

## **ACTIVITY REPORT 2021-2022**

**PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF**



**founded in 1990,  
re-founded as a national organization in 2004**

**September 10, 2022**



## *A word from the president*

At the 2020 General Assembly, I announced that I would retire from the Board of Directors in two years. I therefore confirm that I will not be a candidate as a director and as chairman at the election to be held at this General Meeting on Saturday, September 10, 2022.

I am proud of the progress made by the Association since its re-foundation in 2004. From a small local organization, it has become a large national association present in all regions of Quebec. Its funding now allows it to ensure its sustainability.

The Association had been active in 1996 in the fight for the abolition of grandparents' support payments to grandchildren.

Since 2004, she has presented different briefs or made different representations on different issues such as the reform of the Youth Protection Act, the reform of family law, for a reasonable payment of grandparents who act as a family of proximity.

Hotline volunteers have helped, comforted and referred thousands of grandparents to professionals. Grandparents have benefited from hundreds of conferences, coffee meetings and one-on-one meetings since 2004.

Since 2004, I have had the opportunity to meet many politicians and journalists. I have defended grandparents and their grandchildren by presenting briefs or giving interviews. But above all, I have had the privilege of meeting grandparents from most regions of Quebec during meetings or conferences.

I make no secret of my emotion in stepping down from the presidency of this organization in which I have volunteered thousands of hours since the May 2003 General Assembly. I will be pleased to collaborate in order to ensure a smooth transition.

I wish the best of luck to the new team you will elect to the Board of Directors. I salute and thank the members of the Board of Directors with whom I have had the pleasure of working.



Mr. Henri Lafrance  
President



Ms. Monic Oatmeal  
Vice President and  
Responsible for the hotline



Me Luc Trudeau  
Director



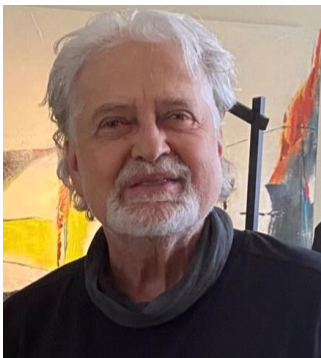
Ms. Vita Fontana  
Treasurer



Me Tania Muco Harusha  
Administrator



Ms. Viviane Arsenault  
Vice President of  
Communications



Mr. Daniel Bizier  
Vice President of Communications

I also salute and thank all our dedicated volunteers.



Allow me to name our representative in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region, Mr. Gilles Bernatchez. It is thanks to him that I was able to give multiple conferences in his region during the year 2021-2022. A big thank you Mr. Bernatchez for your dedication.

## **The ADGPQ team**

### **Administration**

- Ms. Aline Duchesne, Administrative Assistant.

### **Communications**

- Ms. Nicole Mousseau, Senior Consultant, Strategic Communications. She writes documents (internal and external), provides strategic advice to the organization in terms of communications, coordinates the production of print and digital tools and acts as a press relations officer.
- Ms. Marie-Julie Paradis, manager of the Facebook page.

### **Hotline: Our volunteers**

- Ms. Monique Godin. She has been listening by phone one day a week for seven years now.
- Mrs. Line Chartrand has been listening by phone one day a week for two years.
- Several other people did some listening over a short period of time.

### **Involvement of our volunteers and members**

- A special thanks to Mr. Gilles Bernatchez, representative of the Association in Abitibi-Témiscamingue. He has been representing us in his region since 2007 and has worked hard to make the Grandparents' Association known and to mobilize seniors' groups.
- We also had several dozen volunteers this year who did listening, legal research, computer support and more. We are happy to have their participation.

- I would also like to thank all the members of the Association who participate in large numbers in our activities such as conferences, social mobilization, coffee meetings, etc.

