and initiatives that are about to begin.

Before highlighting some of the key successes that we have enjoyed this year, I would like to take time to thank my extremely competent and dedicated staff: Ellie Fleming, Operations Manager, Heather McRae, Project Coordinator, Jeanne Nivischiuk, Be Active Québec Coordinator, Sally St. Amant, Be Active Québec Coordinator, Jessica Price, Newcomers Coordinator, Khrystyna Merrithew, Newcomers Coordinator and Administrative Assistant, and Daniel Potter, Project Coordinator. Their hard work and dedication are what makes VEQ so successful.

VEQ was in charge of several projects in the last year. The *I Volunteer/Je m'implique* project aimed to promote linguistic duality through volunteerism and foster stronger links between both linguistic communities in the Greater Quebec City region. Through a series of networking events, organizations from both linguistic communities had an opportunity to meet potential volunteers and showcase their services. A total of 364 people took part in the networking events. As a result, several English speakers created links with and started volunteering in the French-speaking community. Several French speakers accomplished the same results in the English-speaking community. We are proud to share that this project was selected by our funder, Canadian Heritage, as a key initiative for 2016-2017.



Brigitte Wellens, Executive Director

The *Collaborative Community Mural* project brought community members together through artist-led workshops, where they were provided with all the supplies to allow them to illustrate on canvas what Quebec City means to them. Our goal was to create a permanent exhibit showcasing our community's unique identity. The mural, which beautifully reunites the 77 canvases, will hang on the wall of the Wellness Centre to be seen by all who enter the building.

VEQ was also in charge of the *Digital Memories* project, an intergenerational project aimed at celebrating the lives of our seniors. Students from Quebec High School interviewed the seniors and filmed the interviews. Following the editing process, excerpts from the interviews were grouped according to themes. The final product is a 45 minute DVD that honors the past and the lives of our seniors, and helps us preserve and promote the cultural heritage of our community. We look forward to carrying out more intergenerational projects in the future.

Most of what we do depends on partnerships. Once again this year, VEQ continued to be particularly involved in developing and strengthening those partnerships with key organizations from both linguistic communities,

Executive Director's Report

such as our role on the *Table régionale de concertation en immigration de la Capitale-Nationale*, a networking table composed of over 30 organizations that are directly involved in the welcome and integration of newcomers in the Greater Quebec City region. These essential partnerships enable us to maximize our ability to continue to provide quality services to English-speakers and increase our capacity to make decision-makers aware of the needs and priorities of our community.

VEQ also maintained its strong partnership with the Jeffery Hale Community Partners (JHCP) and the Jeffery Hale Community Services (JHCS) and continued to collaborate on valuable programs for the English-speaking community such as the Volunteer Income Tax program and the Take-a-Break Drop in program.

In addition, VEQ supported the Central Quebec School Board (CQSB) again this past year in the organization and production of the 2016 Performing Arts Festival. Students from across the CQSB were bussed in and came together for a fun-filled day at Quebec High School where they took part in artist-led workshops and ended the day with a show at Collège St. Charles Garnier. The festival was a real success and VEQ is looking forward to collaborating with the CQSB on similar initiatives in the future.

VEQ also continued to be proactive in implementing a variety of useful services for seniors of our community. Thanks to a strong partnership between VEQ, the VEQ Foundation and the financial support of the Jeffery Hale Foundation, VEQ was able to continue providing weekly transportation for English-speaking seniors. Seniors Out and About, as it has come to be known, enables English-speaking seniors to keep their independence

and reduce social isolation through safe and free transportation to help them in activities that are generally considered fundamental tasks. The project allows them to participate in community activities and outings including shopping trips, outings to the movies, to the museum, lunches out at restaurants and blueberry picking to name just a few. This year, 302 seniors participated in the outings.

Additionally, thanks to funding from the Ministère de la famille, through the Québec ami des aînés program, a seniors networking committee was created and was tasked with looking at social participation opportunities for seniors in our community, how to promote them, increase them and better adapt them to suit their needs. An online calendar was created and updated monthly. Activities related to this project will continue in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and will be focused on the adaptation of our activities and services for this important clientele.

Lastly, VEQ was able to continue to offer a series of technology workshops for seniors. Students from Quebec High School developed the workshops and provided one-on-one support after each workshop. The development of quality services and activities for seniors will continue to be a priority for VEQ for years to come.

I am truly honored to be part of such a wonderful team and look forward to all that lies ahead in this new fiscal year.

Thank you to VEQ's Board of Directors for volunteering your time and expertise and **thank you** to our partners, funders and supporters!

Sincerely,
Brigitte Wellens
Executive Director

Community Events



Ellie Fleming
Operations Manager

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

Over 60 people attended Voice of English-speaking Québec's 35th Annual General Meeting held on May 26, 2016 at the Centre des loisirs St-Sacrement. Members had the chance to hear about VEQ's



Annual General Meeting 2016

successes in the past year and learn about many exciting new initiatives. VEQ was fortunate to have a number of interested community members wishing to join its board of directors. After short presentations from each candidate, the membership acclaimed 4 new board members and 2 current board members to continue for a second term.



Annual General Meeting 2016

Thanks to partnerships with the Department of Canadian Heritage, Jeffery Hale Community Partners, and the Ville de Québec, over 700 community members joined VEQ at St. Vincent Elementary on September 17, 2016 for the seventh annual Fall Fest.

