The South Shore
or Montérégie-Centre
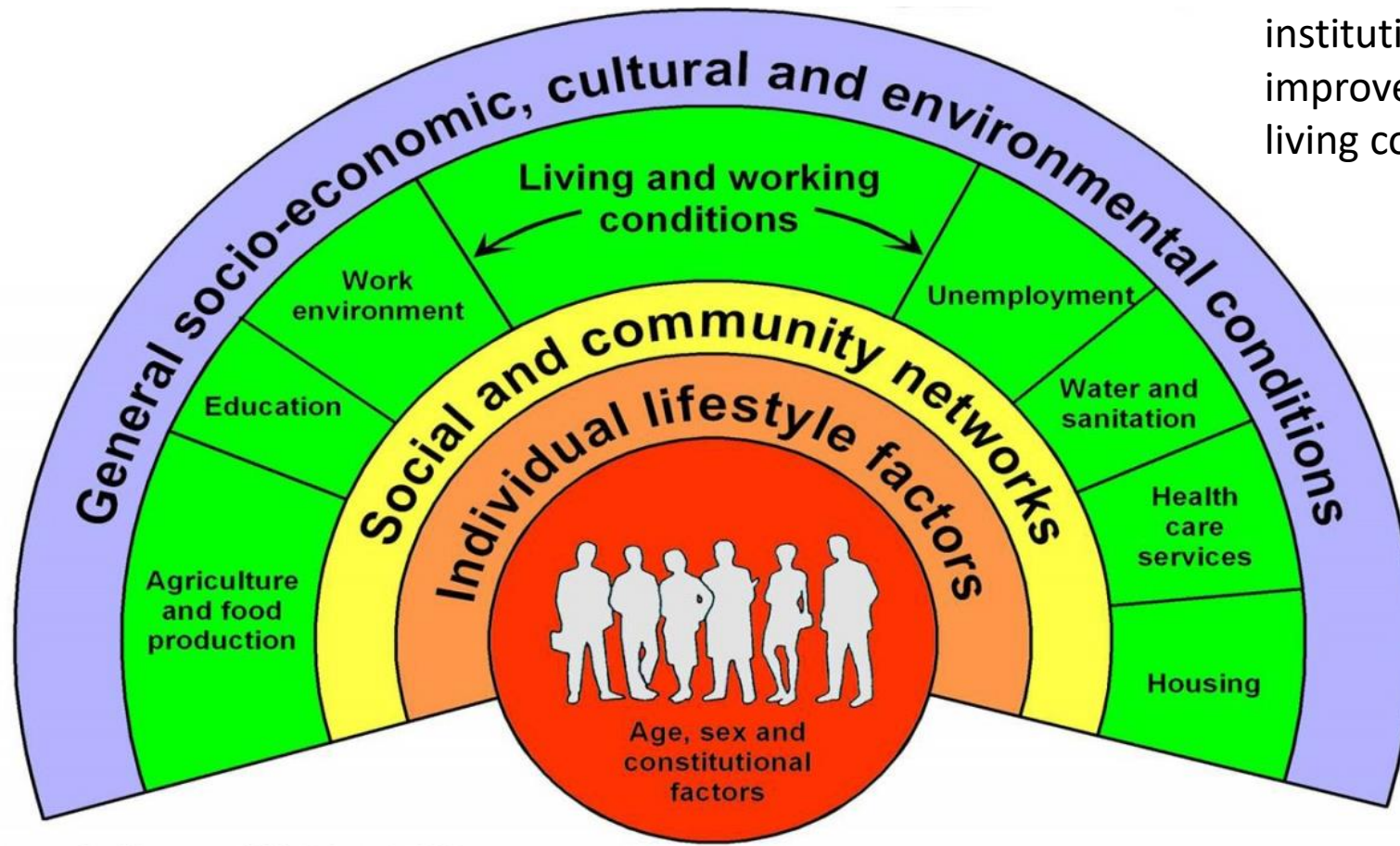
Towards a Portrait of the English-Speaking Community

By ARC and
Mary Richardson, consultant-anthropologist
May 2019

What is the purpose of this portrait?

