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# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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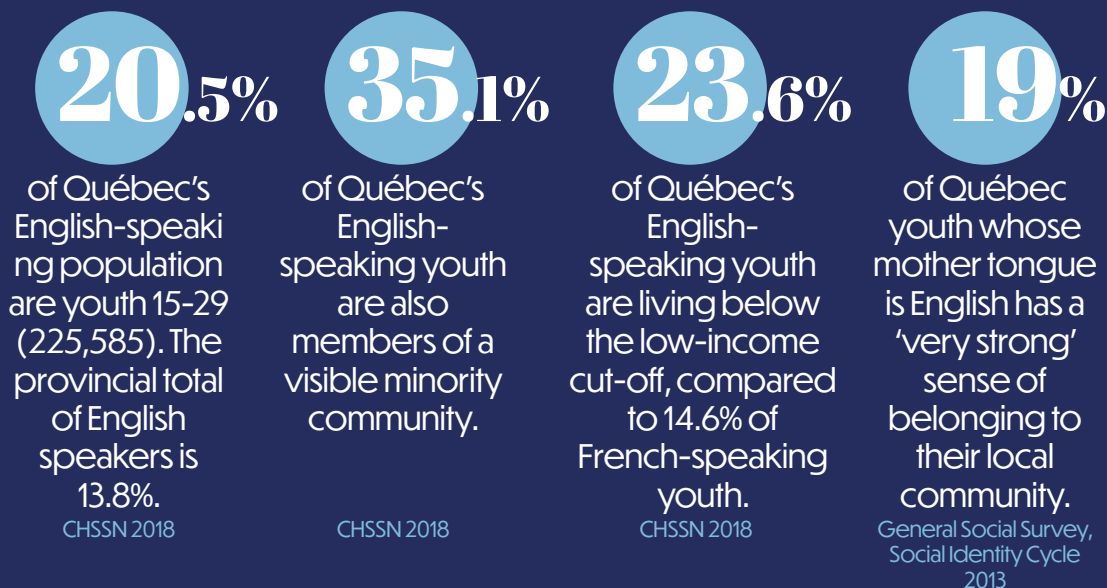
# MISSION STATEMENT

Youth 4 Youth Québec (Y4Y) is a provincial non-profit youth network committed to addressing the issues facing English-speaking youth (ages 16-30).

# OBJECTIVES

- to provide a platform to share information on resources, training, networking opportunities, and employment services for English-speaking youth;
- to support English-speaking youth in accessing support resources and networks with the help of regional ambassadors across Québec, including opportunities to engage with the French-speaking majority;
- to provide a vehicle for youth to take leadership roles in their community, and inspire their peers to become involved in influencing public policy;
- to ensure that all language groups are equally represented in Québec society with the goal of optimizing employability, the acquisition of French language skills, as well as social and economic integration;
- to create a strong sense of belonging to the community so that all youth will feel a part of Québec society.

# STATS



Not only have Anglophones lost a relative socioeconomic advantage in comparison with Francophones over recent decades, but also there are widening gaps within the Anglophone population itself.

Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec  
2012

# .PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear members and distinguished guests,

Welcome to the 2020 Y4Y Québec AGM! This past year was another one of rapid growth for our organization as we defended the right to high-speed Internet access for all English-speaking youth, the preservation of urban and interurban transit systems, a sustained access to government jobs and internships for prospective and recent graduates. We also recognized the important place of English-speaking international students and young immigrants in our community with a new study about this cohort's levels of awareness of English-language services available to them in Québec.

Our work of representation was carried out this year with the idea of creating a flag for English-speaking Quebecers, creating a space for Inuit youth in Nunavik to get involved in their local communities, and creating a youth engagement forum around art. Sadly the COVID-19 global pandemic has postponed some of these events and has made it necessary to implement changes such as going virtual. I look forward to attending these and I thank our staff for adapting these activities.

Next year, our grassroots organizing will take on a new level as we get ready to host a Priority-setting summit for English-speaking youth. We're structuring our representation so that each region of Québec will have a voice at the summit, and so that each region has the support of Y4Y Québec to strengthen the local network of English-speaking youth.

I wish the next board the best of luck in increasing the adhesion of organizational members, adopting a fundraising action plan, and continuing to stand up for English-speaking youth in Québec as Canada recovers from the pandemic.