Activity in the gym was buzzing with over 53 community groups and businesses showing the community who they are and what they do. SNACS catering provided a BBQ that kept the crowd fed while kids enjoyed face painting, and other great family activities. Thanks to our collaboration with Be Active Québec, children were able to enjoy bouncy castles and try out the smoothie bike. There were performances this year from the Shannon Irish Dancers, Pé Na Rua Brazilian Rhythms, and the Vibrant Voices Choir.

This year, thanks to sponsorship from VEQ and Les Ateliers de Conversation Anglaise, Fall Fest continued into the evening with a fun show from Honest Ed and the Crooked CuZins!

Community Events



Fall Fest 2016

VEQ's Holiday Happy Hour was held on December 7, 2016 at the Morrin Centre in Old Québec. Over 150 community members spent the evening socializing with friends old and new while enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. All proceeds from the evening went to help support the Community Christmas Hamper Campaign. VEQ would like to give a warm thank you to the Morrin Centre for sharing their beautiful space with us and to the local businesses who graciously donated the door prizes. We could not have asked for a better way to ring in the holidays.

VEQ once again offered free transportation to the Shannon Irish Show on March 11, 2017. Over 20 people rode the bus out to Shannon and enjoyed a

wonderful show celebrating Irish heritage in Québec.



Holiday Happy Hour 2016

On March 30, 2017 VEQ hosted a Spring Fest to help celebrate the culmination of two great projects—the Digital Memories DVD and Collaborative Community Mural. Over 70 community members joined VEQ at Les 3 Brasseurs to enjoy learning about these projects and to “Kick winter to the curb”.



Bus to the Shannon Irish show

Community Outreach

CSQB Performing Arts Festival

VEQ collaborated again this year with the Central Québec School Board (CQSB) to help organize and produce the Performing Arts Festival. The Festival took place on Friday April 1, 2016. Hundreds of students from schools across the Central Québec School Board came to Quebec High School to take part in a day of artist led workshops. The workshops included performances by some of the artists followed by a series of workshops that included belly dancing, hip hop, mural painting, circus, trapeze, cartooning, vocals, pottery, drumming, magic, and photography. The day concluded with a show at Collège Saint-Charles Garnier where community members from both linguistic communities were invited to watch the youth perform.

Community Christmas Hamper Campaign



In December 2016, VEQ proudly contributed to the Annual Community Christmas Hamper Campaign in its 21st year.

VEQ staff sat on the organizing committee, contributed to the printing and distribution of publicity material as well as playing all sorts of roles in the four

-day blitz leading up to delivery. VEQ took on the coordination of counting and dispatching again this year.

In total 331 volunteers sorted, counted, packed and loaded 571 boxes for delivery to 223 families in need. The organizing committee was happy to announce that they met the lofty fundraising goal of \$30,000 through personal donations (www.qchampers.ca), fundraising events, and the overall generosity of all those involved.



St. Patrick's Day Parade 2017

Once again this year, VEQ participated in the eighth edition of the Québec St. Patrick's Day Parade. VEQ staff and board members got decked out in green for the occasion and walked the nearly 5 kilometer route while handing out shamrock stickers to children. Thanks to Les Artisans du Paysage for loaning us a pickup truck to help spread the St. Patrick's Day cheer.



St. Patrick's Day Parade 2017

Employment & Entrepreneur Services

VEQ maintains a well-consulted online Job Bank, which can be viewed at www.veq.ca/job-bank. All employment positions posted require English-language skills or bilingualism.

A total of 77 positions were posted on the site during the year. Examples of positions featured on the job bank include:

- Summer Reading Program Coordinator
- Sales & Marketing Coordinator
- Special Education Technician
- Language Instructor
- Consultant, Tourism Stakeholder Mobilization
- Technical Support Specialist
- Nurse Coordinator
- Tour Guide

VEQ has continued the partnership with Youth Employment Services (YES) Montreal, which focuses on one-on-one business coaching offered in Quebec City as well as online. These monthly sessions help English-speaking entrepreneurs develop and expand their own businesses.

Over the past fiscal year, YES has provided 109 one-on-one business coaching sessions to a total of 30 individuals in the Quebec City region.

Thanks to a strong partnership with the FORT Program, VEQ continues to refer many clients to their program which offers employment counseling services to English-speaking residents.



Youth Employment Services (YES) Montreal

In addition, VEQ once again held a leadership role in the Multilingual Zone during the 2017 Quebec City Foire de l'Emploi. VEQ helped coordinate this valuable initiative that continues to build on the success of the previous years.

This year for the first time, VEQ offered two information sessions on applying for employment with the Federal Public Service. The room was packed both times, with 31 people attending on September 20, 2016 and 27 on February 1, 2017. These information sessions were excellent opportunities for people to learn about the application process for positions with the Federal Public Service. Some topics covered were: bilingual positions, the online application process, CV format and any other specific questions that the audience had. In both sessions it was stressed that the Federal Public Service is in need of more bilingual candidates, especially in the Quebec City region.

Newcomer Services



Jessica Price
Newcomers
Coordinator

The members of the 2016-2017 Newcomers Committee included Board members: Jeanne Grégoire, Philip Almaguer, Marie White; community members: Stephen Marchessault and Terisa Phillips; and lastly VEQ staff member Jessica Price.

