



MONTÉRÉGIE WEST
COMMUNITY NETWORK

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

A word from Pauline



25 years working to make a difference within my community

I am unsure of how 25 years has passed by so quickly. I began this organization as a community member wanting to bring people together who shared my passion for organizing and creating events, activities that did not exist within the English-speaking community and was available to all community members.

In 1999 the conversation began with the CLSC and NFSB as partners. In 2004 we received our charter and in 2005 we had our first New Horizon Grant for \$16,000.00 to have computer classes for Seniors at St-Willibrord school, thanks to the then Principal Bonnie Mitchell who also had a heart for lifelong learning and including community within the school.

In 2007 along came Chuck Halliday and a new partnership was created that would take us both to new heights and many new developments that would improve the life of students, teachers and intergenerational activities. We were then known as the Chateauguay English Community Network (CECN). In 2015 I was getting a little restless and was concerned that because this organization was not government funded, it was not sustainable. I thought about expanding the region from Chateauguay to include the whole Montérégie West. So, in 2016 the name was changed to the Montérégie West Community Network. Soon after we began to have conversations with funders in Health and Social Services who gave us some small grants to support English-speaking seniors. In 2018 we became fully recognized as the official representatives of the English-speaking community in Roussillon, Les Jardins-de-Napierville, Haut-St-Laurent (Chateauguay Valley), Beauharnois/Salaberry and Vaudreuil-Soulanges. This is a population of over 100,150 thousand English-speakers. In 2021 we received funding from the Provincial Government, Le secretariat des Quebecois d'expression anglaises. Our work is diverse and includes all ages. We have programs in Employability, Health and Social Services, Early childhood Education, Our Youth, Mental Health, Legal Workshops, Lunch and Learns, French conversation and much more. Our staff of 15 throughout our 5 offices are there to serve you, to support you and to include you in all our activities. Our many, many volunteers are eager helpers and make us strong and connected. We value all of you and we know that volunteers are the backbone of our community.

In conclusion I would like to thank all who have journeyed with me these last 25 years, the ups and the downs, the tears, frustrations have been the foundation of who we are today. Thank you to my family who have always been supportive, thank you to my wonderful team whom I am so honoured to work with. Now let's work together with a vision to include all, especially our most vulnerable community members.

Cheers, Pauline

Pauline Wiedow - Executive Director



May the Christmas candle's glow fill your heart with peace and brighten your New Year!



The MWCN Board of Directors and Staff wish you a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025!



Save the Date!



We are thrilled to warmly invite you to our second annual MWCN Job Fair, happening on March 25th, 2025, in the vibrant community of Saint-Chrysostome! This exciting event will be a fantastic opportunity for employers and employability partners from Montérégie West to connect with job seekers all in one welcoming space.

Building on the success of our inaugural MWCN Job Fair in March 2024, which attracted over 100 visitors and showcased 27 amazing local exhibitors, we are eager to bring you this second edition filled with even more opportunities.

Our primary goal for the Job Fair is to bridge the gap between local employers and regional employability partners across diverse industries with eager job seekers in the area. We aim to address the demand for both short-term and long-term job opportunities as we look ahead to the upcoming seasons.

Excitingly, this event will also offer local youth a chance to explore summer job options, while providing opportunities for job seekers of all ages. Employers will have the opportunity to share their job openings with potential candidates, and community employability partners will be on hand to support job seekers with valuable resources.

Plus, employers will have the chance to conduct on-the-spot interviews, and our Employability Partners will offer essential information about services designed to help job seekers aged 16 and older successfully re-enter the workforce.

We can't wait to see you there and help you take the next step in your career journey!



Joanne Basilières -
Employability & Mental Health Coordinator

MWCN 25TH ANNIVERSARY

GALA

Saturday, November 9th, we held our 25-year Anniversary Gala at the MOCO Hotel in Valleyfield. MWCN was founded in 1999 as the Chateauguy Focus Group. In 2004, the group became The Chateauguy English Community Network (Le Réseau Anglophone de la Communauté de Chateauguy) The “CECN”. Since May, 2016, we have been known as the Montérégie West Community Network; the MWCN! MWCN is a non-profit organization with a mandate to build a strong and dynamic English-speaking community working closely with our francophone partners and our Native American neighbors.