Malcolm Lewis-Richmond

President | Y4Y Québec



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Y4Y Friends and Supporters,

The trials that the events of the past year imposed on both community members and organizations are unquestionably the “faits marquants” of 2020. Through multiple consultations with the English-speaking youth community, Y4Y came to understand the many ways in which young Quebecers were affected in their personal, professional and academic lives by the drastic changes in our society. From our colleagues and partners in community organizations across the province, we learned about the vulnerabilities that have been exacerbated and revealed by the crisis that changed everything this year. Youth were not immune to any of the effects of the pandemic, and for good reason, mental health has emerged as the pre-eminent concern among the population whose needs Y4Y Québec represents.

In spite of this, Y4Y's leadership, staff, volunteers and membership were privileged to bear witness to incredible examples of the English-speaking community's resilience. When it became impossible to share thoughts and ideas, moments of kinship, and demonstrations of support in person, as we were used to doing as a network of like-minded community organizations, we didn't lose touch with one another. We altered the way we work together to effect change. When it became clear that certain portions of the population were suffering in a deeper sense than others, we focused our efforts and rallied around groups that address those needs. When we were told that loneliness was increasingly crippling for youth who were missing their friends, their families, their hometowns, their jobs, and their teachers, we adapted, and redefined outreach itself.

In a year unlike any other, I am prouder than ever to be an English-speaking Quebecer, whose multi-faceted community has shown the kind of strength, resolve and unity that is worthy of deep admiration. Beyond that, I am proud of the young people who have taught me so much this past year about ambition in the face of adversity, and who took action to serve the many communities with which they identify. As an organization, Y4Y has grown through the experiences of the past year, and it has been a privilege to be a part of it.

Adrienne Winrow

Executive Director | Y4Y Québec



# .BOARD 2019-2020



Malcolm  
Lewis-Richmond  
President



Jonathan  
Patton  
Vice  
President



Hayley  
Campbell  
Secretary



Jessica  
O'Doherty  
Treasurer



Alexander  
Gordon  
Director of  
Outreach



Shae-Lynn  
Roberts



Gabriela  
Navarrete



Edward  
Lai



Armani  
Martel



Madeleine  
Lawler



Christina  
Eyangos



Connor  
Macorin



# ACTIVITY REPORT

## COVID CONSULTATION SERIES

Over 150 youth from the ESCQ participated actively in y4y's covid-related webinar series. The youth participants made it clear through their engagement with the subject matter that they appreciated the opportunities to connect with their peers on such timely issues.

### 1. MAY 7

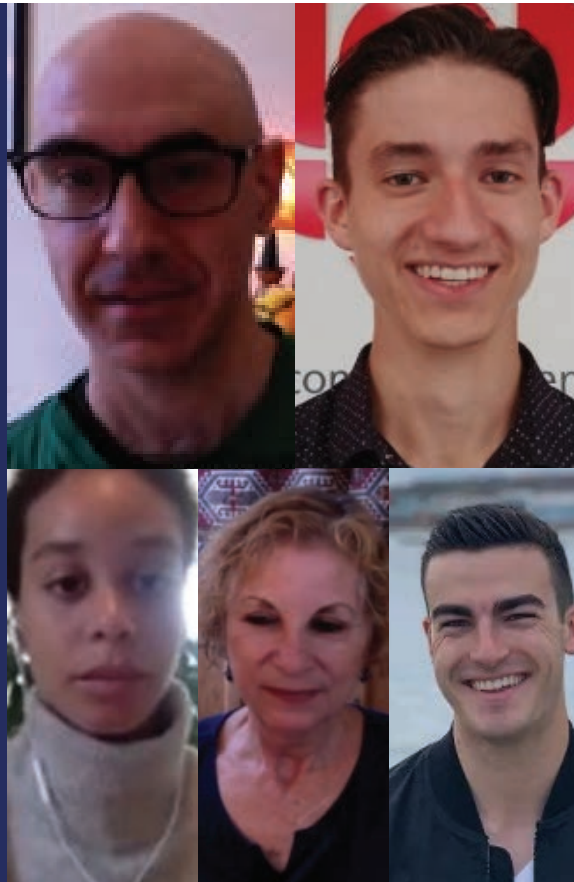
## ENGLISH SPEAKING YOUTH AND COVID-19: HOW HAS YOUR LIFE CHANGED? WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?