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 Canadian Heritage, Citadel Foundation and the Ville de Québec, 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 435 newcomers coming to the Quebec City region from 41 different countries. We served 300 of these newcomers in their first year of arrival. A total of 1293 services were provided to newcomers, which ranged from in-office visitations, information sessions and numerous phone and email inquiries.

VEQ distributed more than 330 newcomer's welcome packages with the help of supportive community partners such as Jeffery Hale Community Services, Valcartier Family Centre, and the various schools and churches in our community.

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 or at minimal cost. The sessions are designed to assist and support English-speaking newcomers as they adjust to life in the capital region.

VEQ organized eight FYNN sessions with 218 participants:

- **Newcomers Walking Tour of Old Québec (June 2016)**, where 17 newcomers participated in the walking tour of Old Québec with a knowledgeable and charismatic tour guide who shared with us a great deal about Quebec City's rich history. Everyone had a great time.
- **Newcomers Picnic in the Park (August 2016)**, where 37 participants took part in a fun and relaxing picnic. This was a great opportunity for newcomers to

Newcomer Services

get out and see a different part of the city and meet some new people while enjoying a gorgeous summer day. The kids had a ball with bubbles and the playground. Thanks to Be Active Québec for partnering with us for this event. It was a great day all around!



Newcomers Walking Tour

- **Newcomers Meet & Greet, Taste of Québec (September 2016):** 46 participants took part in a fun-filled evening where they learned a little about VEQ, life in Québec and were able to taste some of Québec's traditional food. Thanks to Jeffery Hale Hospital for providing the space, all the volunteers that helped make the event a success and the various businesses that generously gave donations for the door prizes.
- **Language Exchange Café (November 2016),** where 30 people practiced their French and/or English through conversation and games. We were very pleased with the first edition of this event. We had a wonderful group of people! Thank you to the Jeffery Hale for the room for this activity and to the Centre R.I.R.E. 2000 for



Newcomers Picnic in the Park

partnering with us for this event as well as to all the fantastic participants and volunteers that helped make it a success!

- **Winds of Change Workshop (November 2016):** this event was held in partnership with Jeffery Hale Community Services. A total of 23 participants 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 environment. Thank you to the Jeffery Hale for the space and for partnering with us for this event as well as to our guest speaker.



Newcomers Meet and Greet: Taste of Québec

Newcomer Services

- **Holiday Happy Hour (December 2016)**, more than 150 community members and approximately 25 newcomers attended the event which took place at the Morrin Centre.
- **Newcomers Snowshoe Excursion (February 2017)**: This was an opportunity for newcomers to get outside and embrace the winter season (during a time when many people are inclined to curl up indoors) and try one of Québec’s popular winter activities—snowshoeing. It was a great success with 31 participants. Thank you to all the participants, our partners at Be Active Québec and to Holland Elementary, Québec High School and St.Patrick’s High School for lending us the snowshoes for the day. It was a great day and we hope to do it again next year!



Winds of Change Workshop

- **Newcomers Creative Corner** was offered once again this year in partnership with Jeffery Hale Community Partners. This was a bi-weekly activity for newcomers to get together in a relaxing setting to meet and mingle with other newcomers while painting. We had a lovely group of 9 participants.



Newcomers Creative Corner



Holiday Happy Hour



Newcomers Snowshoe Excursion

Newcomer Services

Employee Information sessions

VEQ offers information sessions to businesses for employees new to the Quebec City region. During this time we share information regarding the different services & resources available, as well as different activities and ways to get involved and connect with the English-speaking community. We also provide these newcomers with a welcome kit, including VEQ's community directory and Health Passport among many other useful resources. This year we provided information to newcomer employees in the following locations: NAVRES Headquarters: Naval Reserve, Canadian Forces Fleet School Québec, and for summer students at Jeffery Hale St-Brigid's.

Welcome event with the Ville de Québec - Journée d'accueil des nouveaux arrivants (May 8, 2016)

The Welcome event at the Videotron Centre was a great success for the city as well as for VEQ with well over 100 newcomers visiting the VEQ booth and learning about the different services we provide.

Focus Groups- This year VEQ hosted two different organizations that led focus groups for immigrants.

August 25, 2016: *Meeting the Needs of English-Speaking New Immigrants in Québec:* This focus group centered on the experience of English-speaking new immigrants living in Québec and how aware people are of the services and

support available to them. This group was part of a research initiative funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to understand what is helpful to people who live in an area of Canada where their first official language (English or French) is the minority.

March 8, 2017: *Entrepreneurs New to Québec within the last 5 years.* This focus group was an opportunity for entrepreneurs to come and voice their opinion and share their experiences launching or planning to launch a business in Québec. The information gathered will be used to help entrepreneurship service providers develop appropriate and timely services for entrepreneurs/recent immigrants in Québec. This focus group was carried out by the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) and YES Montreal.

Partnerships

This year the newcomers program worked on building upon existing partnerships as well as creating new ones with other community organizations that provide services for and/or work directly with newcomers to the Quebec City region. Just a few of the organizations that we have worked with this year are: Jeffery Hale Community Services, Ressources Espace Familles, Université Laval, Cégep Garneau, SOIT, Vivre Québec - Centre Marcoux, Option Travail, Centre R.I.R.E. 2000, Banque d'interprètes de la Capitale-Nationale (BICN), Be Active Québec (BAQ), La Ville de Québec, the Federal Public Service, and many more!