### **Involvement of our directors**

In addition to their role on the Board of Directors, many of our directors are involved in the following ways:

- Mrs. Monic Avoine, in addition to her task as vice-president, is responsible for the hotline.
- Me Luc Trudeau has given several information video conferences on the rights of grandparents.
- Mrs. Vita Fontana, treasurer, sees to the financial management of the organization in collaboration with the president and the secretariat.
- Mrs. Viviane Arsenault and Mr. Daniel Bizier represent us at the Table régionale des aînés de la Montérégie.

*A big thank you and congratulations to the whole team!!!*

### **Presentation of the Association**

The Grandparents' Association was founded in 1990 as a local organization in Beauport and

surrounding areas. In 2004, it extended its scope to the whole of Quebec. Since then, it has organized events and activities in most regions of Quebec.

Since 2004, she has maintained a toll-free hotline for all grandparents in Quebec.

Since 2004, its website [grandparents.qc.ca](http://grandparents.qc.ca) informs grandparents of its mission, its services, its various activities and its demands.

Since 2010, its [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/grandparents.quebec) page [.com/grandparents.quebec](https://www.facebook.com/grandparents.quebec) informs, mobilizes and entertains grandparents.

## **Mission**

The main mission of the Association is the collective and individual defense of the rights of grandparents, grandchildren and families. In order to do so, it offers services allowing :

- To help grandparents and grandchildren experiencing difficulties in the family context in order to promote, among other things, the maintenance of the child's personal relationship with his or her grandparents;
- To sensitize the authorities and the media about the problems experienced by grandparents, grandchildren and their families. This is why numerous interviews and presentations are made every year;
- To recognize the importance of the role of grandparents in society, with families and grandchildren.

## **Description of our mission and services**

The Association aims to continue to be a beacon for grandparents and grandchildren experiencing difficulties in a family context in order to prevent them from being confronted with isolation and powerlessness. It also wishes to maintain its services throughout Quebec.

**Integrity:** The Association acts with honesty and transparency in order to ensure the trust of its members, partners and other interlocutors. Through its hotline, its legal and other conferences, its newsletters and its website, it makes available relevant information about its operations.

**Empathy and respect:** The Association offers its services with empathy and treats with consideration all requests received without discrimination or judgment. It is concerned with respecting people and their pathways.

**Dedication and mutual aid:** The Association is mainly composed of a dedicated team of volunteers concerned with providing the necessary support to people who wish to talk about certain relational situations within their families. The Association's goal is to advocate for a society where the role of grandparents in the family is recognized and valued.

## Vision

The Association aims to be a beacon for grandparents and grandchildren experiencing difficulties in a family context in order to prevent them from being confronted with isolation and powerlessness. It offers its services throughout Quebec.

## Actions and services offered

- Toll free line Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Coffee meetings for sharing and reflection every Thursday.
- Mobilization Committee as often as necessary.
- Information emails to all our members, supporters and partners several times a month.
- Facebook publication three or four times a week.
- Media interviews and releases.
- Representations to political authorities.
- Conferences with professionals (psychologists, lawyers, notaries and others).
- Presentation of our mission and our services during participation in seniors' fairs.
- Remote support to allow our members to participate in virtual activities.
- Meetings with partner organizations.

## Our contact details

Our offices are located on the Côte-de-Beaupré near Quebec City  
C. P. 2011 - 20 Fatima Street East  
Beaupré (QC) G0A 1E0

Administrative phone number : Quebec : 418-702-3544  
Listening line : 514-745-6110 or 1-866-745-6110

Website: [www.grandparents.ca](http://www.grandparents.ca)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/grandparents.quebec>

## Political issues and continued mobilization in 2021-2022



The year 2021-2022 was the year of mobilization for the ADGPQ, which fought against the infringement of grandparents' rights following the tabling of Bill 2 in the fall of 2021 by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Jolin-Barette. Thus, if Bill 2 is passed in its current version, it would diminish contact rights between grandparents and their grandchildren in multiple ways. For example, currently grandparents benefit from the presumption that it is in the child's best interests to maintain contact with them. The bill changes this by putting the burden of proof back on the grandparents to prove to the court their importance in the child's life.