Chelsey Thomas, Ahmad Hamdan, Joanna Kanga, and Phil Barnes, our four Youth Panelists, opened the Webinar with a lively discussion about how their lives have changed since the pandemic began. 47 participants from across Quebec had the opportunity to gain insight into how youth in Quebec have been most affected by COVID-19. This first consultation helped Y4Y better direct its attention towards what matters most to our English-speaking youth communities.

## 2. JUNE 2

# ENGLISH-SPEAKING YOUTH AND COVID-19: MENTAL HEALTH, MEDIA MADNESS, AND THE 'NEW NORMAL'



Our second consultation brought together 56 youth and community leaders from across the province to discuss the “new normal” in terms of mental health. Led by Ella Amir, the Executive Director at AMI-Quebec, participants had the opportunity to talk about some of the mental health challenges that many are facing, and examine ways to manage them. We owe much of the success of this event to our special guests from the Prime Minister’s Youth Council; Brooks Roche, Nancy Mitchell and Conor McIsaac!

## 3. JULY 14

# ENGLISH-SPEAKING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT



We were honoured to have our third consultation joined by 5 Panelists; Liberal MP Anthony Housefather, Chairperson for the West Island Black Community Association Kemba Mitchell, CAQ MNA Christopher Skeete, Concordia President of the Young Liberals Jamie Fabian, and Apathy is Boring’s RISE Project Coordinator Camille Georges. Moderated by Joanna Kanga, the co-chair of Y4Y’s Montreal regional chapter, the discussion covered issues of employment and how to get youth more politically engaged. Our guests included youth, government officials and community leaders.



# PROJECTS

1. APRIL 2019 –  
MARCH 2020

## BEST PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR THE ENGLISH- SPEAKING YOUTH POPULATION IN QUÉBEC



Our project aimed to boost youth engagement and participation in community life across Québec. Y4Y went about this by engaging over 1,000 youth through a series of 30 community consultations, 12 focus groups, and a youth survey with 520 respondents. The final report presented the key findings from the survey, which targeted English-speaking youth ages 16 to 30, and collected quantitative and qualitative information on youth media consumption and community engagement activities. A set of recommendations for community organizations serving English-speaking youth population is presented in the final report, and a copy may be requested at [info@y4yquebec.org](mailto:info@y4yquebec.org).