50+ activities



Heather McRae
Project Coordinator

Seniors Out and About

This project provides English-speaking seniors with free transportation to community activities and outings. The objective of this program is to reduce isolation of seniors in our community while helping them to continue living autonomously. A small bus is used to transport the seniors while a VEQ staff member greets them at their door and accompanies them to the bus. In 2016, 34 outings were organized to various community events and activities such as the sugar shack, the Musée des Ursulines, blueberry picking on l'Île d'Orléans and visits to local spots such as the Marché du Vieux Port, shopping trips to the mall and taking the ferry to Lévis.



Seniors Out and About

Technology Workshops

This year VEQ was proud to host two series of technology workshops for seniors of the English-speaking community. These activities were hosted at Québec High School and featured high school students teaching members of the community how to improve their skills with computers and mobile devices. Ranging from topics such as Snapchat and Instagram to downloading apps, these seniors were eager to learn. Each workshop was followed by hands on training sessions and each participant received a hand out with information and tips for each topic.



Technology Workshops

The program was even featured on CTV, highlighting community members like Isabel Sullivan and other seniors in this unique information exchange. Thank you to all of the participants and student instructors for their time and we look forward to holding another series of classes in the future. A total of 15 workshops took place with 52 seniors and over 60 high school students participating in this project.

50+ activities

Québec ami des Aînés (QADA)

Thanks to funding from the Ministère de la Famille through the Québec ami des aînés program, VEQ undertook a two year project to promote social participation among English-speaking seniors in the Quebec City region.

In order to achieve this, VEQ formed a steering committee comprised of seniors actively involved in the community and community partners who work with seniors. This committee helped oversee the project, evaluated the overall effectiveness of our activities and provided feedback to better meet the diverse needs of our community's seniors.

In early May, we compiled a list of all the social participation opportunities for English-speaking seniors in Quebec City. Shortly thereafter, VEQ held its first steering committee meeting. Throughout the year, a total of six committee meetings were held to discuss and evaluate various activities within the community, develop a communications plan, and brainstorm possible changes or additions to activities to increase social participation among seniors.

As a result of this ongoing initiative, an online calendar and a phone line have been created to advertise the majority of social activities (50+) for English-speaking seniors in Quebec City.



LIFELONG LEARNING QUEBEC

This year, VEQ partnered once again with the Quebec City Reading Council (QCRC) to bring the Life Long Learning program to the active seniors of the English-speaking community. Lifelong learning provides opportunities for growth and intellectual stimulation for mature learners (predominantly seniors), placing an emphasis on idea exchange, peer learning, and inclusive participation.

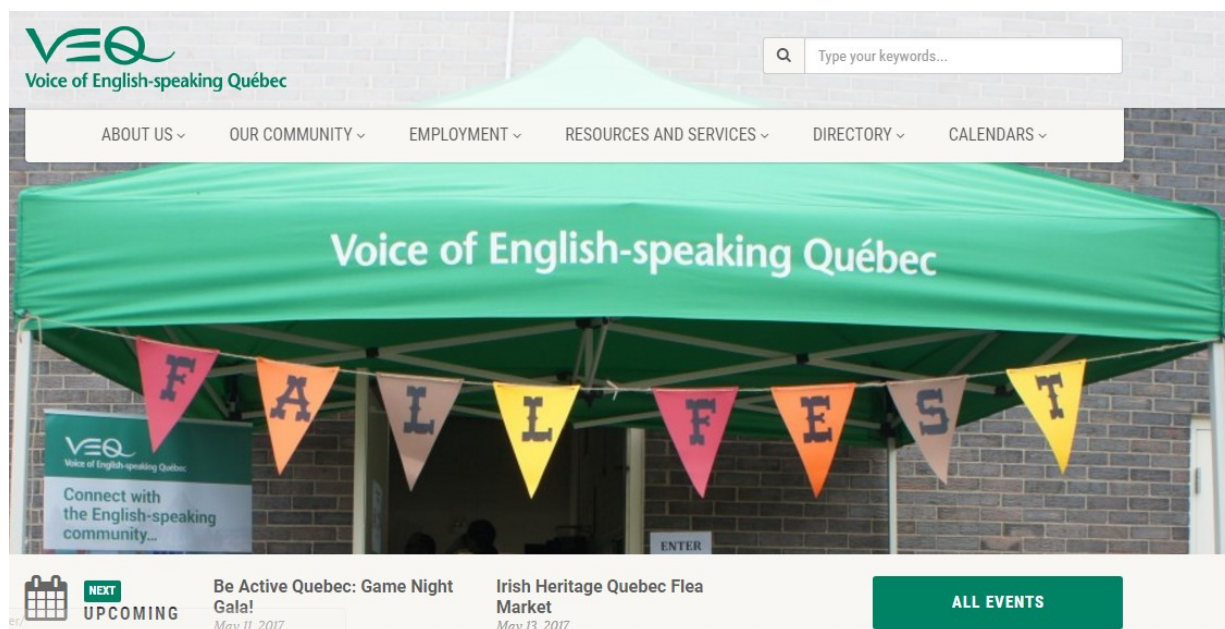
This season was launched in January 2017 with a tea and it was the largest group to date. Membership grows as word of mouth brings new participants year after year. The tea was quickly followed by a wine tasting at the Eastern Québec Learning Centre, a trip to the Fine Arts Museum and many more events that will continue into the Fall after a summer break. We thank all of our wonderful participants and guest hosts who come up with creative, interesting topics to present to our knowledge-hungry membership.

