



Townshippers' Association

Annual Report 2017-2018



From the President

Townshippers' Association has, as part of its mission, the celebration of the culture and history of the English-speaking population. However, with each passing year, we are called upon to make history. If we wish to be taken seriously by the majority in our province, we must speak with credibility and conviction. If we, as an association of English speakers, wish to make the most of the situation, we must promote our own self-interest at the local, provincial and federal levels.

With that perspective in mind, I am proud to report that this past year has been filled with challenges and successes. Thanks to our staff and the many volunteers who are skilled, hardworking and dedicated to our mission, we can– and do–make a lasting impact on our community. We are proud to show our funding partners that we are indeed very wise stewards of the money we have been entrusted to manage. With our five-year Strategic Plan in place, we know where we are going.

This report is filled with information about what your Association has been involved in, and the extent to which we are active in a wide range of projects and activities that address the top priorities as identified by the community. The English speakers of the Townships want to be represented at the decision-making level, so that they can have access to health care, education and job training in English, as first-class citizens of Quebec.

In order to achieve these goals your Association has met several times with representatives of the newly created Ministry for English Affairs to ensure that Minister Kathleen Weil and her staff are well informed as to the realities of our community, and the need to develop programs that can only succeed if the government is prepared to invest in what we might best describe as “affirmative action.” In rural Quebec, we often do not have the numbers to qualify for certain programs; that does not mean that these same programs—whether they are in Child Care, Health or Job Training—are not needed.

Throughout the past year, a dedicated team has worked to make good on our promise to reinvent Townshippers' Day, a promise that we shall keep thanks to the partnerships we have been able establish with the Eastern Townships School Board and *CIUSSS de l'Estrie – CHUS*, our Regional Health Board. The day will be known as “Townshippers Festival”. A Day of celebration which is to include all that was T-Day, plus a whole lot more.

Thanks for being a part of Townshippers' Association, together we can do a whole lot more.

Gerald Cutting, President



From the **Executive Director**

Dear members,

Welcome to the end of another jam-packed year of action on behalf of the Eastern Townships English-speaking community! This annual report offers highlights of some of the many ways the team at Townshippers' have been working hard on your behalf along with some of the accomplishments that we celebrated this past year. I hope it will leave you with a sense of what the organization stands for and how we interpret and accomplish our mission.

Our focus throughout 2017-2018 prioritized the needs and issues signaled to us as of the utmost importance when we reached out for feedback during our strategic planning exercise: youth employment and retention; access to services in English; support for our educational institutions.

Thanks to our strong networks, collaborations with partners across sectors and investments from new sources in our minority language community, our existing programs have evolved and grown, and our pilot programs are achieving beyond their goals.

This year we paid tribute to community leadership – established and emerging – through our Outstanding Townshippers and Young Townships Leaders Awards. We gave high schoolers a platform to express their truths as young English speakers with the Excel in the Estrie contest and encouraged them to plan and dream for the future through the Rooted in the Townships Skills Development project. Our Eastern Townships Partners for Health and Social Services networks handed out \$20,000 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. As always, we benefitted from the energy and enthusiasm of two university students who were able to join our team as part of the Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages program.

Finally, I am most pleased that we were able to bring together two important regional partners who are as enthusiastic and dedicated to creating a sustainable fall festival as we are. The Eastern Townships School Board and the *CIUSSS de l'Estrie – CHUS* are keen to work with our staff and volunteers to ensure that Townshippers' Festival is a resounding success. The 2018 theme "Everybody's a Townshipper" captures the organizing committee's hope that our celebration of the Eastern Townships English-speaking community becomes one that all those who call the Eastern Townships home will see a place for themselves in and bring people together in a fun family-friendly environment. I hope to see you all there with us in Richmond next September, it's going to be a blast!