## Our actions

Prior to the introduction of Bill 2, the ADGPQ has :

- informed its field partners of possible upcoming changes (July-August 2021);
- drafted and distributed a letter to Minister Jolin-Barette denouncing the fears of the ADGPQ regarding the mistreatment suffered by an increasing number of seniors who see their ties cut with their grandchildren, following the tabling of a bill that does not meet the demands of the ADGPQ;
- contacted Minister Barrette's Chief of Staff to express our concerns.

As a result of the introduction of Bill 2, the ADGPQ has:

- contacted the MNAs, the justice spokespersons of their parliamentary groups at the National Assembly, to make them aware of the ADGPQ's position;
- drafted and distributed a [press release](#) on Parliament Hill and to elected officials, local and national media and partners denouncing the discrimination experienced by seniors following the introduction of the bill;
- filed [a brief](#) in December 2021;
- had the provincial MNA for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Mr. Alexandre Leduc, sponsor a petition that was tabled at the National Assembly and put online in December 2021;



- deployed a social media campaign and targeted communication to partners to drive signatures on the petition, reaching 1081 by February 1<sup>er</sup> 2022;
- prompted the National AQDR to issue a [press release](#) supporting the ADGPQ in its demands.

The ADGPQ made a request to the Commission des institutions de l'Assemblée nationale to be heard during the Parliamentary Commission that took place in the winter of 2022. Minister Jolin-Barette did not invite any representatives of Quebec seniors' groups.

## Meetings of Members of Parliament

To highlight the issues and demands of grandparents, Mr. Lafrance and Ms. Avoine participated in virtual meetings with the following MPs:



On April 29, 2021, a virtual meeting with Ms. Sonia Lebel, MNA for Champlain and Mr. Éric Girard, MNA for Lac-Saint-Jean.



May 20, 2021, virtual meeting with Mrs. Geneviève Guilbault, MP for Louis-Hébert



May 25, 2021, virtual meeting with Catherine Dorion, MP for Taschereau

## Mobilization of corporate partners

In 2021-2022, President Henri Lafrance met with members, grandparents' and seniors' groups, and corporate partners to introduce the organization and to mobilize them, mainly on the subject of Bill 2.

We would like to thank the support and contribution of four organizations that have joined the ADGPQ as corporate members. They are the AQDR-Richelieu-Yamaska, the Haut-Richelieu, the Memphrémagog and the Centre professionnel de la diversité. We are proud to reach, through this last organization, the minorities resulting from immigration.

We need the support of corporate members to defend the rights of grandparents before government authorities. These rights are also often violated by the Youth Protection Branch. They are also threatened by the possible reform of family law. Indeed, this reform could very well abolish the rights of grandparents provided in article 611 of the Civil Code of Quebec.

## Our partners



The Quebec Association for the Defense of Retirees' Rights, Haut-Richelieu Chapter



The Quebec Association for the Defense of Pensioners' Rights, Richelieu-Yamaska Chapter



The Quebec Association for the Defense of Retirees' Rights, Memphremagog Chapter



Professional Diversity Center

Professional Diversity Center

## Presence of the ADGPQ on the public scene and actions with our members



The President, Mr. Henri Lafrance, met with different groups of grandparents and seniors to present the Association and its services. Mr. Lafrance took the opportunity to explain to the members of these organizations the issues at stake for grandparents in the reforms of family law (Bill 2) and youth protection (Bill 15).

In 2021-2022, the ADGPQ reached several thousand grandparents through all of its information and mobilization activities.

He and the vice-presidents Ms. Avoine, Ms. Arsenault and Mr. Bizier also meet with an average of 15 to 40 members each Thursday. This also allows them to share their experiences and to mobilize them with regard to the upcoming legislative changes that concern grandparents.