Website and Social Media

Key features from the website continue to be updated regularly such as:

- The **Job Bank**, which is one of the most frequently viewed parts of the website
- The online version of the **Community Connection Directory** with options to download the entire directory or view the listings directly online
- The **Newcomers Information** section, providing useful tips about such topics as Activities, Health Care, Immigration, Services, Utilities, etc.
- The **Upcoming Events** page, listing interesting activities happening in the English-speaking community
- **NEW Calendars!** This year, VEQ added two new calendars highlighting specific opportunities for volunteering as well as activities geared towards seniors.
- The **Community Bulletin Board** section where members can post information on the website for free
- There is also a direct link to VEQ's **Facebook** page, a growing resource for connecting with our community—now with over 1,750 followers—an increase of over 30% from the previous year!

VEQ also switched to web-based database system **Mailchimp** for membership emails. This program allows VEQ to more easily track its membership and create mobile-friendly emails with more interesting design options.



Be Active Québec



Jean Nivischiuk
Be Active Québec
Coordinator



Be Active Québec (BAQ) is a collaboration between Québec en Forme and the many partner organizations of the English-speaking community. BAQ's goal is to promote better lifestyle choices by encouraging healthy eating habits and physical activity for Quebec City youth aged 0-17. BAQ collaborates with community-based organizations like the Jeffery Hale Community Services and Community Partners, the Wellness Centre, Valcartier Family Center, Central Québec School Board, parent organizations like Moms' Nite-out, the Eastern Québec Learning Center, Quebec City Reading Council, volunteers and the Voice of English-speaking Québec.

BAQ was a powerful presence in the community this year, attending events such as the CQSB cross-country run, VEQ's Fall Fest, sponsoring the Vieux Québec Feis and many more. They co-hosted multiple Moms' Nite-out events focused on family friendly activities. In October, BAQ hosted a haunted tour of the Plains of Abraham. December brought a Christmas party that allowed families to enjoy healthy snacks and Santa Claus. BAQ hosted several family ice skating events at various public rinks around Québec. In close partnership with

the VEQ Newcomers program, BAQ hosted a welcome picnic in the summer and snowshoeing event over the winter. BAQ worked extensively with programs like Take-a-Break and Travelin' Toddler Time to promote these community services and offer support.



Haunted Tour of the Plains of Abraham

Be Active Québec's work continued with the Central Québec School Board, getting involved in as many schools as possible. BAQ provided a smoothie bike demonstration to Desjardins and Holland School, supported a mental health awareness event at CEGEP St. Lawrence, the CQSB Track and Field Meet, Cross-country Run, CQSB flag football tournament and many more. Transportation and sponsorships were provided to six school teams in the Pentathlon des Neiges, continuing the long tradition of CQSB involvement.

Be Active Québec

The Fit & Fun Summer Camp celebrated its fourth year at St. Vincent Elementary School, welcoming an average of 55 children each week. The summer camp featured a daily smoothie from fresh ingredients for each child, a weekly cooking class and sports activities. The camp also hosted optional outings each Friday which were a great success, allowing the children to visit the Baie de Beauport, Station Duchesnay, the Québec Circus school, Centre Récréofun and Village Vacances Valcartier. The end-of-summer party was also a grand event that welcomed campers from the whole summer to celebrate together.



Fit & Fun Summer Day Camp 2016

BAQ hosted a variety of events for March Break, including snowshoeing, sledding and yoga. In May 2017, Be Active Québec will be hosting a Game Night Gala to celebrate their 5 year-long involvement with the English-speaking community.

Be Active Québec thanks all those who have participated in these events and have supported the program throughout the years, and looks forward to continuing our programs and encouraging

more of the community to take part in our health and fitness agenda in the future!



Travelin' Toddler Time



Pentathlon des neiges

I Volunteer/Je m'implique



Daniel Potter
Project Coordinator

Thanks to funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, VEQ was able to undertake a brand new project this year which set out to promote bilingualism and foster the establishment of stronger links between both linguistic communities in the Quebec City region.

Our objective was to host volunteer networking events to promote volunteerism and in addition create a calendar of volunteering opportunities for people of all ages interested in volunteering in their second language. Ultimately, our goal was for community members to feel more confident in their capacity to live and work in both official languages.

During the months of June and July, VEQ began the process of forming its steering committee and researching possible volunteer opportunities that could accommodate individuals who wanted to practice their second language.

Shortly thereafter, VEQ created an online calendar to advertise volunteer opportunities and organized its first networking event that presented one-time volunteer opportunities in both linguistic communities.

Throughout the rest of the year, VEQ organized and hosted two more networking events and a workshop where students from both linguistic communities heard from a motivational speaker who came to talk about how youth can get involved and the importance and benefits of volunteerism.



September 2016 Networking event

VEQ continued to promote volunteer opportunities from various organizations in Quebec City throughout the year.

On February 22nd, VEQ hosted its final bilingual volunteer networking event at Quebec High School, which highlighted different volunteer opportunities for people who want to work with youth in the region. As a result of this project, participants were able to establish links to start volunteering in their second language, meet new people and discover new resources and programs in the region centered on youth and seniors.

In total, 364 people participated throughout the year in the networking events, volunteer programs and activities in their second language.