- To contribute to a more in-depth understanding of the English-speaking community of Montérégie-Centre, in order to:
    - identify key issues for the community
    - determine the interests of the various stakeholders
    - find an idea that will bring people together (engagement)
    - form a working group
    - develop relevant local projects
    - prioritize
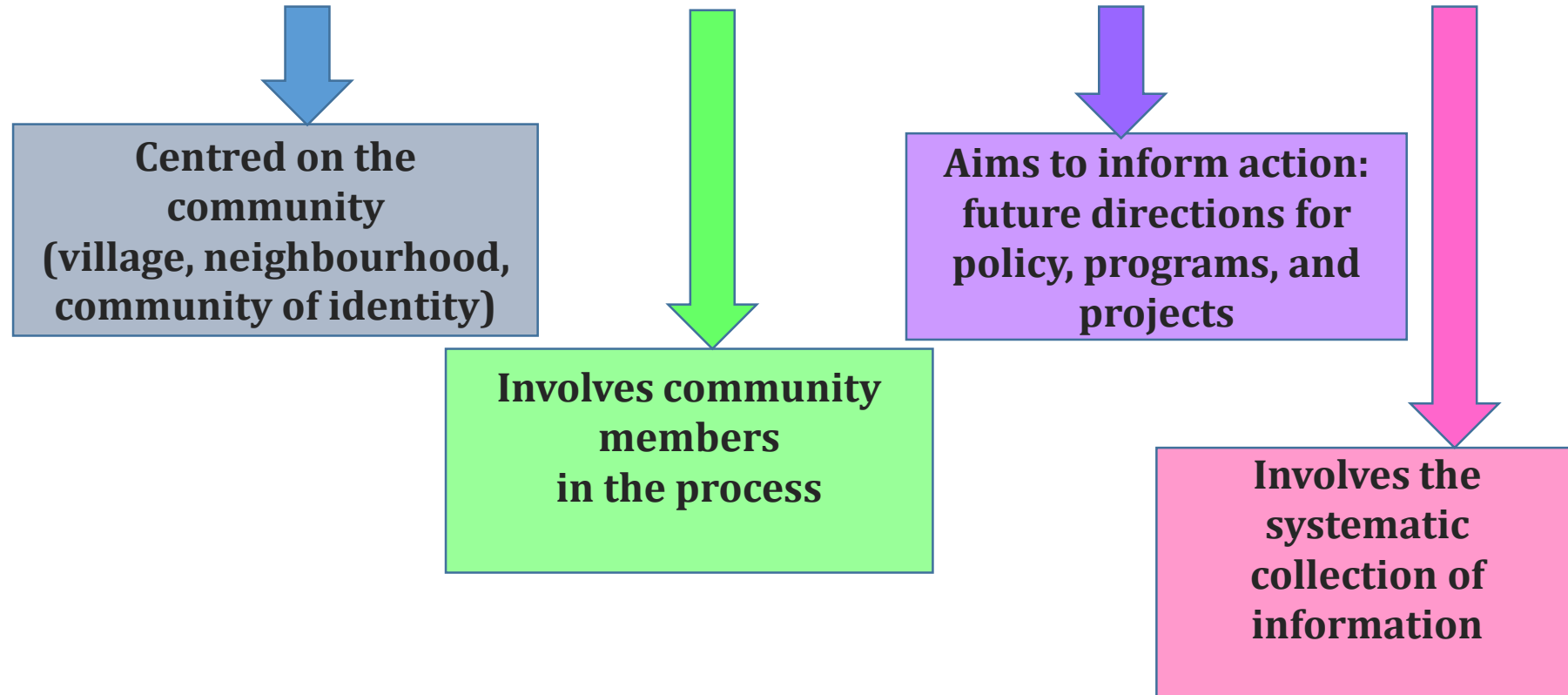
Community development

Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

"a voluntary cooperative process of mutual assistance and of building social ties between local residents and institutions, with the goal being to improve physical, social, and economic living conditions."

The Approach

Community-based participatory action research

Centred on the community (village, neighbourhood, community of identity)

Involves community members in the process

Aims to inform action: future directions for policy, programs, and projects

Involves the systematic collection of information

Premises

- The community is the expert on itself
- Participants develop knowledge, the ability to think critically, and a culture of learning
- Communities develop and identify local solutions
- This approach supports the empowerment of individuals and communities

What did we do?

- Gather material from past reports and other sources of information

- Compile key statistics from the 2016 census data

- Conduct an on-line survey January-February 2019

- Gather community perspectives:

group discussions

PORTFOLIO THÉMATIQUE

PORTRAIT DE SANTÉ DES ANGLOPHONES
ADULTES DE LA MONTÉRÉGIE

Direction de santé publique
Surveillance de l'état de santé de la population
Octobre 2014

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES
OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITIES
RTS DE LA MONTÉRÉGIE-CENTRE (1610)

BASED ON THE 2016 CENSUS OF CANADA

BASELINE DATA REPORT SERIES 2017-2018
PRODUCED BY DR. JOANNE POCOCK FOR THE
Community Health and Social Services Network

CHSSN
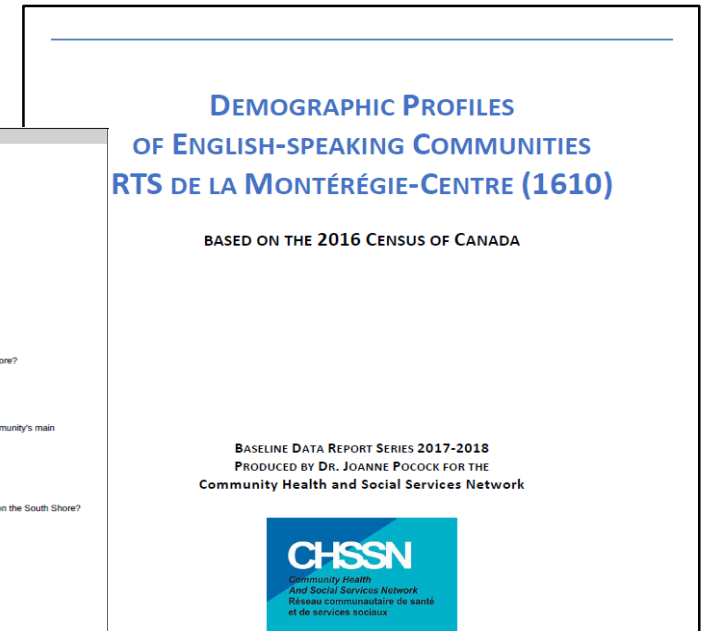
So what did we learn?

- CISSS data on the English-speaking population is high quality and helpful for ARC

- Survey data provided greater insight into the perspectives of community members, their needs and desires

- AND at the same time… the sub-population that completed the survey is not representative of the overall population of English speakers

