

TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION



2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



From the President

As we march into our 40th year of operation, I am proud to report that our mission has never been more relevant. In fact, over this past year, Townshippers' Association has exceeded the expectations and goals as outlined in our Five-Year Plan. With eighteen funded projects underway in such areas as health care, employability and language skills, we are making a difference to the English-speaking population that we serve. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers, your Association continues to enhance our reputation as sound managers of public funds.

Knowing that access to health care is our community's number one priority, we have as an Association been very active in advancing this agenda. Mr. Don Warnholtz, the Secretary of our Board, was named VP of the *Provincial Committee for the Provision of Health Services and Social Services in the English Language*. Given that this committee has not been functional for over five years, there is a lot of work to be done, and once again your Association is at the forefront of positive change at the provincial level.

On the local level, both Executive Director Rachel Hunting and I have been involved in the setting up of the Regional Access Committee which will work in close collaboration with the Provincial Committee. Both Ms. Hunting and I have been renewed for another term on the local hospital board, known as the CIUSSS de l'Estrie – CHUS. Our role is to ensure that, as members of the English-speaking community, we will accept nothing less than to be recognized as fully participating partners at the policy-making level when it comes to quality health care for everyone within our jurisdiction.

This past fall we were able—by partnering with the Eastern Townships School Board and the CIUSSS de l'Estrie – CHUS—to replace the annual Townshippers' Day with a brand new concept known as *Festival des Townshippers' Festival*. In September, this event was held at Richmond Regional High School—to everyone's delight, the Minister of Tourism, Official Languages, and La Francophonie, the Honourable Mélanie Joly, was on hand for this inaugural event, which was deemed a great success.

With a new provincial government in place, Executive Director Rachel Hunting and I have made it a point to make contact with each of the seven new members of the National Assembly who represent the ridings in the Townships. As a non-partisan organization, to us it is vital that our representatives in the National Assembly are informed as to the priorities and preoccupations of our rural English-speaking minority community.

We also used this opportunity to present our brief denouncing Bill 21, the proposed legislation to restrict the wearing of religious symbols in certain jobs within Quebec's Civil Service. This bill is very troubling to us because it includes the provision to use the *notwithstanding clause* to set aside the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which prohibits discrimination against minorities on the basis of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or language. These basic rights of citizens, as enshrined in the Constitution, must be defended whenever minority rights are suspended. The English-speaking community has been the target of this notorious clause on numerous occasions over the years, regardless of who is at the helm of our provincial government. Given that access to education is our second-highest priority, we also signaled to the members of the newly formed CAQ government that our English-language school boards is, in our rural community, the last of the English-language institutions that we control, and

as such, the right to run them must be not be taken away from us. What is **really** needed is a significant investment in our schools and more support for our teachers and professionals.

In closing, I thank you for the support you have shown your Association. Together, we have the capacity and the drive to shape our common destiny.

Gerald Cutting, President



From the Executive Director

Dear members,

The end of this year is particularly significant for your organization; it means that we are officially headed into our 40th year representing your English-speaking community here in the Eastern Townships! This annual report highlights the many contributions our dynamic team of project managers, network agents, and administrative specialists have made towards improving the vitality of the community around us by bringing partners together and working towards common goals.

2018-2019 saw the organization pursue the objectives and orientations that guide and inform its current *Strategic Plan*. However, this year, activities and events were often held within a context of change.

Thanks to a strong collaboration with two important regional partners, the Eastern Townships School Board and the CIUSSS de Estrie – CHUS, who shared our enthusiasm for ensuring the longevity of our favourite fall festival, we were able to bring *Townshippers' Day* back under a new banner, *Festival des Townshippers' Festival*, that we hope will spark curiosity among newcomers and leave everyone who attends feeling like a member of the Townships family. Richmond Regional High School was a most gracious host site in the fall of 2018, and we are very excited about next year's edition, coming up at Massey-Vanier High School in Cowansville (September 21, 2019 in case you want to mark your calendar!).