Collaborative Community Mural

Thanks to funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, VEQ was able to offer community members of all ages an opportunity to participate in artist-led workshops, and illustrate on canvas what Quebec City means to them.

Our goal was to create a collaborative mural, resulting in a lasting and permanent exhibit that showcases our community's unique identity. A total of 77 participants shared their artistic creativity and painted a canvas. The project was carried out from June 2016 to March 2017 and concluded with a special event where all community members were invited to view the mural and receive a copy of the commemorative book that was created.

A special thank you to the artists, Gail Quinn, Laura Lee Bolger and Mary Robertson, who shared their time and expertise in the workshops. Along with the many community members who



**Launch Event
March 2017**

participated, they contributed in making this project a success. The mural can be seen on the second floor of the Jeffery Hale Pavilion.

A launch event was held in March 2017, in collaboration with the Digital Memories project, where over 70 community members gathered to view the mural and hear about the success of the project.

**VEQ Collaborative
Community Mural**

The objective of the Collaborative Community Mural project was to showcase our community's rich heritage and unique identity by providing an opportunity for members of all ages to illustrate on canvas what Quebec City means to them.

This project was funded by Canadian Heritage, through the Community Cultural Action Fund.

Thank you to all the participants who took part and shared their creativity, and to the artists, Laura Lee Bolger, Gail Quinn and Mary Robertson, who led the creative workshops.

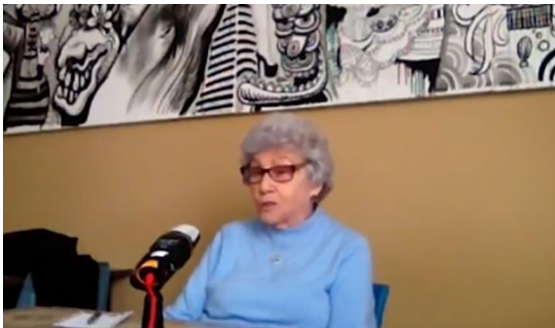
Each participant painted a 4" x 4" canvas, creating this lasting and permanent exhibit.

From top left corner

01. Marianne Delord Turcotte	27. Erin Marcella Murray	53. Shireen Pizarro
02. Sam Dupont	28. Jan Baran	54. Charles Pélissier
03. Kate Dupont	29. Ella Murray	55. Marguerite Fournier
04. Jessica Price	30. Eliza Brad	56. Henry Vachon
05. Louise Lacombe	31. Elise Doherty/Roberts	57. Noah Taylor
06. Lucie Flouffe	32. Charal Doherty/Roberts	58. Emma Allen
07. Christine Lussier	33. Wang Dandan	59. Alan Robinson
08. Anya Bilalger	34. Nadia Andri	60. Ross Plouffe
09. Leah Brabant	35. Shana Aguin	61. Stephanie Marchand
10. Ann Power Ford	36. Eliza Murray	62. Mona Angold
11. Lauren Piché	37. Amy Blodgett	63. Laura Pedersen
12. Jennifer Gossens	38. Frances Gossens	64. Marie Sade
13. Katrina Bagdon	39. Bill Cole	65. Gail Quinn
14. James Li	40. James Sinclair	66. David Baker
15. Isabel Sullivan Barry	41. Marc B. Copas	67. Tasha Davison
16. Jennifer Laro	42. Holly Smith	68. G. Sigurd
17. Jeremy Chagnippe	43. Nicole Blou	69. Laura Cormier
18. Emily Chagnippe	44. Malika Benati	70. Lucie Brad
19. Emily Murray	45. William Sanderson/De Tom	71. Elizabeth Murray
20. Alex Louge	46. Lucie	72. Laurence Kiggin
21. Gail Cole	47. Michel Girard	73. Brigitte Murray
22. Ann Power Ford	48. Fanny Doherty	74. Leanne Lavery
23. Jill Adams	49. Bill Cole	75. Stephanie Murray
24. Malika Chagnippe	50. Douglas Sanderson	76. William Laro/Bagdon
25. Phil Atkinson	51. Doreen Doherty	77. Jan Anderson
26. Egan Murray	52. Marissa Murray	

Digital Memories

Thanks to funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Voice of English-speaking Québec worked with a group of local students from Quebec High School on an intergenerational DVD project that brought seniors and youth together to learn about and celebrate the lives of the seniors in our community.



Senior interview

At the beginning of the project, a videographer met with the students and provided them with tips and techniques to help them carry out their interviews. The students came up with the questions and interviewed the seniors and filmed the interviews. They covered various themes and topics such as: being an English speaker in Quebec City, work, discrimination and activities.

Each interview was then edited and excerpts were categorized according to themes, resulting in a 45 minute DVD that honours the past and helps preserve the cultural heritage of our English-speaking minority community.

Community members were invited to a special launch event where they were given a copy of the DVD. Thank you to the teachers and students who believed in this



Launch Event March 2017

project and shared their time, and thank you to the seniors who shared their memories.



Senior interview



DVD cover

Partnership with Jeffery Hale Community Partners

VEQ has always had a strong partnership with the Jeffery Hale Community Partners (JHCS) and during the past year both organizations have worked together to coordinate valuable programs for the English-speaking community.