# 2. OCTOBER 1, 2019 TO NOVEMBER 1, 2020

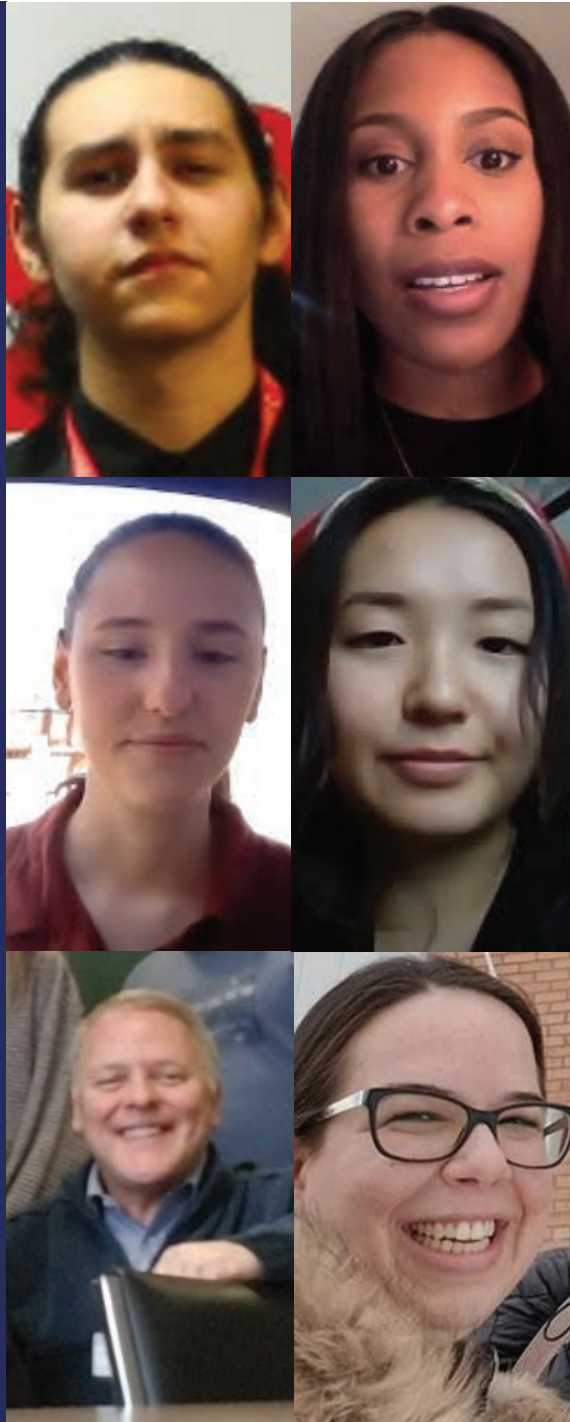
## PROJECT ALIANA



Because of the pandemic, Project Aliana was forced to deviate from its original plan and find new ways of accomplishing its goals. The Youth Forum in Kangiqsujuaq was rescheduled to take place virtually on September 24th as a panel discussion featuring Indigenous youth leaders and Mental Health professionals. Using connections and partnerships with many Nunavik community organizations, the team created a Community Mental Health Resource Guide for the region, a directory of social services available to anyone needing support. Among Project Aliana's new and promising partnerships is We Matter, a prominent Indigenous youth-led national organization dedicated to Indigenous youth support. The team is currently developing a video on Indigenous identity in Quebec with the province's Ambassadors of Hope. Project Aliana's facebook page has over 300 followers and the Community Resource guide has been shared by community and youth organizations across the country.

### 3. OCTOBER 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 2020

## PROMOTING THE VISIBILITY AND VITALITY OF QUEBEC'S EN- GLISH-SPEAKERS THROUGH THE CREATION OF AN OFFICIAL FLAG FOR THE ENGLISH-SPEAK- ING COMMUNI- TY OF QUEBEC (ESCQ)



Inspired by the flags of French-speaking communities across Canada, this project's primary goal is to create the first official flag that will serve to unite and represent Québec's English-speaking communities. It focused on mobilizing and engaging with the province's youth to identify the meaningful symbols that represent this multifaceted community and their place in Québec. Over 250 survey results were collected to select meaningful symbols as templates; 7 youth artists, alongside an 8 member advisory committee, worked together on flag designs. With feedback from dozens of English and French-speaking Québec organizations, and roughly 3400 votes, Y4Y emerged with its final design. Y4Y hopes to have the flag become a unifying symbol for the English-speaking communities of Quebec; both by increasing their sense of belonging to their linguistic minority community, and to the broader Québec society.

# 4. AUGUST 2020 TO MARCH 2021

## PRESENTING YOU ARE HERE: A NEXT-GENERATION APPROACH TO PROMOTING ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUÉBEC'S HERITAGE



This project aims to increase English-speaking youth's feelings of belonging to Québec society through two primary means; by creating exciting regionally-based events across the province, and by fostering powerful intergenerational conversations between local seniors and youth groups. These activities will run for an eight month period, focusing on seven regions: the North Shore, the Eastern Townships, Gaspé-les-Iles, Québec City, Outaouais, Abitibi, and Montréal. A Youth Cultural Ambassador from each of the aforementioned regions will be on the ground, assisting their young peers across the province to better understand and appreciate the local history and culture of English-speaking Québec.

# REGIONAL CHAPTER GROWTH

## 1. AUGUST 4, 2020

## EASTERN TOWNSHIPS REGIONAL CHAPTER MEETING



Members of Y4Y Quebec, interested volunteers and community organization executives met up for the first time in the region to discuss the formation of a new Y4Y Chapter. The meeting allowed Y4Y to do some outreach in the region and meet interesting individuals who are driven to make a difference in their communities. Y4Y Quebec plans on hosting another meeting for the region in the fall of 2020.

## 2. AUGUST 25, 2020

### BACK-TO-SCHOOL WEBINAR FROM THE MONTRÉAL CHAPTER



Part of the Chapter's mandate is to discuss the challenges youth face in their region. As CEGEPs and Universities are returning to class online, Y4Y's Montreal Chapter hosted an online workshop, with Gabriela and Gilbert from McGill University, providing tips and tricks on how to better manage your time online and how to ensure professionalism while working remotely.

## 3. FEBRUARY 15, 2020

### OUTAOUAIS REGIONAL CHAPTER MEETING



In mid-winter, the Outaouais Regional Chapter gathered for an afternoon of fun on the Rideau Canal. During their pizza dinner, a General Assembly was held and the Executive committee members of the Outaouais Regional Chapter were elected and priorities were set for the remainder of the year.