- SO… what do we need to know now to better serve the local English-speaking population? Who do we want to reach out to?
  - 0-5 age group info.
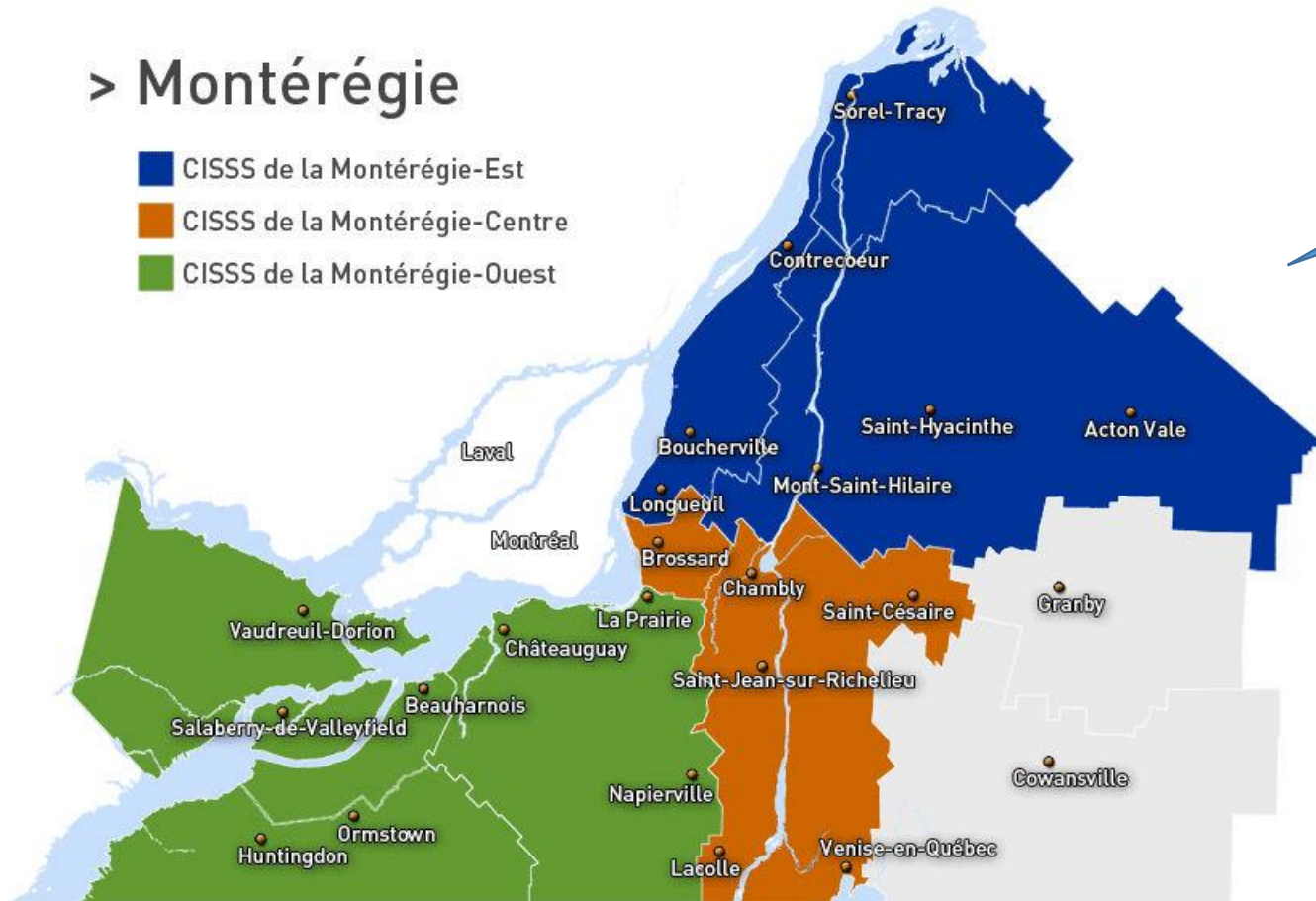
Health territories

Different realities!

RLS de Champlain
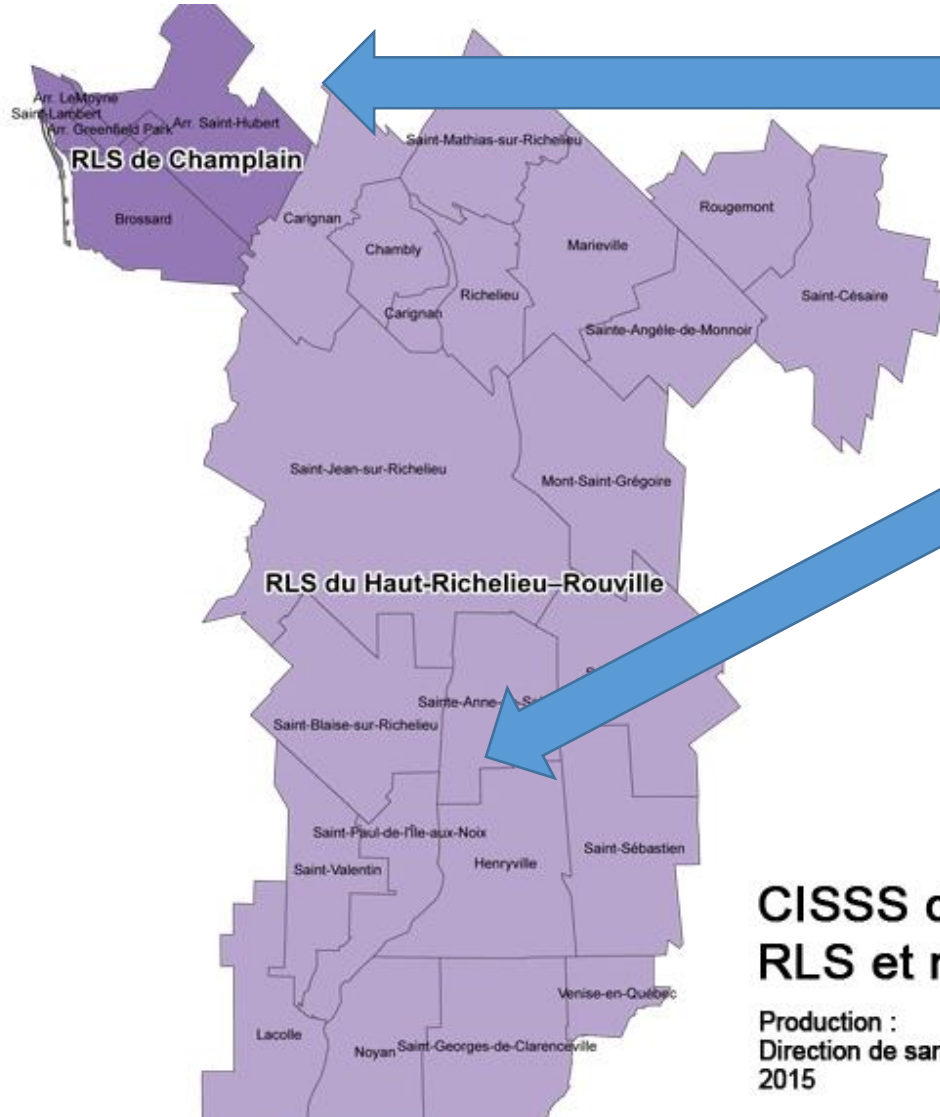
RLS du Haut-Richelieu–Rouville

