



Celebrating 35 years!

# ***Annual Activity Report***

June 1, 2015 - May 31, 2016



**Literacy Quebec**

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## President's Message

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Literacy Quebec staff, Margo Legault and Lauren Gruer who keep this amazing organization running like clockwork throughout the year. My thanks too, to my colleagues on the board of directors, Eric Aubry, Marilee Delombard and Sia Spanoudakis, they each bring a wealth of experience to our organization and give very generously of their time and expertise.

In September 2015, friends and colleagues throughout the province joined Literacy Quebec to celebrate its 35th anniversary. Robin Des Bois restaurant in Montreal provided a fitting venue for the occasion; we were entertained with poetry, song, music, stories and wonderful food. Happy 35th LQ!

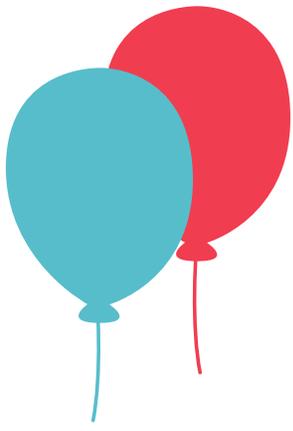
Since its creation 35 years ago, Literacy Quebec has brought literacy providers around the province together for a common cause and shared values. It's thanks to the people who have been here over the years that Literacy Quebec has grown into such a successful and professional network.

Since our 35th anniversary AGM in 2015, we have bid farewell to retiring colleagues Jill Roberts from Literacy Unlimited and Kathy Richan from Literacy in Action. The board and staff would like to extend a very warm welcome to two new faces, Lucy Baum and Joanna Bateman, we are very much looking forward to working with you.

As we move forward into a new year, I ask you to join with me in recognizing our network's 672 volunteers who donated an astounding 41, 000 volunteer hours. We appreciate and applaud each and every one of you. Thank you!

Cathy Nolan  
President

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



## Executive Director's Message

In the past year, our goals were to increase our reach on social media, provide more volunteer opportunities to the English-speaking population of Quebec, increase awareness of literacy issues through video and other mediums as well as increase community outreach and partnerships.

With a common understanding of the dedication and hard work needed to fulfill this ambitious plan, the staff, board members and volunteers worked together towards these collective goals. I am happy and proud to report that all of these objectives were met and it has been another phenomenal year.

This would not have been possible without collaboration and active participation by so many. I would like to highlight the contributions of my colleague Lauren Gruer. Her strong work ethic and dedication have had a direct impact on our successful outcomes. I would also like to thank our board members for their time and wealth of knowledge. Thank you Cathy, Eric, Marilee and Sia. Your ongoing support is paramount to our success and we are fortunate to have you.

This year marked our 35th Anniversary! We celebrated our achievements over this time period all-the-while increasing visibility of the organization. We maintained government relations and I am hopeful for the year ahead of us.

We will continue to push for a National Literacy Strategy and represent our member organizations. In the timespan covered by this report we had three different Ministers of Education. A major part of my role as Executive Director is to ensure that the Minister, the Ministry and other government agencies understand the crucial role that our organizations play in the vitality and vibrancy of our community.

Margo Legault  
Executive Director

***“A goal without a plan is just...a wish”***

***– Antoine de Saint-Exupery***

# Supporting and Promoting Literacy



Literacy Quebec continued to provide support to its members by offering training and assistance via web, email and telephone. Members were brought together once in person and once online via web-conference for professional development sessions and networking opportunities.

The recipient of this year's Freda Hudson award was Jim Eames of the Quebec City Reading Council. This award was inaugurated in 2007 in honour of a remarkable volunteer. It is presented annually to an active and longstanding volunteer, someone who has made a significant contribution to Literacy. This year our Freda Hudson award was sponsored by Stephanie Howarth, granddaughter to Freda.



The LQ Student Solidarity Fund was established to assist students in financial need by enabling them to attend or continue attending literacy programs. Grants were awarded to 5 member organizations to provide materials, cover transportation, and support literacy events for learners. In all this fund was able to provide direct assistance to 7 individuals and supported events that reached 83 students!