For the event to be successful we formed a committee who worked for several months to make sure every aspect of the event was covered. Pauline Wiedow, Tonya Wright, Nadya Kovacs, Bryanna Wilson were the staff on the committee & Susan Parker, Sherry Comeau, Carolyn Galloway were the representatives on the committee from our Board of Directors. From our first meeting in August to our very last meeting just days before the event, the committee worked on the location, the food, entertainment, favors, centerpieces and sponsors/ gifts for the event.

We had a total of 112 attendees on the night of our gala, consisting of staff, past and present board members, funders, partners, members of parliament & community members. The event started with a cocktail hour, where our guests enjoyed our signature drink “The MWCN Sparkler”, and then we were welcomed into a transformed ballroom where the colors Blue, Silver and White were seen on our tables & on the stage. The event opened by speeches given by Tracy Wilkins (MWCN’s President) Pauline Wiedow (MWCN’s Founder and Executive Director) and Chuck Halliday (Member of our Board of Directors & Partner from NFSB). The speeches highlighted the success and growth of MWCN and congratulating Pauline Wiedow on the success and impact she has had in the community. During the meal service, several speeches were given by Jennifer Johnson (Executive Director of CHSSN), Russell Kueber (Director of Programs) Ms. Brenda Shanahan, M.P. (Current Member of The House of Commons - Châteauguy—des Jardins de Napierville), Mr. Peter Schiefke, M.P. (Current Member of The House of Commons - Vaudreuil—Soulanges), Patrick O’Hara (Representative of Claude DeBellefeuille - Députée du Bloc Québécois - Salaberry-Suroît) and Peggy Mayo (Partner from Kahnawake) & Matt Mardini (MWCN’s Program Manager) sang two beautiful songs dedicated to Pauline Wiedow. Once the meal service was complete, door prizes were awarded to several guests and our DJ J.A.Gamache got everyone up to dance and celebrate the huge milestone. The night was captured by Photographer Valerie Pyke.

We'd like to highlight the sponsors and the organizations who graciously supported this event by giving monetary donations & prizes to be won throughout the evening.

Carole Mallette - Députée de Huntingdon à
L'Assemblée nationale
Imprimerie Ressources Illimitées Inc
Ville de Huntingdon
Claude Comeau
Hôtel MOCO Valleyfield
Manoir D'Youville
Ristorante La Vista
Boutique C & S Promotions Inc.
Events 2 Flaunt
Multi-Pret- Jacqueline Belec
Quincaillerie A Pouliot
Livingstone Brewery
Kahnawake Brewery
Brasserie Barabás
Distillerie 3 Lacs
Vignoble le chat Botté
Livestock Breeders Association
LIVE EDGE DEPOT
Taverne de la ferme



Hôtel MOCO Valleyfield



A big thank you to everyone who celebrated the evening with us and our committee for working tirelessly to make sure the night was a success. To our funders & partners, thank you for your dedication and support to our growing organization! Here's to another 25 years!

Tonya Wright - Executive Assistant



Honoring Danielle Boak and Lisa De Repentigny: Stars of Montérégie

Congratulations to two very deserving people in the Montérégie region who received special recognition as part of the Star Program, Danielle Boak and Lisa De Repentigny. The Star Program is an initiative of the Regional Health and Social Services Partnership Table which honors individuals who make outstanding contributions to the health and well being of Montérégie's English-speaking community. It celebrates the hard work of healthcare professionals as well as community volunteers who consistently go the extra mile to support the residents of the Montérégie- West communities.

Danielle was nominated by one of her colleagues from the NFSB, for her dedication to her students and the Montérégie-West community. As a teacher at CVCEC Danielle ensures her students are skilled bilingual health care professionals ready to support community members. Danielle is passionate about teaching and is committed to bringing learning opportunities to our area, she consistently goes above and beyond.

Lisa was also nominated by one of her colleagues at the Huntingdon Long Term Care Center, (CHCH) Lisa is the Technicienne en Éducation Spécialisée - Service Animation des Loisirs. Her dedication to the Resident's is unwavering. Lisa has built a strong team of community volunteers to assist her with the endless activities she creates and carries out. Always planning that next event, to keep the residents busy as well as activities to bring family members into the Center to enjoy special events with their loved ones.