CISSS de la Montérégie-Centre
RLS et municipalités

Production :
Direction de santé publique de la Montérégie
2015

What do the statistics tell us?

| RLS de Champlain	RLS du Haut-Richelieu–Rouville
Urban / suburban	Rural / small town
High % of English speakers	Low % of ES
Most ES live here	Small number and proportion of ES live here
English is not mother tongue for half of ES	English is mother tongue for vast majority
Almost half of ES are immigrants	Only 16% are immigrants
Higher educational attainment	Lower eduational attainment
Lower incomes	Higher incomes

Proportion of English speakers in Montérégie-Centre, by RLS and CLSC territory

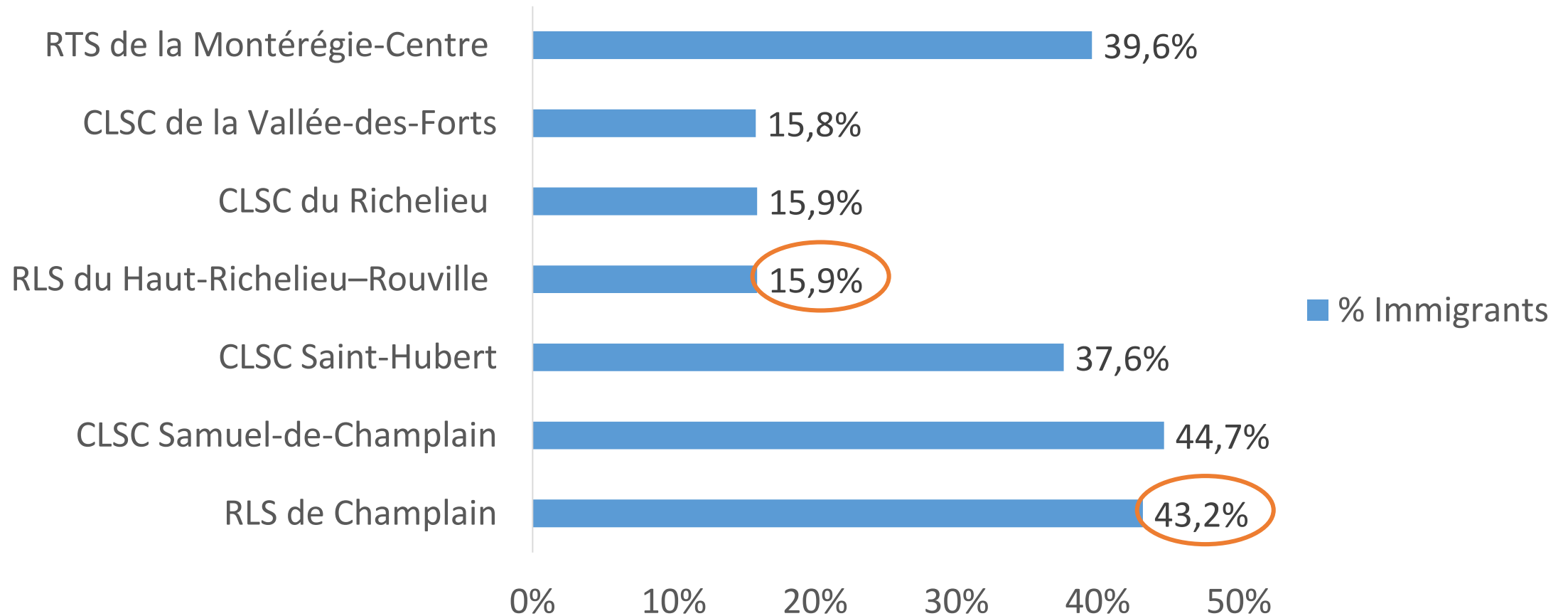| Territory	%
RLS de Champlain	22.0
CLSC Samuel-de-Champlain	29.1
CLSC Saint-Hubert	11.3
RLS du Haut-Richelieu–Rouville	4.0
CLSC du Richelieu	4.3
CLSC de la Vallée-des-Forts	3.9
RTS de la Montérégie-Centre	13.6

