



2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



From the President



As President of Townshippers' Association, I must report that this past year has brought almost impossible challenges to the staff and volunteers of your Association, first with a mid-year move, and then who could have ever imagined that a worldwide pandemic such as COVID-19 would land right here in our own backyard?

Under these conditions, it is remarkable that our Association was able to undertake an impressive

number of projects and once again balance the budget. **The dedication and resiliency of the staff has carried us through these ordeals and positioned us to be in an excellent place to move forward.**

Our Executive Director played a major role in making sure that our local CIUSSS-CHUS and appropriate government ministries moved quickly to provide the English-speaking community with accurate information regarding their well-being during this difficult period. At the same time, Don Warnholtz, our Secretary, has been very active as a member of the Provincial Access Committee for Health Services in English working to ensure that, across Quebec, proper access plans are in place to guarantee services in English.

But even before this crisis began, TA had to deal with legislation coming from the provincial government that struck hard at core institutions central to the vitality of the English-speaking population. The first was Bill 21, a law that imposed upon Quebec a form of secularism that gives the state the right to discriminate in their hiring practices in certain professions, based upon the candidates' religious affiliations. This law required that individual rights and freedoms be set aside using Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the "notwithstanding clause." Even though we were not allowed to denounce this bill during the period of parliamentary hearings, our written brief was submitted and is part of the record.

The second law, Bill 40, which abolishes school boards, strikes hard at one of the last institutions of our community. Even with the accommodation that keeps an element of community representation in English-language boards in place, this law is not in our community's best interests. Townshippers' was also denied an opportunity to present at the Commission hearings; a written brief was once more submitted for the record.

In conclusion, I speak for all members of the Board when I say that we can be proud of the work that has been carried out this past year on all fronts. While defending our interests in health and education, your Association is also actively creating a future of greater opportunity by being present at the decision-making level and ensuring that community interests are brought to the fore with all manner of stakeholders.

Gerald Cutting

From the Executive Director



I think that we can all safely say that this past year has been one for the record books in more ways than one!

The Sherbrooke-based team members certainly could not have predicted that the three months we spent working from our home offices this past fall were preparing us for an eventual return to telework shortly after settling into our new location at 3355 College Street in the Borough of Lennoxville; I'm quite certain that no one expected to spend the month of April inside!

Despite the challenges faced this fall and again this spring, your Association team still managed to shine wherever they found themselves at work in the Townships. **Our Project Managers and administrative team successfully ran more than a dozen funded projects and programs to the benefit of the region's English-speaking community**; you will see throughout this year's activity report example upon example of the extraordinary work each team member has accomplished over the last 12 months.

Despite difficulties convincing the provincial government to hear our concerns about Bill 21 and 40 live and in-person, our community was still able to participate through officially submitted briefs and through active participation at consultations organized by, and at times in collaboration with, Quebec's Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers (SRQEA).

At the federal level, your President and I continue to be solicited for our input via town hall style discussions with members of parliament and representatives of departments surrounding minority language community vitality and support, active service offers and critical gaps in important resources.

Townshippers' Festival went off without a hitch thanks once again to a strong tripartite partnership between TA, the CIUSSSE-CHUS and the ETSB, and of course as a result of the hard work and dedication of staff and volunteers - what a beautiful day it was was back in September!

In keeping with our Strategic Objective to provide opportunities for young people to thrive in the region, Townshippers' Association's Estrie and Montérégie-East *Partners for Health and Social Services* networks supported three students in health and social services programs who are committed to working in the Townships after graduation with bursaries totaling \$12,000.00 this year through the *McGill Health and Social Services Community Leadership Bursary Program*. We also provided three other students from the Université de Sherbrooke with hands-on learning opportunities with the team in our Sherbrooke office.

In closing, I couldn't be more proud of the work our Association accomplishes on any given day and I hope that you enjoy this report on our activities.

Rachel Hunting



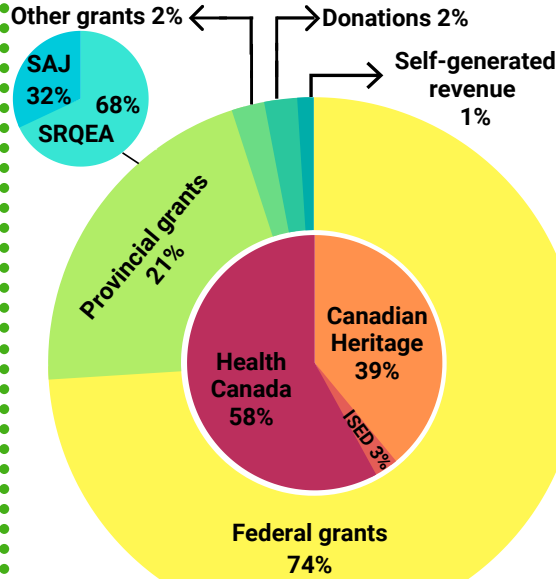
ACTIVITY REPORT DATA 2019-2020



OBJECTIVES 2017-2022

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

FINANCIALS



ISED: Innovation, Science & Economic Development
 SAJ: Secrétariat à la jeunesse
 SRQEA: Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

In the COMMUNITY

TA represented the English-speaking community (ESC) by participating on 63 committees, tables and boards that touch on:

SENIORS & CULTURE

YOUTH & FAMILIES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Contributions to the knowledge-base

Assesment of Needs in Health & Social Services of the ESC in La Pommeraiie and Haute-Yamaska



Health & Social Services Career Opportunities Catalogue: Province of Quebec Edition

YOUTH MIGRATION **Make Way for YOUTH** ESTRIE

70

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

17

young English-speaking professionals participated in three Discovery Days weekends through the MWFY program

7

young English-speaking professionals migrated to the Estrie with support from the MWFY program!