Kind regards,

Rachel Hunting, Executive Director



ANNUAL REPORT DATA 2017-2018

OBJECTIVES 2017-2022

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

NETWORKING & RESOURCE SHARING

905

jobs posted through
Make Way for YOUTH Estrie

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

613

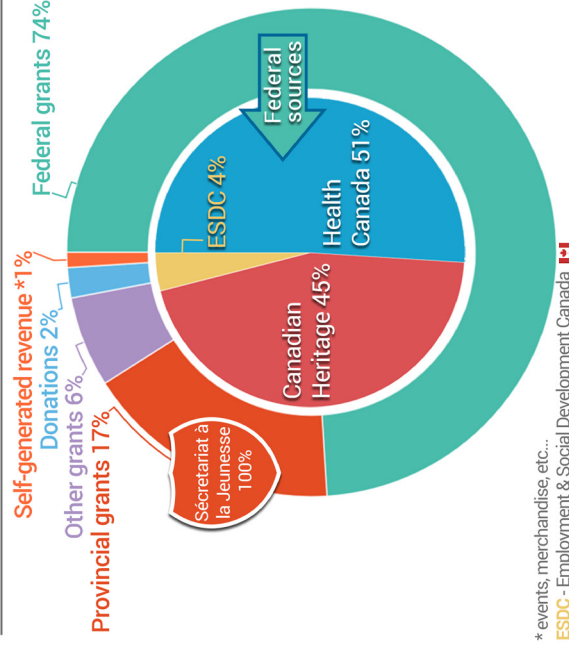
89 local artists used the Townships
Expressions initiative to promote
& sell their works

avg. participants per event, accessed
info & resources for English speakers
at 40 lunch conferences held in 5
communities.

40

28 entrepreneurs benefitted from
specialized business coaching

Financials



* events, merchandise, etc...
ESDC - Employment & Social Development Canada



GOVERNMENT

PRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE ESC:

FEDERAL

Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages: *Modernizing the Official Languages Act, Views of Young Canadians* May 2017

CADMOL * annual consultation May 2017

House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages
Oct 2017

Meeting of the Network of Persons Responsible for the Implementation of Sec. 41 of the Official Languages Act
Oct 2017

PROVINCIAL

Consultation Perspective Jeunesse - Encadrement du cannabis à des fins récréatives Sept 2017

Meeting: Minister of Health Sept 2017

Round-table discussion with Minister Weil & MNA for Richmond Dec 2017

Online Community Exchange Sessions (x3) with Minister Weil Feb 2018

Pre-budget consultation with Finance Minister Leitaô & Minister Weil March 2018

CADMOL: Committee of Assistant Deputy Ministers on Official Languages

MNA: Member of the National Assembly

Who Is: Federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable Bill Morneau

through partner resources (YES)

number of ESC artists that benefitted from the 1st Made en Estrie networking event

17

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

2 group & 1 individual Make Way for YOUth Discovery Days held in: HAUT-SAINT-FRANÇOIS & COATCOOK MRCs; VAL-SAINT-FRANÇOIS MRC; ESTRIE IT SECTOR



YOUTH MIGRATION

Make Way for YOUth ESTRIE

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

16

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



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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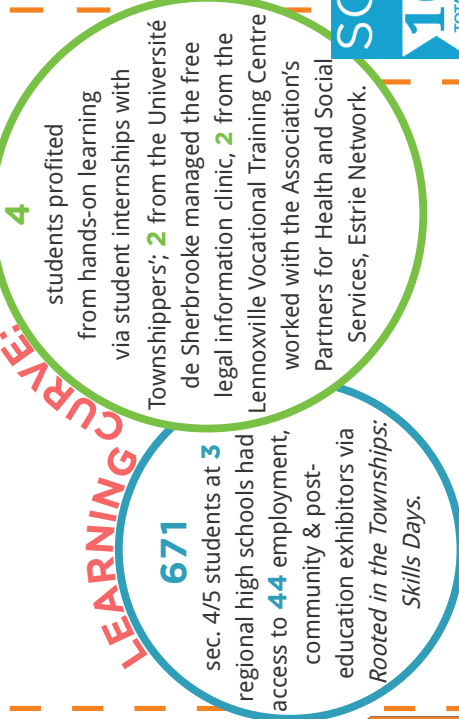
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The Future of Linguistic Duality: Our Official Languages, Our Identity – Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages
Nov 2017

Brief: pre-budgetary consultations, Finance Minister Dec 2017

LEARNING CURVES



Contributions to the Knowledge base

Map Series: English-speaking Community of the Historical Eastern Townships
Participation in a University of Ottawa research project: Validation d'un outil d'auto-évaluation et d'un cahier de pratiques novatrices pour soutenir l'offre active et l'intégration des services destinés aux aînés des communautés linguistiques officielles en situation minoritaire (CLOSM).