Distribution of English speakers in Montérégie-Centre, by RLS and CLSC territory

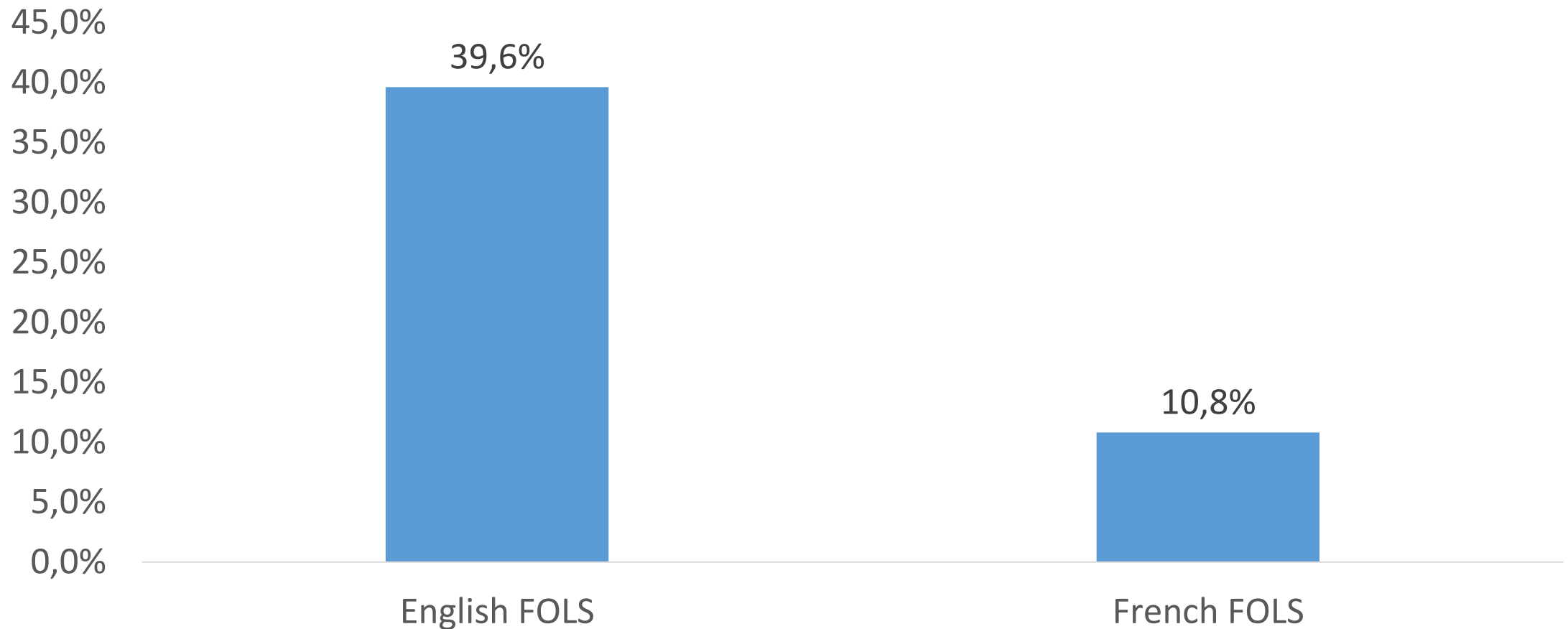| Territory	English-speaking Population	
	N	%
RLS de Champlain	46 408	86.3
CLSC Samuel-de-Champlain	36 945	68.7
CLSC Saint-Hubert	9 463	17.6
RLS du Haut-Richelieu–Rouville	7 393	13.7
CLSC du Richelieu	2 940	5.5
CLSC de la Vallée-des-Forts	4 453	8.3
RTS de la Montérégie-Centre	53 800	100.0