Write here, write now!

43 workshops were delivered to 306 aspiring and amateur writers in 4 communities via Townshippers' Association's creative writing project

Presentations made to GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES highlighting ESC needs and interests



- Meeting with MNA Christine Labrie's team - riding of Sherbrooke
- Meeting with MNA Greg Kelley - Official Opposition Critic for relations with English-speaking Quebecers
- Meeting with MNA Isabelle Charest - riding of Brome-Missisquoi
- Meeting with MNA François Bonnardel's team - riding of Granby, Minister responsible for Estrie
- Community consultations organized by the SRQEA (Estrie and Quebec City)

PROVINCIAL

FEDERAL

- Meeting with the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister for Agriculture and Agri-food's team - riding of Compton-Stanstead
- Meeting with Sandra Gagné, Regional Director General, Quebec Region, Canadian Heritage
- Annual Committee of Assistant Deputy Ministers on Official Languages (CADMOL) Consultations



Team members & volunteers drove approx. 63,574 km while representing the Association and community



Team members & volunteers consumed approx. 9,490 caffeinated beverages



SHARING

48 health and social services information sessions held in 8 communities

6 Make Way for YOUth Discovery Days showcased MRCs in the Estrie to young professionals aged 18 - 35 years old

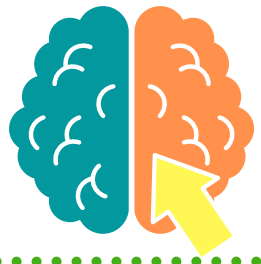
29 entrepreneurs benefited from specialized business coaching through partner resources (YES)

186 job & 3 student bursary opportunities shared on TA's online Job Bank; 565 job opportunities posted through MWFY

Formally supported 10 organizations applying for funds to increase the vitality of the ESC in the Townships

RESOURCE

LEARNING CURVE



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



IN THE NEWS

- 48 radio shows by Townshippers' aired on CIDI 99.1 FM
- 96 mentions of Townshippers' Association in print, radio & television media
- 1,397 Townshippers' magazines distributed (fall '19, spring '20)



11 people benefited from information and referral via TA's Legal Info Clinic

87 artists from the Eastern Townships participated in the Townships Expressions initiative and more than two dozen local artists benefited from the sale of their work (\$1,200 worth) through their participation in

Townships Expressions

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

593 sec. 4 & 5 from the Eastern Townships' 3 regional high schools benefited from access to 30+ exhibitors from the employment, community and post-secondary sectors via the

Rooted in the Townships: Skills Days activities.

Social Insights

4,888 followers

unique visitors 6,694

www.Townshippers.org



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Board of Directors

Executive

Gerald Cutting	President	Coaticook
Cheryl Gosselin	Vice-President	Sherbrooke
James Kanner	Treasurer	Cookshire-Eaton
Don Warnholtz	Secretary	Sherbrooke
Heather Bowman	Past President	Sherbrooke

Directors

Salim Hashmi	Sherbrooke
Steve Lawson	Brome Lake
Alice McCrory	Eastman
Olivier Dickson	Sherbrooke
Wade Lynch	Sherbrooke
Jayne Marrotte	Canton-de-Hatley
Katie Bibbs	North Hatley

Rachel Hunting
Executive Director

Cathy Turner
Office Manager &
Townships Expressions Coordinator

Holly McMillan
Communications & Grants Officer

Corey Cutting
Web & Social Media Coordinator

Mary Gunter
Assistant Accounting Clerk

Melissa Crook
Staff Resource Development Officer

Jocelyn Grubb/Heather Ancliffe
Project Coordinator,
Inclusive Mentorship Initiative

Supporting team

Emily Prangle Desormeaux
Community Outreach Coordinator

Bethany Vanasse
Make Way for YOUth Migration Agent

Debbie Bishop/Marie-Lisa Jolin
Agent, ETPHSS, Estrie Network

Michelle Lepitre
Agent, ETPHSS, Estrie Network

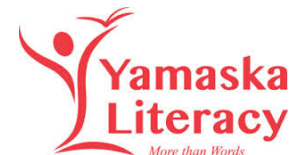
Maggie Severs
Agent, ETPHSS, Monteregie-East
Network

Lisa Payne
Agent, ETPHSS, Monteregie-East
Network

Ed Humphrey
Project Manager, ERCC/SAJ

Sponsors & Partners

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!**



Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Estrie - Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke



Richmond, Danville and Drummondville area Community Learning Centre

Avante Women's Centre Spa Bolton

Champlain Regional College CAAP-Estrie

Stanstead College CLSC Cowansville

Lennoxville & District Women's Centre

Centre des femmes du HSF, La Passerelle

Haut-Saint-François Fou de ses enfants

St. Paul's Anglican Church

Maison de la Culture John-Henry-Pope



Townships Life and Culture: Past Present and Future





@TOWNSHIPPERS   

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