During the legal information meetings with Mr. Luc Trudeau, Mr. Henri Lafrance, president (or other members of the board of directors) presents a summary of the objectives pursued by the ADGPQ, the purpose of its existence and the services provided to Quebec grandparents when they need help, especially when they are cut off from their ties with their grandchildren. It also presents the Association and its main political and social demands. We encourage our sympathizing members to raise awareness and to denounce to elected officials the unjust or problematic situations that grandparents experience.

## List of organizations' meetings

Date	Meetings of organizations
May 20, 2021	AQDR Meeting
June 1, 2021	AQDR-Chicoutimi
June 15, 2021	Participation in the World Day Against Elder Abuse with TCPACN and AQDR
June 22, 2021	Meeting of the Table concertation des aînés de la Capitale-Nationale
June 29, 2021	AQDR-Québec
September 17 to 20, 2021	Participation in the Salon des aînés de Saint-Jérôme
October 5, 2021	Val-D'Or Seniors' Week Conference
October 27, 2021	RA-ACA
November 8, 2021	Conference Bonheur des aînés de Lanaudière
November 17, 2021	Virtual conference of the Table des aînés de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue
November 19, 2021	Conference with The Open Door (widows and widowers)

## Quebec Grandparents Association Networking

The ADGPQ carries out numerous interventions with a multitude of community actors in Quebec. It is also a member of the following organizations

Member of the following national organizations:

- Point Quebec Family
- Quebec Network for Independent Community Action (RQ-ACA)
- Regroupement des organismes en défense collectives des droits (RODCD)

Member of the following regional organizations:

- Accès bénévolat (Montreal East)
- Center d'accompagnement et d'assistance aux plaintes de la Capitale-Nationale
- Beauport Community Development Centre (CDC-Beauport)
- Information and referral center for the Capitale-Nationale and Chaudière-Appalaches regions, 211
- Volunteer Centre of Quebec (CABQ)
- Contrefort Volunteer Centre (CABC)
- Center d'action bénévole Aide 23
- Volunteer Bureau of Montreal
- West Island Volunteer Centre
- Table de concertation des aînés-e-s de l'Île de Montréal
- Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale-Nationale
- West Island Seniors' Roundtable (WISC)

Partnership and collaborative relationships with the following organizations:

- AFÉAS (Association féminine d'éducation et d'action sociale)
- Association de défense des droits des retraités (AQDR)
- FADOQ - Mouvement des Aînés du Québec
- City of Beaupré
- Table de concertation des aînés de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Table de concertation des Aînés de Val-d'Or.
- AQDR-Richelieu-Yamaska
- AQDR-Haut-Richelieu
- AQDR-Memphremagog
- Professional Diversity Center
- Parental Alienation Hub

## Quebec Grandparents Association Networking

Date	Events
2021-04-08	Quebec Network for Independent Community Action (RQ-ACA)
2021-04-10	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale
2021-04-20	Regroupement des organismes en défense collectives des droits (RODCD)
2021-04-20	Volunteer Centre of Quebec (CABQ)
2021-04-28	Beauport Community Development Centre (BCCD)
2021-05-06	Parental Alienation Hub
2021-05-14	Table de concertation des aînés(es) de l'Île-de-Montréal (TCAIM)
2021-05-19	Quebec Network for Independent Community Action (RQ-ACA)
2021-05-20	Memphremagog Association for the Defense of Pensioners' Rights
2021-05-25	Regroupement des organismes en défense collectives des droits (RODCD)
2021-06-01	Association for the Defense of the Rights of Retired Persons of Chicoutimi
2021-06-07	Volunteer Access
2021-06-09	Table de concertation des aînés(es) de l'Île-de-Montréal (TCAIM)
2021-06-17	Point Quebec Family
2021-06-18	Volunteer Centre of Quebec (CABQ)
2021-06-22	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale
2021-06-29	Association for the Defense of Retirees' Rights in Quebec City
2021-09-08	Beauport Community Development Centre (BCCD)
2021-09-22	Quebec Network for Independent Community Action (RQ-ACA)
2021-10-27	Quebec Network for Independent Community Action (RQ-ACA)
2021-11-02	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale
2021-11-17	Val-d'Or Pensioners' Rights Association
2022-02-03	Quebec Network for Independent Community Action (RQ-ACA)
2022-03-24	Quebec Network for Independent Community Action (RQ-ACA)

