

Literacy Quebec

Annual Activity Report

June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017

President's Message

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Literacy Quebec staff, Margo Legault and Laruen Gruer who keep this amazing organization running like clockwork throughout the year and who have supported the board in every aspect of its work. The 2016-2017 LQ board members are: Eric Aubry, Joanna Bateman, Marilee Delombard and Sia Spanoudakis, each of whom have brought the benefit of their combined experience and expertise to the organization and given generously of their time.

Although Lauren officially moved on from LQ in the spring, we have been very fortunate to have her help with the organizing of the 2017 AGM. Thanks Lauren, you have been an enormous asset to the office and we wish you every success with your career. This year also sees the retirement of Western Quebec Literacy Council's Executive Director, Marilee Delombard. Marilee has served on the board several times over the last years, her most recent role is that of LQ secretary. Marilee, every good wish for your retirement.

The board would like to highlight some events over the last year. LQ once again, produced very successful social media campaigns to promote our brand and the work done by our networks #WomenInLiteracy and #ProudToLearn. Last December, at the national consultation on educational success, the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, Mr. Sébastien Proulx, announced a \$20 million reinvestment in the field of literacy. For Literacy Quebec and its members, this translated to a \$9 million increase in the PACTE envelope.

As we move forward into a new year, I ask you to join with me in recognizing LQ's 30 volunteers who donated an astounding 1395 volunteer hours. We appreciate and applaud each and every one of you.

I am taking this opportunity to let you know that I will be stepping off the board in 2018 and I extend my sincere and appreciative thanks to each of you who have continued to support the work the board does and of course, for your support of Literacy Quebec.

Thank you!

Cathy Nolan
President 2017

Executive Director's Message

The past twelve months represented another milestone year for Literacy Quebec. Highlights include meeting our local Member of the National Assembly, Dominique Anglade, and representing our members at a province-wide public consultation on educational success. I am happy to see that literacy is finally the topic on everyone's agenda – not just ours!

This was a great year for intensifying our community outreach. We took part in a Family Literacy Day at the Montreal Children's Hospital, as well as a Health and Wellness Fair in Verdun, and this winter shared our knowledge at the McGill Volunteer Fair recruitment drive.

We acquired several new meaningful partnerships. The McGill's Social Equity and Diversity Education Office is excited about developing programs together, and the Suspicious Fish Creative Writing and Storytelling Program will add much needed outreach to new adult learners.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of our wonderful group of volunteers. Our Board of Directors, Cathy, Marilee, Eric, Sia and Joanna have provided great guidance and knowledge that has directly contributed to the organization's ongoing success.

I would also like to highlight the dedication and hard work of my colleague Lauren Gruer, who will be leaving us for a job in her field of study. It has been an absolute joy to work with Lauren and it will be a difficult task to fill her shoes. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Margo Legault
Executive Director

Supporting and Capacity-Building

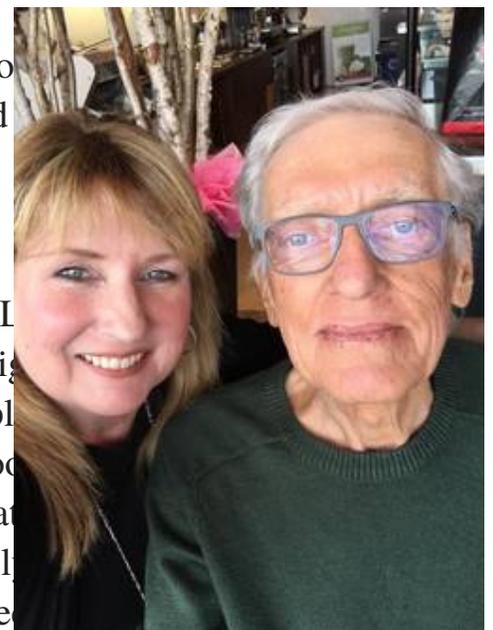
Literacy Quebec continued to provide support to its members by offering training and assistance via telephone. Members were brought together twice in person and once via conference call for professional and networking opportunities. Highlights included training from Éducaloi and a visit to the first A... Montreal.

Through a PACTE funded project, Literacy Quebec was able to develop tools to strengthen its network. This allowed us to examine new ways of promoting literacy and explaining the issues surrounding low literacy to the general public. The project also enabled the organization to engage more volunteers and pilot a data-driven approach with volunteers, supporters, members, etc.

Freda Hudson Award

The Freda Hudson award was inaugurated in 2007 in honour of a remarkable volunteer. It is presented annually to an active and long-standing volunteer, someone who has made a significant contribution to Literacy.

The recipient of this year's Freda Hudson award was Warren Law of The Learning Exchange. Over the years, Warren has been a highly motivated and enthusiastic volunteer who has taken on multiple roles: one-on-one tutor, class tutor, event and outing volunteer, school and family literacy team volunteer. Warren is always passionate about teaching and learning. His dedication is unsurpassed and highly admired, in keeping with Freda herself. Warren is deeply respected and admired by students, staff and fellow volunteers.