The literary & visual contributions of 26 different writers & artists were showcased by Townshippers' in Our Stories: The Eastern Townships Chapter in Canada's 150-year story.



IN THE NEWS

radio shows by Townshippers' aired on CIDI 99.1FM
50 mentions of the Association in print, radio & television media
249 Townshippers' magazines distribution (fall '17, spring '18)
2,842

SOCIAL INSIGHTS



Townshippers.org | Topportunity.ca | TDay.ca

@TOWNSHIPPERS

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

Quebec's Minister of Health, Gaetan Barrette
Quebec's Minister of Finance, Carlos Leitaô
Quebec's Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers, Kathleen Weil
MNA for Richmond, Karine Vallières

Board of Directors

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

Members

Heather Bowman <i>Sherbrooke</i>	Steve Lawson <i>Brome Lake</i>
Clea Corman <i>Sherbrooke</i>	Alice McCrory <i>Eastman</i>
Salim Hasmi <i>Sherbrooke</i>	Peter Quilliams <i>Fulford</i>
James Crooks <i>Lennoxville</i>	Jody Robinson <i>Sherbrooke</i>
	Eric Smith <i>Sherbrooke</i>

Supporting Team

Rachel Hunting
Executive Director

Cathy Turner
Office Manager/
Townships Expressions Coordinator

Corrinna Pole
Administration & Communications Agent

Norma Salisbury
Accounting Clerk

Mary Gunter
Assist Accounting Clerk

Evelina Smith
Community Information Coordinator

Debbie Bishop
Agent, Eastern Townships Partners for
Health & Social Services

Kate Murray
Agent, Eastern Townships Partners for
Health & Social Services

Maggie Severs
Agent, Eastern Townships Partners for
Health & Social Services

Michelle Lepitre
Agent, Eastern Townships Partners for
Health & Social Services

Holly McMillan
Make Way for YOUth – Migration Agent

Kate Holbrook/Emily Prangle Desormeaux
Culture & Community Coordinator

Katie Bibbs
Employment Liaison Coordinator

Kyl Chhatwal
Resource Adaptation Coordinator

Jody Robinson/Jayne Marrotte
Rooted in the Townships Project Coordinator

2017-2018

Canada



Make Way
for YOUTH
ESTRIE



Place aux
jeunes
en RÉGION

Dialogue McGill
Better Communication for Better Care



Secrétariat
à la jeunesse
Québec

Townships
Expressions

CEDEC

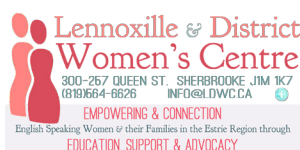
Ville de
Sherbrooke
Borough
of Lennoxville



QUEBEC ANGLOPHONE
HERITAGE NETWORK
QAHN



RÉSEAU DU PATRIMOINE
ANGLOPHONE DU QUÉBEC
RPAQ



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 Womens Centre
CAAP-Estrie
Centre des femmes du HSF, La Passerelle
Champlain Regional College
CIDI 99.1
CLSC Cowansville
DIRA-Estrie
Député de Mégantic, Ghislain Bolduc
Député de Sherbrooke, Luc Fortin
Député de Saint-François, Guy Hardy
Député de Richmond, Karine Vallières
Haut-Saint-François Fou de ses enfants
Maison de la Culture John-Henry-Pope
Path Production
St. Paul's Anglican Church
Tillotson Coaticook Regional Fund
Yamaska Literacy Council



Townshippers

Townshippers.org

Topportunity.ca | TDay.ca

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