## Autonomous popular education

Our research was used to document the impact on grandparents. In particular, the case law portion of our brief in relation to Bill 2.

## Information activities and videoconferences

Despite the pandemic, the Grandparents' Association continued to organize various events for its members and supporters in virtual :

- Various video conferences offered by professionals;
- Legal information meetings;
- Presentations about our organization and our services to grandparents in Quebec.

Here is a summary of our video conferences, information meetings and presentations:

### ▪ JURIPOP videoconference



On April 9, 2021, a conference with JURIPOP which dealt exclusively with the following topics: will, succession and abuse. A second conference was planned for April 12 but was cancelled by JURIPOP. Number of participants: 86.

JURIPOP offers creative, rigorous and accessible legal services so that all people can assert their rights.

### ▪ Videoconference with Mr. Sébastien Harvey, Coordinator



New videoconference on your rights held on May 11, 2021 with Mr. Sébastien Harvey, intervention coordinator of the Fédération des Centres d'aide et d'accompagnement aux plaintes (CAAP).

The topics discussed were the health network, youth centers, abuse and private residences for seniors. Number of people present: 55.



- **Videoconference with Ms. Suzanne Vallières, psychologist**



On September 8, 2021, the Association invited Mrs. Suzanne Vallières, psychologist, speaker, author and mother, to an online conference.

Ms. Vallières has worked in the media field since 1996. In addition to contributing to various magazines, she delivers the fruit of over twenty years of experience with young people as a specialized trainer and psychotherapist. She is the author of the successful collection "Les psy-trucs", translated into six languages.

This conference aimed to answer the questions of many grandparents and to offer concrete tips to help them live their role to the fullest, while preserving a harmonious education that respects the values of the parents, for the well-being of the child. Number of participants: 108.

- **Videoconference on mediation and other alternatives to court proceedings**



On January 13, 2022, videoconference on mediation and other alternatives to court proceedings.

This videoconference was given by Ms. Ines Ziat and Ms. Heting Xu, responsible for the Pro Bono Program of Canada - University of Montreal Chapter, and co-leader of the Family Law Project. Number of participants: 89.

- **Videoconference on the approach to emotional autonomy**



On January 27, 2022, videoconference with Ms. Ginette Carrier, Bachelor of Social Work. Since 1991, she has been offering individual, couple and group coaching to guide people towards a fulfilled life, by teaching them an approach that combines practice and theory.

Her talk was on the Emotional Empowerment Approach and she spoke about the Emotional Empowerment School. Number of people present: 70.

- **Videoconference on the judicial process in family law**



On February 9, 2022, another videoconference was held, also by Ms. Ines Ziat and Ms. Heting Xu, responsible for the Pro Bono program in Canada, on the judicial process in family law. Number of participants: 68.

- **Legal information meetings with Me Luc Trudeau**



The Association continues to keep its grandparents well informed by holding regular legal information meetings with Me Luc Trudeau. **Five** meetings were held on April 11, May 22, October 9, November 20, 2021 and February 12, 2022. Total number of participants at the meetings: 253.

Me Luc Trudeau, a family lawyer with more than 35 years of experience, asserts the right of grandchildren to maintain their ties with their grandparents, both in Superior Court and in the Youth Division. He also explains the existing recourses in this regard.

