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## REISACTION No. 29

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### **Increasing Visibility by Reaching Out to Elected Officials**

When Covid-19 made its way into our lives in late March 2020, REISA's team members began working from home. Perhaps a silver lining to the pandemic was the ease with which REISA was able to organize first encounters (virtual, of course) with 10 MNAs and 4 MPs over a nine-month period. These elected officials represent the 9 boroughs that make up REISA's territory: the East and North parts of Montreal.

REISA was met with motivation, open-mindedness, and a willingness to partner on initiatives supporting the English-speaking minority communities. Officials provided

knowledge and insight on the English speakers in their respective ridings, as well as referral to community groups that offer services to the ESC.

## A Helping Hand for Seniors



To combat isolation during the second wave lockdown, REISA helped deliver holiday care packages to members of Almage Senior Community Centre in November and December.



In addition, REISA partnered with the English Montreal School Board and the West End Intergenerational Network (WIN) to distribute over 840 handmade holiday cards to seniors living in NDG and the East and North of Montreal.

REISA would like to thank John Caboto, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, Leonardo Da Vinci and Honoré Mercier Elementary schools for producing over 170 cards for this initiative. We also would like to extend our thanks to the EMSB and WIN for their help in spreading some holiday joy during these difficult times—we're all in this together!

## McGill Dialogue

Now more than ever, staying current on the best health practices is vital. In partnership with McGill's Ingram school of Nursing, REISA helped organized virtual health information sessions for various community groups, including parents of the YMCA Saint-Laurent Daycare, teens and young adults of the Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre, and seniors of the McGill University Centre for Studies in Aging.

Presented by final year nursing students, the information sessions addressed topics such

as COVID for parents, Social Media Mental Health, *Ask Nurse Betty*, and Brainy BOMMER healthy aging.

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## Youth Employability Forum

**YOUTH  
PARTNER  
FORUM**



EMPLOYABILITY AND ENGLISH-SPEAKING YOUTH - AN EAST-NORTH EXCHANGE

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, REISA hosted it's second Youth Network Forum in a virtual format. The forum brought together 14 youth organizations- mostly the Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi located on the REISA territory. We are very pleased by the collaborative effort and dedication of our partners in addressing the challenges of youth employability in the East and North of Montreal.

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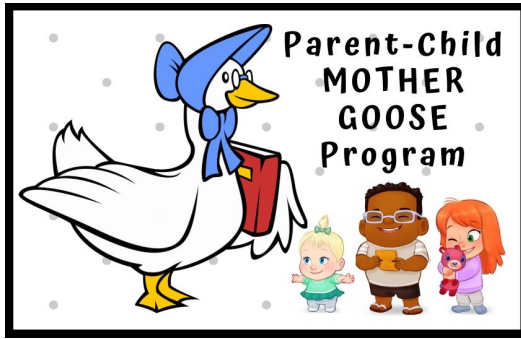
## Legal Workshops

REISA has organized three free, virtual workshops in partnership with the McGill Legal Information Clinic for groups at the McGill Centre for Studies in Aging, the Almage Senior Community Center and the Center for Dreams and Hopes. Furthermore, REISA teamed up with the McGill LEX (Law Education Connexion) Outreach Program to offer legal workshops to high school students. As it stands, two workshops are planned with two high schools in February on the topics of Employment and Labor Laws, and Crimes and Offences.

REISA partners with legal experts and associations to offer customized workshops that respond to the needs of the groups in question. Please do not hesitate to reach out to [programs@reisa.ca](mailto:programs@reisa.ca) to inquire!

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## Mother Goose Program



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, REISA had to pause Mother Goose sessions at the Rivière-des-Prairies library, though a positive relationship is maintained. REISA continues to develop partnerships in other boroughs including Saint-Leonard and Saint-Laurent, in order to bring the program to multiple communities once restrictions are lifted. REISA will be training three additional animators in the spring of 2021 so as to serve the growing need.

## Islands of Friends

Every year, children must embark on the formative transition from Pre-K to elementary school. To help ease this transition and help children cope with these changes, REISA, in partnership with Agence OMETZ, implemented a transition program in two pre-kindergarten classes at Nesbitt Elementary School and Gerald McShane Elementary School. The program consisted of a series of four different workshops that focused on personal space, whole body listening, emotion recognition, and emotional regulation.

The program was very well received and REISA aims to work with several other elementary schools in the East and North of Montreal.



## Mobile Screening Clinics

Be sure to check out [reisa.ca/events](https://reisa.ca/events) and the REISA Facebook page for all the latest updates on Covid-19 mobile screening clinics in the East and North of Montreal.

REISA Events

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## **REISA Website**

REISA has spent the past year making several changes and updates to our official webpage, including the addition of a new Resource Database. Follow the link below to search for health and social services by borough, category, or both!

**Resource Database**

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## **Celebrating 10 Years**

REISA was created 15 years ago and incorporated 10 years ago, making this year a very special year for the network. REISA's territory has expanded to include over 164,000 English speakers living in 9 boroughs. The network now manages 8 large-scale programs and receives funding from 6 different sources, including the Federal and Provincial governments.

REISA's work is more important and visible than it has ever been, through partnerships with community organizations, public institutions and political representatives in the CIUSSS du Nord and CIUSSS de l'Est territories.

To celebrate this milestone, the REISA team delivered thank-you packages to our very special partners who have made our continued success possible.

CHEERS TO SUCCESS!



Josie Primiani, Center of Dreams and Hopes



Luigi Santamaria, Rosemont High School



Gloria King, Almage Senior Center



Rosanna Padula, Almage Senior Center

TO MANY MORE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ESC!



Bobbie Variantzas, Gerry Tullio, Laurier Macdonald High School



Lucy Macias, Board member

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

THANK YOU CHSSN!



Maria Malolo, Italian-Canadian Community Services of Quebec



Howard Nadler, Board member



Theo Vecera, Don Bosco Youth Leadership Center

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PARTNERS!



Dominic D'Abate, Consensus Mediation



Ella Amir, AMI-Québec



INCORPORATED IN 2010!



Pat Buttino, Leonardo Da Vinci Center



# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF REISA

THANK YOU TO THE CHSSN, OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND PARTNERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND DEDICATION TO THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY IN THE EAST AND NORTH OF MONTREAL.



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