We are very fortunate to have both Lisa and Danielle demonstrate exceptional commitment to our area. Thank you ladies, for all you do.



Nora Donnelly - Outreach Coordinator, Huntingdon

Sometimes we need to take a break!

From May - August 2024, I was employed as a summer student for the Vaudreuil-Soulanges office in Pincourt, and shortly after became part of the team as a permanent part-time employee.

I work 2 days a week and have classes at John Abbott College the remaining 3 days. With all the school and homework that I do, it was nice to sit down, take a break, and forget about all the assignments that were due and enjoy making a dried flower arrangement with some of our MWCN members on November 14th.

With the help of Heidi Whipple, our Craft volunteer, we all spent a wonderful hour and a half making our own dried flower arrangements for the Christmas holidays. Each arrangement was so unique and gorgeous, and every one of us not only enjoyed the time spent relaxing together, but we also had a blast making them!

Alexa Killen - Office Assistant - Pincourt



Youth Entrepreneur Fair

On Saturday, November 23rd, the Vaudreuil-Soulanges office hosted its first-ever Youth Entrepreneur Fair. To ensure a successful experience, MWCN provided free tables to all the youth entrepreneurs. With 10 youth participants and over 100 community members visiting throughout the day, the Youth Entrepreneur Fair was a fun and successful event.

The event featured a diverse group of students in elementary, high school, and cégep, who were all very eager to participate. They had a wide variety of items for sale, including, jewelry, soaps, crochet items, baked goods, and hair accessories. For many of the youth, this was the first opportunity they had to display and sell their items in a public setting, making the event an exciting milestone for them.

This event was not only an excellent opportunity for our local youth to showcase their small businesses but also allowed MWCN to engage with this age group to promote our mission as a community organization. It was a great day filled with creativity, entrepreneurship, and community spirit!



Bryanna Wilson - Outreach and Project Coordinator - Pincourt

MWCN celebrates Early Childhood Week

During the week of November 18th-24th MWCN celebrated Early Childhood Week. This week is a chance to advocate for our youth and to promote youth through various activities and events. MWCN offered a variety of activities this week in our offices.

Our Chateauguy office hosted an event with Pat's Pet Show for families to come and enjoy an evening together while learning and seeing reptiles. We hosted 9 families, consisting of children aged 6 months to 7 years. It was a great evening! Upon leaving the activity, the families were given a jar filled with dry ingredients to make brownies at home as a family.

The Huntingdon office welcomed 10 children, ages 1 to 6, along with their mothers or grandmothers. The event began with a wonderful yoga session led by Jen, a local yoga instructor. We then enjoyed reading two inspirational books: I Am Enough and A Little Space for Me. To end the day, each child had the opportunity to create their own "little space" by making a soothing bottle. It was a truly special and engaging experience for everyone!

The Hemmingford office celebrated the 0 to 5 children of our community with a wonderful Mommy and me painting class. Three new moms attended the class for a morning of paint, snacks and fun. The babies that attended were a little small to paint but with their mom's help managed to be little Picassos for the morning. The moms enjoyed celebrating their little ones and sharing baby knowledge.

Tina Calvarese, Nadya Kovacs & Tonya Wright



MONTÉRÉGIE WEST COMMUNITY NETWORK

Our Offices in Five Regional County Municipalities

Roussillon - 255 Blvd. d'Anjou, Suite 203, Chateauguy QC J6J 2R4 / 450-691-1444

Beauharnois - 380 Boul de Melocheville, Melocheville, QC J0S 1J0 / 450-691-1444

Vaudreuil-Soulanges 117 Cardinal Leger, Pincourt, QC J7W 7A8 / 514-425-0399

Haut-Saint-Laurent/Chateauguy Valley - 72 Dalhousie, Suite 201 Huntingdon, QC J0S 1H0 / 450-264-3596

Jardins-de-Napierville - 476 Rue Frontière, Hemmingford, QC J0L 1H0 / 514-249-5539