Our Eastern Townships Partners for Health and Social Services networks handed out \$29,000 in bursaries to health and social services students with English and French language skills through the *McGill Health and Social Services Community Leadership Bursary Program*. The Lennoxville office benefitted from the energy and enthusiasm of three talented post-secondary students who were able to join our team as part of the *Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages* and *Canada Summer Jobs* federal grant programs. Our annual tribute to community and youth leadership continued with three new truly Outstanding Townshippers and three equally impressive Young Townships Leaders; and two of our region's graduating high schoolers got the chance to tell their stories via our Excel in the Estrie short film/essay-writing contest.

It is a privilege to be part of an organization that has its community at heart and, as we head into our 40th year, I look forward to celebrating our past and making way for our future in true Townshippers' style!

Best,

Rachel Hunting, Executive Director

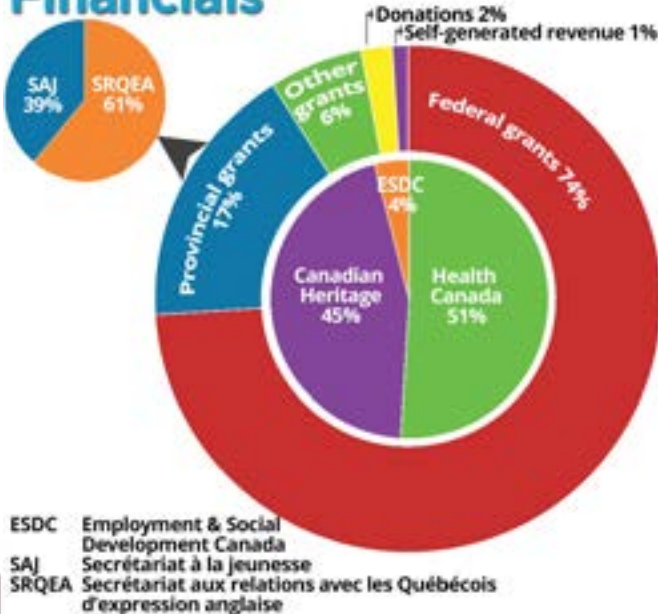


ANNUAL REPORT DATA 2018-2019

OBJECTIVES 2017-2022

- ✓ Access to Services in English
- ✓ Economic Opportunity & Youth Engagement
- ✓ Community Mobilization & Organizational Capacity
- ✓ Community Identity & Cultural Heritage

Financials



YOUTH MIGRATION

Make Way
for YOUTH
ESTRIE

96

young English-speaking professionals benefited from individual support through the MWFY program

15

young English-speaking professionals participated in exploratory activities through the MWFY program

6

young English-speaking professionals who benefited from the MWFY program, migrated to Estrie!



NETWORKING & RESOURCE SHARING

975

jobs posted through Make Way for YOUTH Estrie

541

jobs + 3 student bursary opportunities, shared on TOPPORTUNITY.CA + MOBILE

91

local artists used the Townships Expressions initiative to promote & sell their works

45

avg. participants per event, accessed info & resources for English-speakers at 36 lunch conferences held in 6 communities

27

entrepreneurs benefited from specialized business coaching through partner resources (YES)

117

English-speaking artists benefited from 3 Made en Estrie networking events

17

organizations seeking funding for projects that support & increase the vitality of the region's ESC were supported by TOWNSHIPPERS'

4

Make Way for YOUTH Discovery Days were held, showcasing MRCs across the Estrie region

GOVERNMENT

PRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE ESC:

FEDERAL

Employment and Social Development Canada's Dialogue Day with the English-speaking Minority Communities of Quebec — **May 2018**

Standing Senate Committee on modernizing the *Official Languages Act* — **June 2018**

Innovation, Science and Economic Development including Quebec Regional Office Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions Dialogue Day With the English-Speaking Minority Communities of Quebec — **Nov 2018**

LANG committee on the Modernization of the *Official Languages Act* — **Feb 2019**

PROVINCIAL

Meeting with former Minister for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, Kathleen Weil — **May 2018**

Meeting with Guy Madore, candidate for the Quebec Liberal Party in the riding of Orford — **June 2018**

Meeting with MNA and Parliamentary Secretary to Premier François Legault, Christopher Skeete — **Oct and Dec 2018**

Meeting with MNA André Bachand, riding of Richmond — **Dec 2018**

LEARNING CURVE:

713

sec. 4 & 5 students at 3 regional high schools had access to 30 employment, community & post-secondary education exhibitors via *Rooted in the Townships: Skills Days*.