4.

# ENCOURAGING YOUTH TO JOIN EXCITING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS



The Y4Y team devoted much time and effort in mobilizing and recruiting English-speaking youth in order to attend various civic engagement-style events across the province. Staff, board members, and Y4Y volunteers participated in those featured above, from left to right - the Canadian Roots Exchange in Montréal; the Institut du nouveau monde's Winter School in Sherbrooke; CO-LAB in Sherbrooke; a virtual Bishops' Forum; and meeting with the Secrétariat des relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise in Québec City.

5.

# Y4Y MEDIA RELATIONS



Y4Y has spoken to various English and French media outlets across the province, both so as to promote our mission and raise awareness about the issues facing English-speaking youth. Examples of media which Y4Y provided content to or gave interviews with include CFIM radio on the Magdalen Islands; the Montréal Gazette; CTV News; Daybreak Montreal; Global News; CBC Radio Noon; Le 15-18, Radio-Canada; CJAD; MTL Blog; The Daily Hive; The Beat 92.5; NVL, Noovo; Quebec AM, and more.

# .CANCELLATION

## OF Y4Y QUÉBEC'S 3RD ANNUAL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FORUM

The Y4Y team wishes again to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to help create an event, which, due to a pandemic that continues to affect every aspect of our lives, was forced to be cancelled.



# • STAFFING NOTES

Y4Y had the pleasure of hiring some extremely dynamic, conscientious, and creative young individuals this past year. Kelly Weber joined Y4Y as the Coordinator for the Flag project in October of 2019. We are infinitely grateful to her for getting the project off the ground, organizing the Youth Advisory Committee, developing a marketing strategy, collaborating with youth artists and community partners to increase the public's engagement with the project, among many other important contributions.

Monalisa Paul, hired to replace another team member over the summer of 2019, moved the Best Practices for Engaging English-speaking Youth research project forward by creating informational materials and communicating with a wide variety of community partners. During her short time with Y4Y, Monalisa became a valued member of the team and remains active in the organization to this day.

Aaron Kalfon's connection to Y4Y began with his stand-out participation at the 2019 Youth Forum, which led to his active volunteerism, followed by an internship with Y4Y in association with his studies in Community and Public Affairs at Concordia University. During his time as an intern, Aaron became the Chairperson of the Montreal Regional Chapter of Y4Y Quebec, and built that entity into what it is today, a successful local branch of the organization.

Currently, Y4Y is fortunate to have one of the strongest teams of young professionals ever assembled. Alex Pettem, Kathleen Mulawka, Misé Johns, Nolan Godin, Maria Morais, Holly Nadeau, Gustavo Andrade, Milla Luchak, and Emily Bérard-Giasson strive to ensure that Y4Y's mission, vision, and values are brought to life through its projects. The staff team makes Y4Y's leadership proud every day, with their exemplary commitment to the cause, and to each other.





# CURRENT & PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The year ahead will certainly be a busy one for Y4Y. Here's a short list of the projects that are on the horizon:

## **You Are Here: A Next-gen Approach to Promoting ESQ's Heritage**

Affectionately referred to as the Belonging Project for short, this project will engage youth from across the province in a series of cultural activities designed to increase English-speaking youths' knowledge and understanding of their heritage. Youth Cultural Ambassadors from 7 regions will follow Cultural Learning Plans over the course of several months, create opportunities for inter-generational and cross-cultural exchange with community members, and share their experiences with peers across the province. The project is funded by the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise.

## **New Report on Community Vitality**

Y4Y will release the Community Vitality Report on English-speaking International Students in Fall 2020. Through the collection of data on rates of enrollment of international students at English-language post-secondary institutions in Québec, as well as polling international students who identify primarily as English-speaking, the report aims to measure the effectiveness of the systems and networks currently in place in Québec to support international students who may not speak French. Interviews are currently underway with English-speaking international students, whose personal experiences will be highlighted. This report is funded by Canadian Heritage.