Proportion of English speakers by mother tongue, different territories
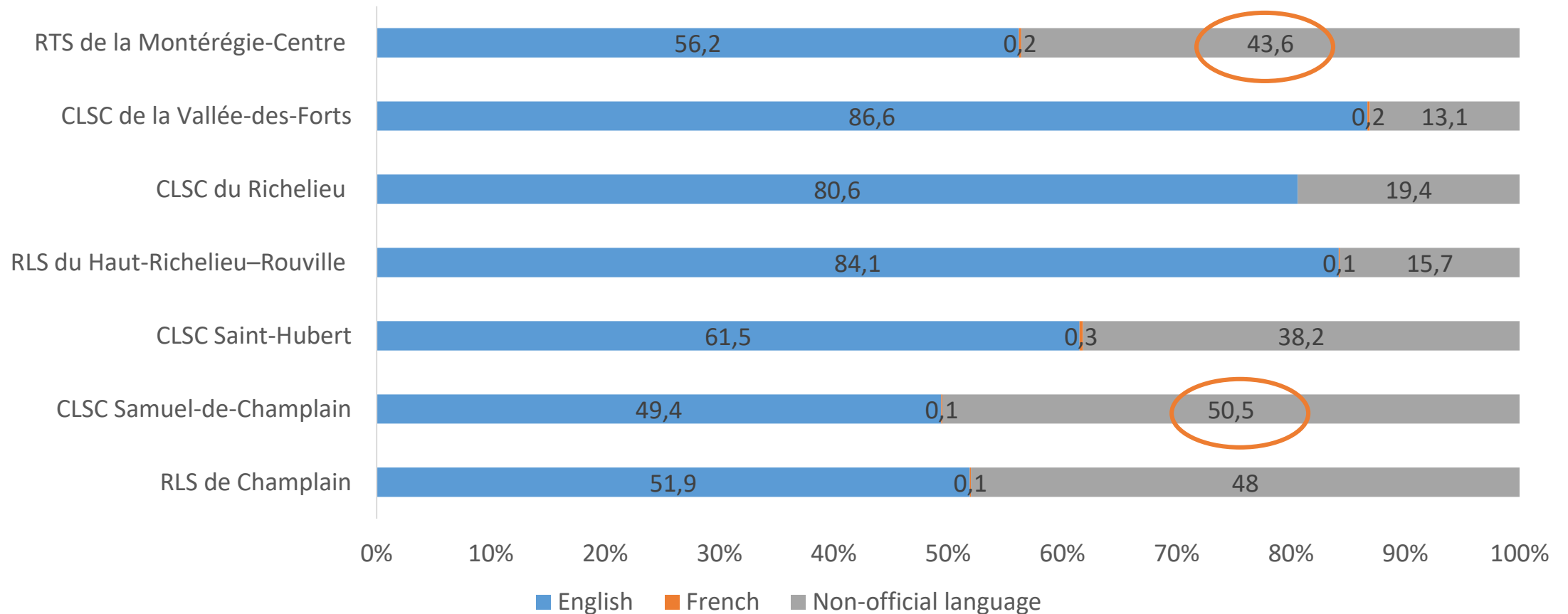
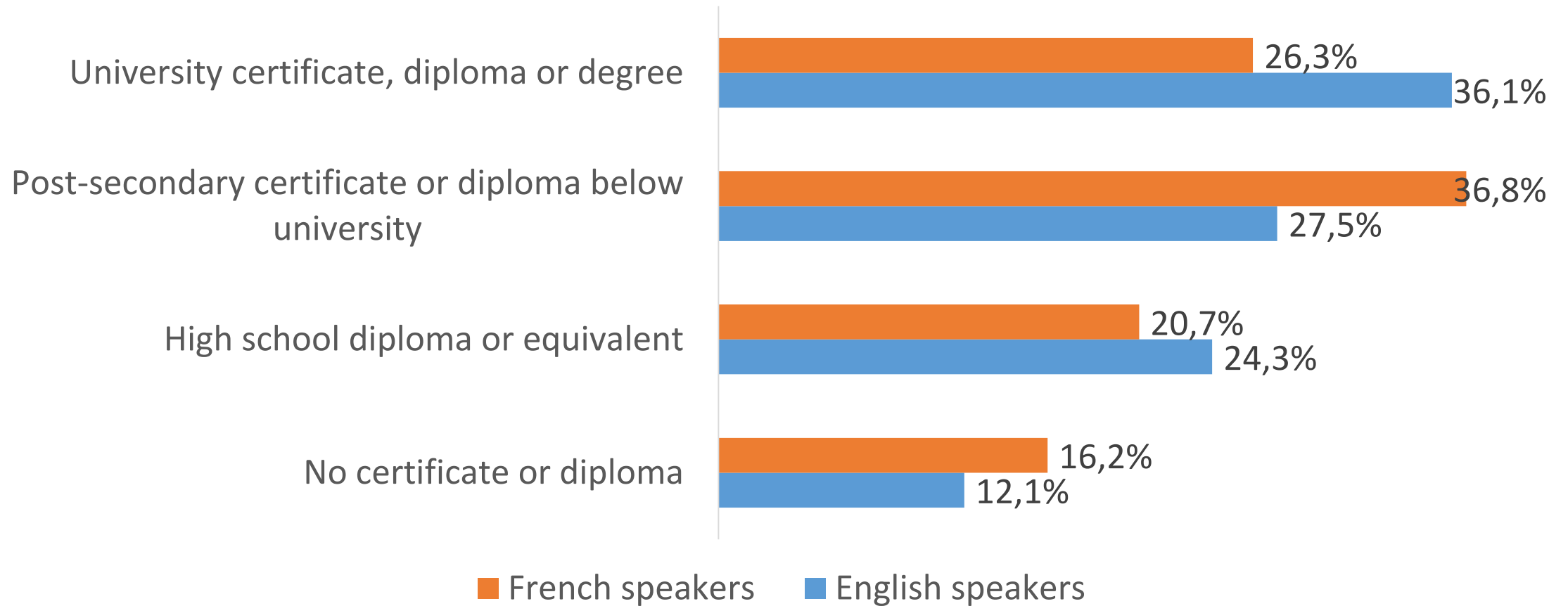# Proportion of the English-speaking population who are immigrants

Proportion of immigrants by first official language spoken, Montérégie-Centre, 2016

Educational attainment among French and English speakers in Montérégie-Centre, 2016

University certificate, diploma or degree
- 26,3%
- 36,1%

Post-secondary certificate or diploma below university
- 36,8%
- 27,5%

High school diploma or equivalent
- 20,7%
- 24,3%

No certificate or diploma
- 16,2%
- 12,1%
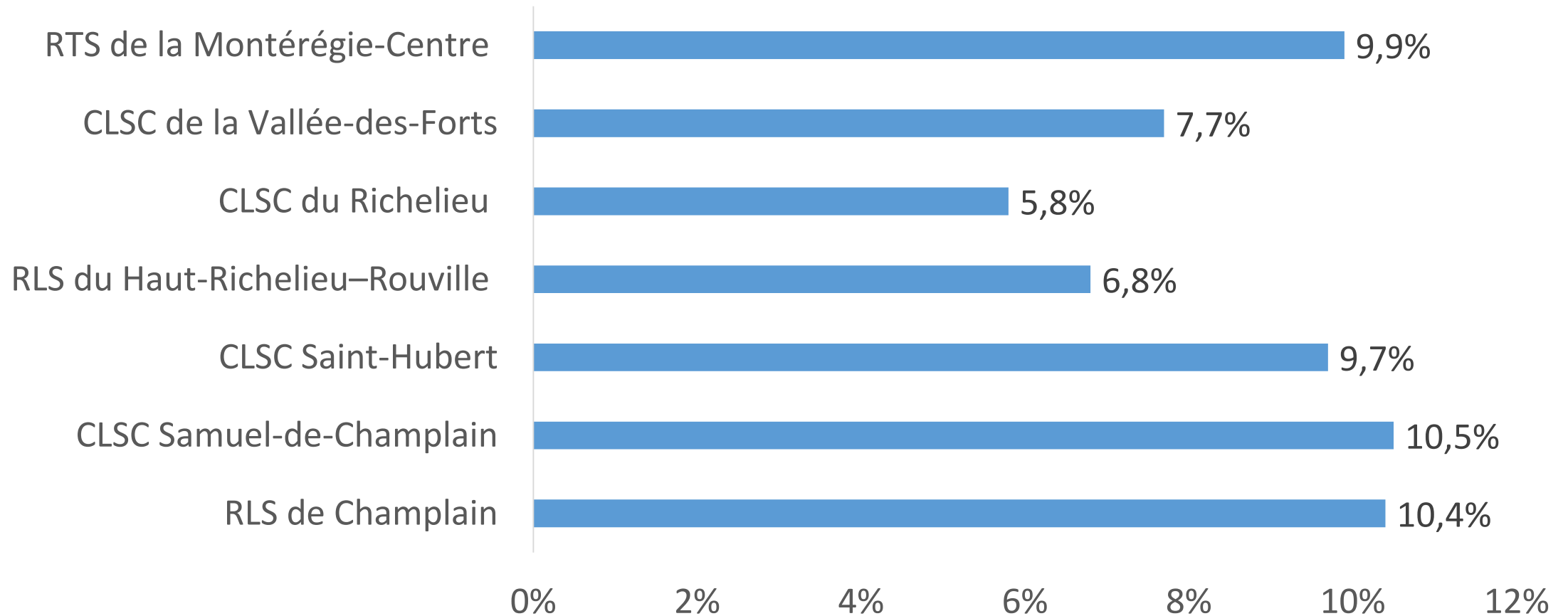
■ French speakers   ■ English speakers