In 1965, UNESCO declared September 8 as International Literacy Day. In an effort to increase awareness in Quebec, Literacy Quebec created a special logo, bookmarks and posters. We will continue to develop materials to highlight this important day.





# Online Presence

Literacy Quebec was very fortunate to recruit some amazing Film Production volunteers. In total they developed four videos for our YouTube channel. These videos depict the struggles faced by those living with low literacy and have been used to raise awareness.



## Uploads



**P for Prescription**  
23 views • 4 months ago



**A for Apple**  
24 views • 4 months ago



**Literacy is a gift, pass it on this holiday season.**  
95 views • 5 months ago

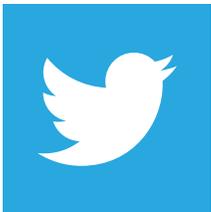


**The Secret**  
155 views • 6 months ago

# #LiteracyMatters



Our Facebook presence has continued to grow and we now have 182 page likes. This would not be possible without the time and effort of our interns who helped manage our social media and developed our campaigns. One major campaign this year was for International Women's Day. We felt this was an important day to celebrate since the majority of literacy practitioners in the province are women.



Our Twitter account has done very well this year! We now have 441 followers, a huge increase from last year (149 followers). We attribute this to the 140 tweets we posted. We hope this trend continues and that we bring even more awareness to literacy issues.



Our latest social media platform is Instagram. Although our reach is not large on Instagram, we are working towards developing a campaign that will reach a new audience.



Login



A society that invests in literacy is more socially inclusive, safer and creates more vibrant communities. Donate, volunteer, sponsor - every action has a positive impact.

Our website had another makeover this year. The major changes include a streamlined appearance, the removal of outdated information, and a revitalized blog. The Literacy Quebec website is now mainstream and simple to navigate.



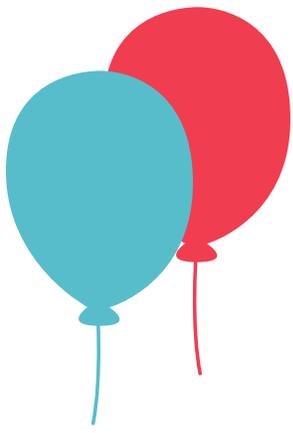
Literacy Quebec would like to thank all of the amazing volunteers who go above and beyond what is expected of them. We couldn't do it without your help and dedication to the cause. In particular we would like to acknowledge the contributions of our volunteers who were involved on our Board of Directors,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

Cathy Nolan  
Eric Aubry  
Marilee DeLombard  
Sia Spanoudakis  
Cheryl Leggo  
Joy Fyckes  
Wendy Seys

Joshua Paul  
Lorena Rodriguez  
Josue Arturo Gutierrez  
Louise Chauvet  
Liam O'Leary  
Sarah Spence  
Johnny VanHeest

Tommy Navarro  
Ralph Azis  
Elena Russo  
Sebastien Di Maulo  
Lauren Osselton  
Shayna Michel  
Pascale Yensen

*Thank you!* **5**



# Events & Special Projects

Literacy Quebec turned 35 this year! We celebrated this milestone at Robin des Bois.

"Robin de Bois is a not-for-profit restaurant, staffed by volunteers and employees. All profits made by the restaurant, as well as through the sale of merchandise, are redistributed to local charities who work with the community to ward off solitude, social isolation and poverty."

It was a lovely evening spent with some of Literacy Quebec's founders, as well as literacy practitioners from across the province.



***This year we reached 1239 people through our activities!***

Literacy Quebec was invited to speak for the Golden Key Society at their New Member Recognition Event. Margo shared her experiences that led her to work in Human Rights and the field of Literacy.



This year Margo and Lauren represented Literacy Quebec at the World Assembly on Adult Education. This international event brings together adult educators and organizations dedicated to life long learning.