3

students benefited from hands-on learning via student internships with Townshippers'; 1 from the Université de Sherbrooke managed the free legal information clinic, 2 from the Université de Sherbrooke worked with the Association's Partners for Health and Social Services, Estrie Network.

In 2018-2019, Townshippers' staff drank:



35

workshops were delivered to

204

aspiring and amateur writers, via the creative writing project

Write here, write now.

TownshipsExpressions

25

local artists benefited from in sales of books, art, and music.

\$1,940



19

people benefited from Townshippers' Legal Info Clinic.



IN THE NEWS

37

radio shows by Townshippers' aired on **CIDI 99.1FM**

109

mentions of the Association in print, radio & television media

2,082

Townshippers' magazines distributed (fall '18, spring '19)

SOCIAL INSIGHTS

20,939

TOTAL WEB VISITORS

11,589

@Townshippers.org

9,350

@Toppportunity.ca

6,542

FOLLOWERS

Townshippers' Association is a non-profit, non-partisan community organization focused on promoting & supporting the interests of the Eastern Townships' English-speaking minority community.

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@TOWNSHIPPERS

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FREE LEGAL INFO CLINIC
legalinfo@townshippers.org
819-566-2182 / TOLL-FREE 1-877-566-2182

Board of Directors

Executive

Gerald Cutting	President	<i>Coaticook</i>
Cheryl Gosselin	Vice-President	<i>Sherbrooke</i>
James Kanner	Treasurer	<i>Cookshire-Eaton</i>
Don Warnholtz	Secretary	<i>Sherbrooke</i>

Directors

Heather Bowman <i>Sherbrooke</i>	Olivier Dickson <i>Sherbrooke</i>
Salim Hashmi <i>Sherbrooke</i>	Wade Lynch <i>Sherbrooke</i>
Steve Lawson <i>Brome Lake</i>	Jayne Marrotte <i>Canton-de-Hatley</i>
Alice McCrory <i>Eastman</i>	Katie Bibbs <i>North Hatley</i>

Supporting Team

Rachel Hunting Executive Director	Debbie Bishop Agent, Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services
Cathy Turner Office Manager & Townships Expressions Coordinator	Michelle Lepitre Agent, Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services
Holly McMillan Administrative Officer, Communications & Grants	Maggie Severs Agent, Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services
Corey Cutting Web & Social Media Coordinator	Lisa Payne Agent, Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services
Mary Gunter Assistant Accounting Clerk	Ed Humphrey Project Manager, Enhancing Regional Community Capacity
Melissa Crook Administrative Officer, Staff Resource Development	Jocelyn Grubb Project Coordinator, Inclusive Mentorship Initiative
Emily Prangle Desormeaux Community Outreach Coordinator	
Bethany Vanasse Make Way for YOUth Migration Agent	

Supporters

The events and programs that Townshippers' Association has offered this year would not be possible without the support of the following organizations, businesses, and individuals.

Thank you!

















Avante Women's Centre
CLSC Cowansville
St. Paul's Anglican Church
Yamaska Literacy Council

CAAP-Estrie
CIDI 99.1
DIRA-Estrie

Centre des femmes du HSF, La Passerelle
Haut-Saint-François Fou de ses enfants
Lennoxville & District Women's Centre

Maison de la Culture John-Henry-Pope
Tillotson Coaticook Regional Fund

Champlain Regional College
Stanstead College



Townshippers.org

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