## **Priority-setting Summit for the English-speaking Youth Community of Québec**

The Summit project will bring together youth from across the province twice in two years to engage in the process of creating a 5-year Strategic Plan for the English-speaking youth community of Québec. In partnership with The Institut du Nouveau Monde, Y4Y will ensure the success of a two-day youth engagement Summit in Gatineau in 2021, followed by a similar Summit in Québec City in 2022. The Strategic Plan will be based on the input of several hundred English-speaking youth from across the province who gather to take part in this proactive dialogue, with a view to ensuring the vitality of the community in the future. This project is funded by Canadian Heritage.

## **Giving Québec's English-speaking Youth A Voice and Platform through Podcasting**

The Podcast project is an exciting new endeavour involving youth from across the province in the creation of 10 unique episodes. The series will touch on themes such as "culture beyond screens", "youth engagement in times of crisis", "the performing arts" and "youth health & wellness", in order to illuminate regional youth perspectives on the English-speaking community's heritage and modern culture. Y4Y will be seeking Podcast contributors throughout the upcoming year, and broadcasting episodes every month. This project is funded by Canadian Heritage.

# • ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge the amazing contributions of our Volunteers, who worked many hours this year at events, serving on committees, and behind-the-scenes in the office as well. Y4Y's Board of Directors, all volunteers themselves, are extremely grateful to this group of dedicated and engaged young people. A huge thank you goes out to each and every one of them for helping to make Y4Y's mission a reality.

Y4Y would like to extend a special thank you to our Advisory Committee; Iris Unger, Candice Cartier, Julie Hobbs, Teresa Kaeser, Dr. Heather Lawford, and Anne Usher. They have each been an invaluable resource to the staff team and our volunteers, and we are deeply grateful for their contribution.

We wish to thank the Government of Canada and the Government of Québec for their generous contributions and continued support of our non-profit organization.

Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

Canada 

Québec 

# • GET INVOLVED

Y4Y Québec presents many opportunities for youth between the ages of 16 and 30. Those looking to make an impact in their communities can acquire new skills and experience as a volunteer with us. Taking part in some of many province-wide events that Y4Y hosts, they can join a growing network of youth leaders. Volunteers at Y4Y Québec can contribute to policy research, join our regional community writers, plan and host events and become better leaders in representing their communities.

**Dedicated youth, interested in volunteering opportunities, can consult our website at [y4yquebec.org/volunteering](http://y4yquebec.org/volunteering) or by email, [volunteering@y4yquebec.org](mailto:volunteering@y4yquebec.org).**



# .PARTNERS LIST

ACDPN: African Canadian Development and Prevention Network

**Arsaniq (Kangiqsujuaq High School)**

ACS: Association for Canadian Studies

**BCRC: Black Community Resource Centre**

CAMI: Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders

**Canadian Roots Exchange**

CEDEC: Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation

**Center of Excellence for Mental Health**

Centre St-Pierre

**Champlain St-Lawrence College**

CHSSN: Community Health and Social Services Network

**Coasters Association Inc.**

COCO: Center for Community Organizations

**Concordia University**

Dawson Boys & Girls Club

**Dawson College**

The Downie Wenjack Foundation

**ELAN: English-Language Arts Network**

FESFO: Fédération de la JEunesse franco-ontarienne

**Force Jeunesse**

Glencore (Raglan Mine)

**Golden Valley High School**

Headstrong

**INM: Institut du Nouveau Monde**

John F. Kennedy High School

**Kativik Ilisarniliriniq - School Board of Nunavik**

LEARN Qc

**Lavoie Solutions**

Lennoxville Youth Centre

**Maniwaki Native Friendship Centre**

MBAM: Musée des Beaux-Arts Montréal

**Montreal Indigenous Community Network**

NDG Community Council

**Neighbours' Association**

NSCA: North Shore Community Association

**NRBHS: Nunavik Regional Board Of Health Service**

Pivallianiq

**Playwright's Workshop Montreal - Young**

**Creators Unit**

Pontiac High School

**Prevention CDN-NDG**

QAHN: Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network

**Qarjuit Youth Council**

QUESCREN: Quebec English-speaking

Communities Research Network

**RAWQ: Regional Association of West Quebecers**

REISA: East Island Network for English Language Services

**ROCAJQ: Regroupement des Organismes**

**Communautaires Autonomes**

SAQ: Seniors Action Quebec

**Townshippers Association**

Université de Laval

**VCSA: Vanier College Student Association**

VEQ: Voice of English-speaking Quebec

**VGPN: Vision Gaspé Percé Now**

We Matter Campaign

**YES Montreal: Youth Employment Services**





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