Take-a-Break Drop In Program

VEQ worked with Jeffery Hale Community Partners on their Take-a-Break Drop In program. This program offered a place for parents and their preschool children to get together two Friday mornings a month from 9:30 am to 11:30 am (November to May). Volunteers entertained children 18 months and older to give parents a break from child care, and gave them a chance to socialize and listen to guest speakers. Babies under 18 months were welcome to stay with parents in the parent's space. This year, 11 sessions were held with 79 children and 81 parents attending. We are proud of our 40 volunteers who contributed a total of almost 106 volunteer hours.

Volunteer Income Tax program for Low Income Individuals and Families

VEQ coordinated the volunteer Income Tax program for low-income English-speaking individuals and families. Volunteers who enjoyed working with numbers and taxes received training and access to tax software free of charge and then worked hard to complete tax files for the 2016 tax year. The coordinator worked with the client and social worker, ensuring that the volunteers had all the appropriate information and the clients received the government benefits to which they were entitled. This year 32 tax files were completed. Volunteers gave approximately 40 hours of their time to complete the files.



Take-A-Break Drop In Program

Summer Student and Interns

Summer Student

VEQ received funding through the Young Canada Works program to hire a summer student to work with the staff on projects and activities throughout the summer. The Young Canada Works program funds organisations to hire students from the linguistic minority. VEQ was fortunate to have Emma Ahern join the team for the summer. Emma's main task was working with seniors participating in the Seniors Out and About Program. She planned a number of activities for the participants, created a calendar of activities, and accompanied the seniors on the outings. Emma also provided support on several other projects and community initiatives throughout the summer.

with administrative tasks such as data entry and document filing. We were thrilled to have her with us.



Emma Ahern

Interns

For three years now, VEQ has been extremely fortunate to have Geraldine Poulin as an intern each week during the school year. Geraldine is a student at Quebec High School who spends Fridays with the staff at VEQ to help around the office. She is an important member of our team who is always smiling and there to help whenever we need her. Her main duties are planning the themes and crafts for the Take-a-Break program and participating in both the Take-a-Break and Chit Chat Club program.



Geraldine Poulin

At the end of April 2016, for a period of three weeks, VEQ also welcomed Mélinda Noël, a student from Eastern Quebec Learning Centre. Mélinda provided valuable support by answering and dispatching incoming calls, and assisting

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the administrators of
VOICE OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUÉBEC (V.E.Q.)

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary balance sheet as at March 31, 2017 and the summary income statement and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and unaudited schedule of revenues and expenses, are derived from the audited financial statements of VOICE OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUÉBEC (V.E.Q.) for the year ended March 31, 2017. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated May 25, 2017. Those financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for non-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of VOICE OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUÉBEC (V.E.Q.).

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statement.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of VOICE OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUÉBEC (V.E.Q.) for the year ended March 31, 2017 are a fair summary of those financial statements.



RDL Légaré Mc Nicoll Inc.¹
Chartered Professional Accountants Corporation

Québec,
May 25, 2017

¹ Paule Mc Nicoll, CPA auditrice, CA

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d'expertise comptable!**
Victoriaville / Thetford Mines
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RDL Légaré Mc Nicoll inc. est une entité
juridique distincte et indépendante qui
n'est pas associée ni mandataire des
autres entités membres du Groupe RDL.

GROUPE RDL[™]
grouperdl.ca
info.quebec@grouperdl.ca

Treasurer



**Revenues and Expenses
For the Year Ended March 31, 2017**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
REVENUES		
Grants and Contribution Agreements		
Operating Government Grant	152 000	152 000
Other grants and contributions	239 223	226 108
Charitable Sector	12 709	35 798
Other restricted income	6 000	6 500
Unrestricted Income		
Summer camp	45 145	37 905
Partners		43 000
Other Revenues	5 085	9 899
	<u>460 162</u>	<u>511 210</u>
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	283 055	345 723
Honorarium	24 702	29 732
Travel	24 828	35 023
Publicity	21 967	16 514
Operating costs	80 788	74 433
	<u>435 340</u>	<u>501 425</u>
SURPLUS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FOR YEAR	<u>24 822</u>	<u>9 785</u>

Prepared by RDL Légaré Mc Nicoll inc.

Treasurer



**Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2017**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	121 012	68 587
Accounts receivable	57 940	
Others		26 381
Government Grants receivable		10 000
Goods and Services Tax		2 194
VEQ Foundation		27 700
	<u>178 952</u>	<u>134 862</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS		
	<u>904</u>	<u>1 240</u>
	<u>179 856</u>	<u>136 102</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	23 312	11 675
Deferred revenue	37 504	30 209
	<u>60 816</u>	<u>41 884</u>
NET ASSETS		
NET ASSETS INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS	904	1 240
NET ASSETS NOT ASSIGNED	118 136	92 978
	<u>119 040</u>	<u>94 218</u>
	<u>179 856</u>	<u>136 102</u>

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**Changes in Net Assets
For the Year Ended March 31, 2017**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Invested in Capital Assets		
Balance - beginning of year	1 240	1 714
Surplus of revenues over expenses	-	-
Investments in capital assets	(336)	(474)
Balance - end of year	904	1 240
Not Assigned		
Balance - beginning of year	92 978	82 719
Surplus of revenues over expenses	24 822	9 785
Investments in capital assets	336	474
Balance - end of year	118 136	92 978
Total		
Balance - beginning of year	94 218	84 433
Surplus of revenues over expenses	24 822	9 785
Balance - end of year	119 040	94 218