Educational attainment by territory, English speakers age 25 or over, Montérégie-Centre, 2016

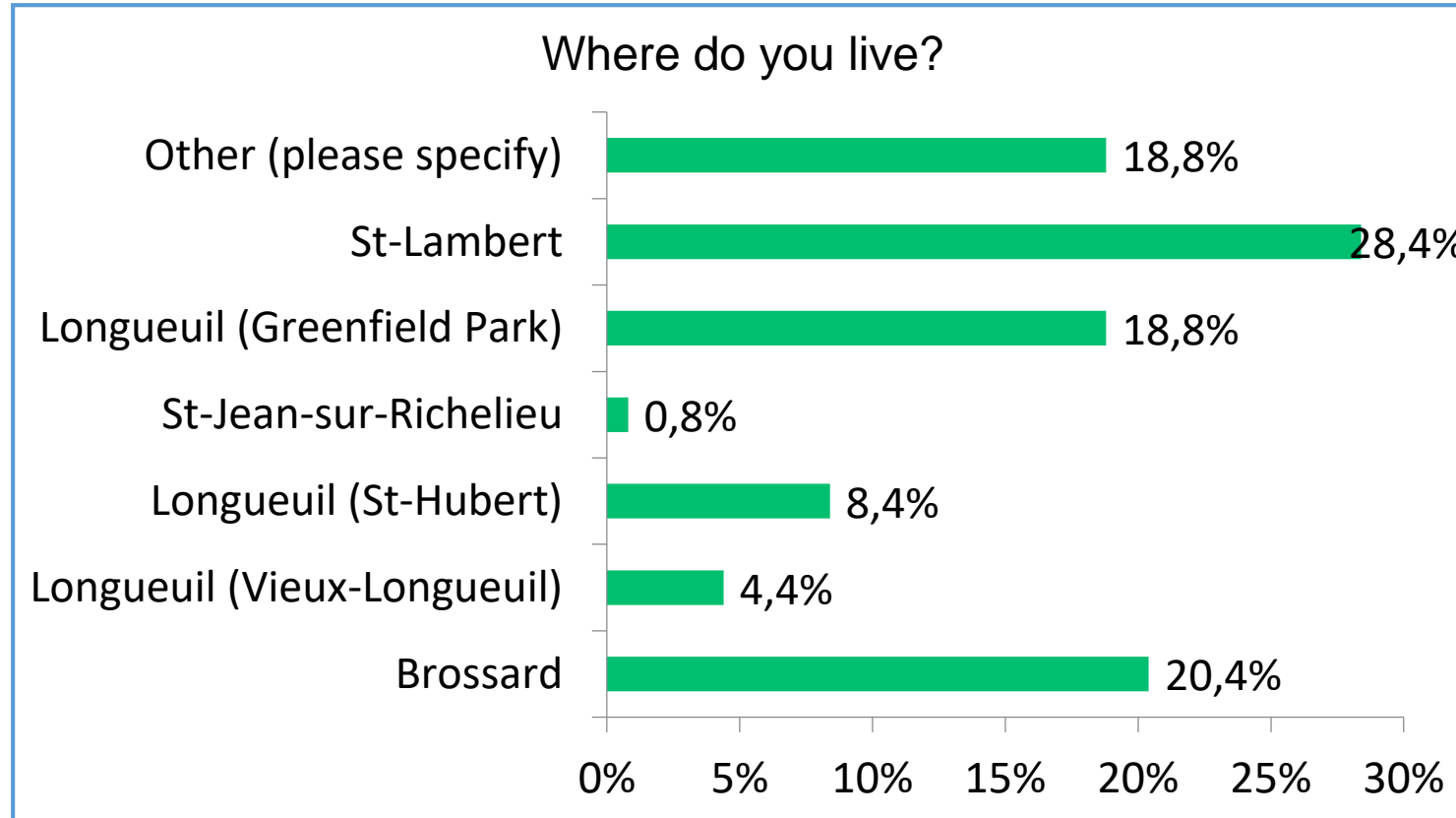| Territory	No certificate or diploma	High school diploma or equivalent	Post-secondary certificate or diploma below university	University certificate, diploma or degree
RTS de la Montérégie-Centre	12,1%	24,3%	27,5%	36,1%
CLSC de la Vallée-des-Forts	19,7%	29,4%	32,4%	18,5%
CLSC du Richelieu	13,8%	26,5%	32,8%	26,5%
CLSC Saint-Hubert	16,0%	26,4%	33,0%	24,6%
CLSC Samuel-de-Champlain	10,0%	22,9%	25,1%	41,9%

- No certificate or diploma
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Post-secondary certificate or diploma below university
- University certificate, diploma or degree