Darlene Brown, Executive Director of TLE
with Warren Law, Literacy Volunteer

Student Solidarity Fund

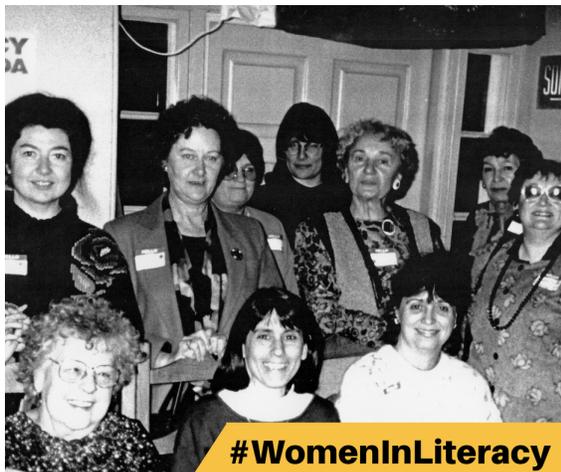
The Student Solidarity Fund was established to assist literacy students in financial need by enabling them to attend or continue attending literacy programs. Funding was awarded to **4 member organizations** to provide materials, cover transportation, and support literacy events for learners. In all this fund was able to provide **direct assistance to 3 individuals** and **supported events that reached 100 students!**

Online Presence

Our Social Media presence continued to grow steadily this year with 45 new followers on Facebook, and 118 new followers on Twitter.



The use of online campaigns has proven to be a successful way of raising awareness about literacy issues and the work being done in the field. One campaign that was especially successful was the #WomenInLiteracy campaign. Most of the literacy groups we represent are run by women, so for International Women's Day we decided to share and celebrate the stories of these women.



Our Instagram account has been significantly more active this year. Thanks to our social media interns, we have grown to have 117 followers, and almost 600 post likes on that platform alone.

Two new videos have been added to our YouTube account this year. With almost 500 views, this seems to be an effective way to demonstrate the struggles faced by adults with low literacy.

Events & Special Projects

Literacy Quebec began participating in more community events this year. Our involvement in these events is to raise awareness about the cause, promote the work being done by the literacy groups we represent, and recruit new volunteers. These events included Family Literacy Day at the Montreal Children's Hospital and the Wellness Fair (shown below).

Through our networking and representations we were able to be present at 26 events and reached 26,000 people.



**Margo Legault, Executive Director of LQ
Sterling Downey, Councillor for City of Verdun
Kelsey Martin and Ihsen Meftouh, LQ Interns**



Promoting Family Literacy in the Community

This year LQ received funding through the Silver Dollar Foundation to develop a Family Literacy Toolkit. This toolkit is essentially a "How-To" manual for community groups who wish to host a family literacy event.

Through this project we were able to reach 1500 people through Family Literacy events, and provide information to 40 community groups.

Volunteer Positions & Internship Opportunities

Volunteers continue to be essential to the work being done in the field. This year Literacy Quebec v team of 38 amazing volunteers who gave 1395 hours to the organization. Our partnership with the program of Concordia University has been especially key in the recruitment of passionate volunteer

Funding received through the Canada Summer Jobs program has allowed Literacy Quebec to offer employment opportunities for students.

Literacy Quebec would like to thank all of the amazing volunteers who go above and beyond what is expected of them. We couldn't do it without your help and dedication to the cause. In particular we would like to acknowledge the contributions of our volunteers who were involved on our Board of Directors, our Committees, and our Internship Programs.



Thank You!

Networking & Partners

In an effort to create meaningful partnerships and foster positive working relations with a multitude of diverse institutions, community organizations, government agencies and the private sector, Literacy Quebec networks on a continuous basis. This year, we had the pleasure of working with the following groups:



Memberships

Literacy Quebec is a member of the following organizations:



The Network for Literacy



Thank you to our donors!



Eva R. Gsum Foundation



Wendy Thomas



Dominique Anglade

Governance & Operations

Human Resources

The following positions were retained by Literacy Quebec:

- Executive Director, Margo Legault
- Administrative Assistant, Lauren Gruer

Board of Directors

President: Cathy Nolan, Quebec City Reading Council

Vice-President: *Positions remained vacant

Treasurer: Eric Aubry

Secretary: Marilee DeLombard, Western Quebec Literacy Council

Director: Sia Spanoudakis

Director: Joanna Bateman, Literacy in Action

Board Meetings

The Board of directors met five times in person, and twice via teleconferencing during the course of the year.

Accomplishments

The Board of Directors continued to provide service to members and respect all legal obligations related to incorporation. They supported the submission of project proposals for a social enterprise and the organizing of a Human Library. They held a members consultation to determine the ideal size and composition of the Literacy Quebec board of directors. With the help of a Pro Bono student, a draft of by-law changes was created.

Annual General Meeting

Nine out of eleven full members attended the Annual General Meeting on the 29th of September 2016. It was held in Montreal, Quebec, at the Literacy Quebec office.

Committees

- Freda Hudson Volunteer Recognition Award Committee
- Human Resources Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Student Solidarity Committee

Members of Literacy Quebec

Chateauguay



Chateauguay Valley
Literacy Council

Eastern Townships / Estrie



Yamaska
Literacy
Council



Gaspésie



Laval / Laurentians



Outaouais



Western Quebec
Literacy Council

Montreal



Quebec City



Quebec City Reading Council
Adult and Family Literacy
Resource Centre

South Shore



Associate Members of Literacy Quebec



Literacy Quebec is a network that connects and represents community based literacy organizations to empower people, impact lives and build a stronger society.

We envision a Quebec where everyone has the literacy skills they need to live a fully engaged life.