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Unaudited Schedule of Revenues and Expenses For the Year Ended March 31, 2017

	V.E.Q.		Job bank / Others		Young Canada Works		Fall Fest		Seniors Out and About	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUES	<u>154,627</u>	<u>158,011</u>	<u>2,370</u>	<u>2,749</u>	<u>4,395</u>	<u>3,453</u>	<u>12,725</u>	<u>5,675</u>	<u>14,214</u>	<u>25,000</u>
EXPENSES										
Salaries and benefits	105,695	111,393	-	-	-	3,453	-	-	1,776	14,869
Salaries / Activities	-	-	-	-	4,395	-	2,350	-	-	-
Honorarium	6,369	5,436	-	-	-	-	4,929	4,970	1,000	1,000
Travel / Mileage	1,000	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel / Activity	1,612	714	-	-	-	-	742	-	7,938	4,933
Travel / Meetings expenses	3,438	3,836	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	647
Publicity	4,600	4,536	-	-	-	-	1,495	1,302	-	-
Operating costs	28,950	24,675	19	18	-	-	1,233	-	3,500	3,500
Other	989	474	-	-	-	-	1,999	-	-	-
	<u>152,653</u>	<u>152,564</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>4,395</u>	<u>3,453</u>	<u>12,748</u>	<u>6,272</u>	<u>14,214</u>	<u>24,949</u>
SURPLUS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES (EXPENSES OVER REVENUES)	<u>1,974</u>	<u>5,447</u>	<u>2,351</u>	<u>2,731</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(23)</u>	<u>(597)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51</u>

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**Unaudited Schedule of Revenues and Expenses
For the Year Ended March 31, 2017**

Partners	Quebec en forme 2017	Quebec en forme 2016	Quebec en forme 2016	Quebec en forme 2015	Summer Day Camp 2016	Summer Day Camp 2016	Summer Day Camp 2015	City Project	
<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
\$				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>43,000</u>	<u>36,313</u>	<u>13,863</u>	<u>43,468</u>	<u>25,744</u>	<u>66,370</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>50,479</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
43,000	27,822	10,703	33,761	11,171	-	-	-	18,700	15,692
-	-	-	-	-	32,577	-	33,431	-	-
-	1,000	-	285	850	525	-	150	550	940
-	400	766	1,156	372	-	-	-	420	210
-	482	-	-	-	4,300	-	3,747	-	-
-	-	-	375	-	-	-	-	740	680
-	-	-	193	-	-	-	-	2,028	178
-	2,000	25	1,800	2,230	4,076	-	5,367	2,570	2,300
-	4,609	2,369	5,898	11,121	4,999	411	3,639	-	-
<u>43,000</u>	<u>36,313</u>	<u>13,863</u>	<u>43,468</u>	<u>25,744</u>	<u>46,477</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>46,334</u>	<u>25,008</u>	<u>20,000</u>
-	-	-	-	-	19,893	-	4,145	(8)	-

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**Unaudited Schedule of Revenues and Expenses
For the Year Ended March 31, 2017**

	Citadel Newcomers		QADA Seniors	I Volunteer/ Je m'implique	Digital Memories	Collaborative Community Mural	www.aines -en-ligne
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUES	<u>1,995</u>	<u>10,798</u>	<u>28,085</u>	<u>35,750</u>	<u>38,220</u>	<u>25,050</u>	<u>36,570</u>
EXPENSES							
Salaries and benefits	1,995	10,798	19,857	21,000	22,250	13,935	27,720
Salaries / Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honorarium	-	-	1,489	2,949	3,482	2,409	2,500
Travel / Mileage	-	-	-	-	175	-	250
Travel / Activity	-	-	-	200	345	228	-
Travel / Meetings expenses	-	-	1,400	378	-	-	250
Publicity	-	-	2,839	5,674	2,698	2,633	1,850
Operating costs	-	-	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Other	-	-	-	3,150	6,955	3,345	1,500
	<u>1,995</u>	<u>10,798</u>	<u>28,085</u>	<u>35,851</u>	<u>38,405</u>	<u>25,050</u>	<u>36,570</u>
SURPLUS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES (EXPENSES OVER REVENUES)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(101)</u>	<u>(185)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

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**Unaudited Schedule of Revenues and Expenses
For the Year Ended March 31, 2017**

Table de concertation en immigration		Community Kitchen	Diversity of Voices	Executive Director Hiring	Health Passport	Join Forces for the Future	Total	
<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>1,185</u>	<u>5,978</u>	<u>3,495</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>41,185</u>	<u>460,162</u>	<u>511,210</u>
-	-	-	21,750	-	-	18,685	243,733	312,292
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39,322	33,431
-	2,687	3,007	2,000	1,407	-	4,500	24,702	29,732
-	-	-	250	-	-	750	2,761	4,488
-	3,291	-	-	-	-	4,500	15,847	17,185
264	-	-	500	312	-	6,750	6,220	13,350
-	-	-	5,000	774	181	2,500	21,967	16,514
-	-	-	2,500	-	-	3,500	52,373	48,390
-	-	-	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	28,415	<u>26,043</u>
<u>264</u>	<u>5,978</u>	<u>3,007</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>2,493</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>41,185</u>	435,340	<u>501,425</u>
<u>921</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>488</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,493)</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>	24,822	<u>9,785</u>

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Voice of English-speaking Québec

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