# Volunteer Positions and Internship Opportunities



Literacy Quebec has many internship opportunities available for students. This year we had a student, Tommy Navarro, from the Community Recreation and Leadership Training program of Dawson College. This was a 90 hour internship which lasted for 15 weeks. Tommy was able to help us with a small fundraising campaign and to set up a second-hand bookstore in our office.



The Dawson College Oral History Program is a specialty within the Social Sciences that strives to record history in the oral form as opposed to written form. This year Literacy Quebec had the opportunity to work with three students in this program. They interviewed literacy practitioners and volunteers who are associated with Literacy Quebec in some capacity. In total there were nine interviews conducted, all of which are now part of the Oral History Archives at Dawson College. We would like to thank Tristian, Savleen and Julia for working with us and conducting these interviews!

Our partnership with the Concordia Public Relations program has continued and we were able to welcome three interns again this year.



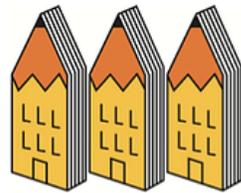
**Literacy Quebec has worked hard to grow it's volunteer opportunities program. We are proud to say that we have doubled our cohort of volunteers. We went from 30 volunteers last year to 69 this year!**



# Networking and Partners

Literacy Quebec and its members are funded by the Ministry of Education through *Programme d'action communautaire sur le terrain de l'éducation* (PACTE). The *comité mixte* is a privileged round table discussion which allows Literacy Quebec the opportunity to represent and advocate on behalf of its members two to three times a year. Issues discussed include allocation of PACTE funds, project funding, statistical gathering, annual reporting, etc. Prior to these meetings, the AMIES PACTE meet to exchange in order to better voice common concerns at the *comité mixte*.

## Our Partners



Dawson Oral History Project



RGPAQ



La Ruche d'Art de NDG Art Hive



Network for Literacy (Réseau de lutte à l'analphabétisme)

Literacy Quebec plays a major role in the Network for Literacy (Réseau de lutte à l'analphabétisme) as it is the only English representative for the network. This year Margo sat on the committee responsible for drafting the Network's platform.



# Memberships

Literacy Quebec is a member of:



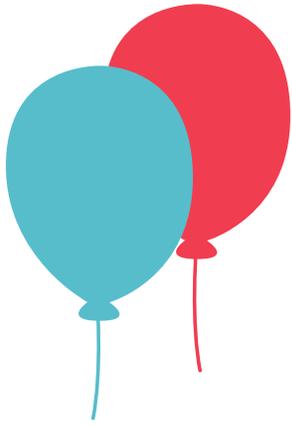
# Donations

Literacy Quebec is grateful for product and in kind donations that were made by:



**Do you or your organization have something you think we could use? We are always accepting donations! We especially love new and lightly used books (both English and French)!**

**Contact us today to make your donation! [info@literacyquebec.org](mailto:info@literacyquebec.org)**



# Governance and Operations

## **Human Resources**

The following positions were retained by Literacy Quebec:

- Executive Director, Margo Legault
- Administrative Assistant, Lauren Gruer
- Bookkeeper, Ana Maria Alvarez

## **Board of Directors**

President: Cathy Nolan, Quebec City Reading Council

Vice-President: \*Cheryl Leggo, Gaspésie Literacy Council

\*Positions remained as listed until April 25, 2016. A vacancy remains for the position of Vice-President.

Treasurer: Eric Aubry

Secretary: Marilee DeLombard, Western Quebec Literacy Council

Director: Sia Spanoudakis

## **Board Meetings**

The Board of directors met five times 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.

## **Annual General Meeting**

Nine out of eleven full members attended the Annual General Meeting on the 24th of September 2015. 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
- Travel Policy Committee

# Members



## Chateauguay



Chateauguay Valley  
Literacy Council

## Eastern Townships / Estrie



Yamaska  
Literacy  
Council



## Gaspésie



## Laval / Laurentians



## Outaouais



Western Quebec  
Literacy Council

## Montreal



## Quebec City



## South Shore



# Associate Members





***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.***