Median income after taxes among English speakers, age 15 and over, 2015

Region	Median income
RTS de la Montérégie-Centre	$28 088
CLSC de la Vallée-des-Forts	$29 130
CLSC du Richelieu	$32 082
RLS du Haut-Richelieu–Rouville	$30 082
CLSC Saint-Hubert	$26 889
CLSC Samuel-de-Champlain	$28 028
RLS de Champlain	$27 856
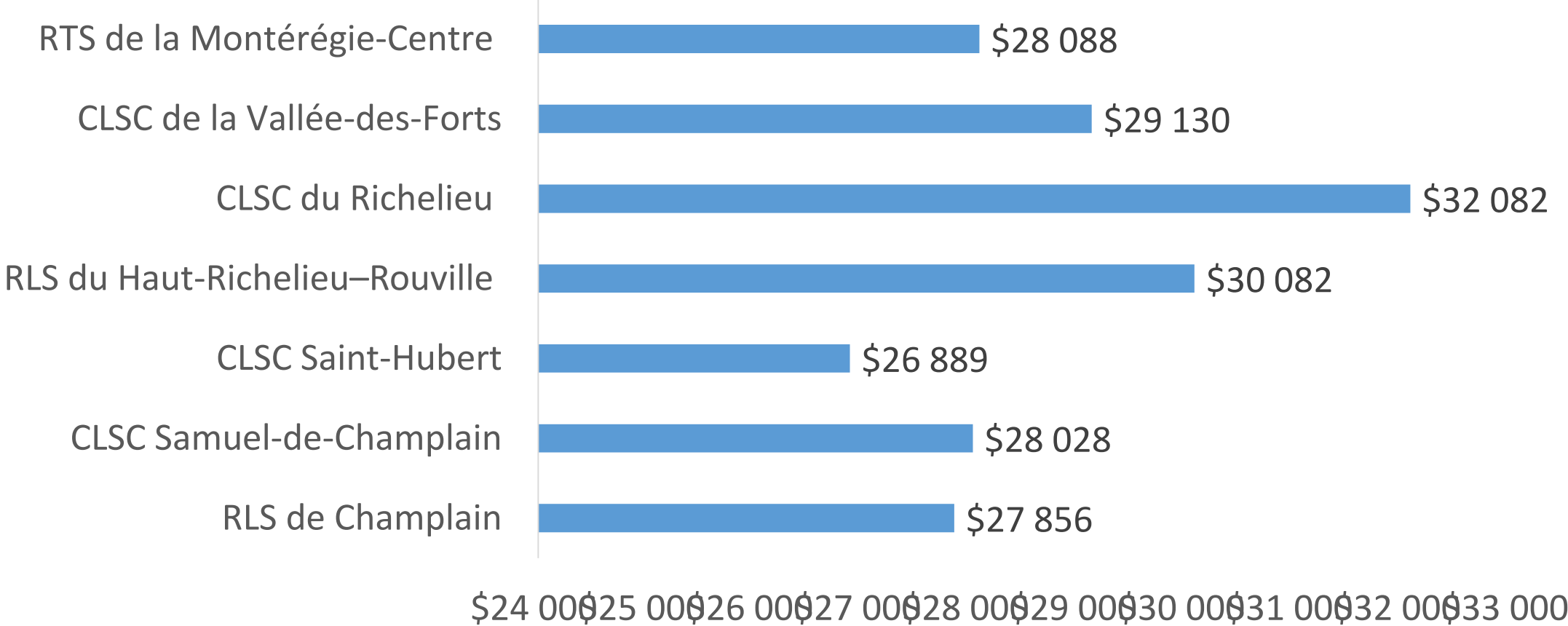
Proportion of the English-speaking population living under the low-income cut-off, 2015

What did the on-line survey tell us?

Where do you live?

Other (please specify)	18,8%
St-Lambert	28,4%
Longueuil (Greenfield Park)	18,8%
St-Jean-sur-Richelieu	0,8%
Longueuil (St-Hubert)	8,4%
Longueuil (Vieux-Longueuil)	4,4%
Brossard	20,4%

Respondents

- 81% female
- 72% age 65+

Not representative of the community as a whole

Overall perspectives: social and community life

☺ Churches & schools are hubs

There are many family services

There are many volunteer opportunities

☹ Distances make participation difficult for some

Public transport is difficult

Lack of bilingualism is an obstacle

😐 Create, more occasions for community gatherings, especially multicultural

Build links between generations

Improve transportation options

Some ideas expressed…

Communications

☺ The newsletter is great

☹ The English-speaking community is widely dispersed and hard to contact

People do not feel well-informed

Communication is lacking

☻ Make it easier to find activities and resources: directory, pamphlet, website, etc.

Some ideas expressed…

Education

☺ English education is easily accessible

There are programs tutoring, family literacy, lifelong learning opportunities

☹ Not all ES have eligibility

Not enough support for learning difficulties

😐 Maintain english school boards
Share resources with Fr schools
More lifelong learning in English

Some ideas expressed…

Health services

☺ Health practitioners who speak English

Networking and Partnership Initiative (NPI) + public sector programs and services

Volunteers

☹ Services are not all available in English, not are consent forms

It is difficult to find and retain bilingual staff

☺ Improve access to services in English, help staff improve English

Have written info in English

Social and specialized services

☺ CLSC services

Community programs and organizations (support groups, centres)

☹ People do not always know of the services

Access to workers who speak English can be difficult (language, waits, distance

Services do not always match needs (children)

😐 Improve access to social services in English, build trust

Help guide people through the system (lists), provide information, advocacy

More support groups, more mental health resources

Seniors

☺ Public services, community organizations, church-based activities, groups

☹ Public services seem insufficient (home care, staffing, long-term care…)
People do not always know about services

☺ More activities for seniors
Seniors residence on SS
Help increase transportation options
Community support
Advertise activities and events

Some ideas expressed…

Now what?

- What stands out for you?
  - What are you noticing?
  - Does anything surprise you?

- Next steps
  - ARC will continue to understand the community, partner with other organizations, etc.
  - Steps taken already
  - To come…