Mr. Trudeau has been a speaker since 2006 on the rights of grandparents and their grandchildren

## Events organized in 2021-2022 by the Association

Date	Title	Connections
April 9, 2021	JURIPOP Online Conference Wills, Succession and Abuse	86
April 11, 2021	Online conference with Me Luc Trudeau	45
April 12, 2021	JURIPOP Online Conference Will, Succession cancelled	18
April 15, 2021	Coffee meeting - it's good to talk about it	20
April 29	Coffee meeting on parental alienation	21
May 6, 2021	Coffee meeting on parental alienation - It's good to talk about it	12
May 11, 2021	Your Rights Conference - Health Network, Youth Centre, Abuse and Private Residents for Seniors	44
May 13, 2021	Coffee meeting on how to assert the rights of grandparents and their grandchildren	23
May 22, 2021	Online conference with Me Luc Trudeau	41
June 17, 2021	Action and Mobilization Committee - Family Law Reform	29
July 8, 2021	Mobilization coffee meeting and sharing	38
July 15, 2021	Coffee meeting on "What to do and not to do as a grandparent when there is a dispute with the parents".	39
July 29, 2021	Family Law Reform Bill Priority Coffee Meeting	23
August 12, 2021	Coffee meeting on how the vacation season is going with your grandchildren	21
August 26, 2021	Family mediation coffee meeting and your grandchildren's first day of school	19

Date	Title	Connections
September 8, 2021	Online conference with Mrs. Suzanne Vallières, psychologist, speaker, author and mother	86
September 11, 2021	Annual General Meeting of the ADGPQ	60
September 30, 2021	Coffee meeting on parental or grandparental alienation and how to detect mental health problems	33
October 9, 2021	Online conference with Me Luc Trudeau	46
October 28, 2021	Family Law Reform Café Meeting	35
November 4, 2021	Coffee meeting on : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family law reform,</li> <li>• Exchange on the demands of the Association in the best interest of grandchildren and grandparents,</li> <li>• The needs of grandparents experiencing difficulties</li> <li>• What new services could the Association offer to grandparents to better assist them?</li> </ul>	36
November 18, 2021	Coffee meeting on : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family law reform.</li> <li>• Exchange on the demands of the Association in the best interest of grandchildren and grandparents.</li> <li>• The needs of grandparents who are experiencing difficulties.</li> <li>• What new services could the Association offer to grandparents to better assist them?</li> </ul>	22
November 20, 2021	Online conference with Me Luc Trudeau	35
November 25, 2021	Coffee meeting on : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family law reform</li> <li>• Exchange on the demands of the Association in the best interest of grandchildren and grandparents.</li> <li>• Your interest in helping to assert its claims.</li> </ul>	32
December 9, 2021	Coffee meeting on family law reform.	27

Date	Title	Connections
January 6, 2022	Coffee meeting on : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a strategy for the family law reform petition.</li> <li>• Discussion of the 2022 Action Plan</li> <li>• How do you feel about this new COVID-19 wave?</li> </ul>	25
January 13, 2022	Conference on mediation and other alternatives to litigation	71
January 27, 2022	Online conference with Mrs. Ginette Carrier, t.s. of the School of Affective Autonomy.	56
February 9, 2022	Family Law Judicial Process Conference	54
February 12, 2022	Online conference with Me Luc Trudeau	35
February 17, 2022	Coffee meeting on : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill 15, An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other legislative provisions.</li> <li>• Brief return of the family law reform petition.</li> <li>• Informal exchanges on what you are experiencing.</li> </ul>	27
March 10, 2022	Coffee meeting - Psychosocial support ?	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1 149</b>

## Our communication, press and public relations activities

The year 2021-2022 was marked by several activities as well as the production of communication tools, including:

- **Continuation of the 2021 radio campaign**

Following the success of the [radio campaign](#) that ended on March 31, 2021, the Quebec Grandparents Association has seen an increase in traffic to its website and Facebook page and has received more calls during the months of April and May 2021.

- **Creation and launch of the new website (September 2021)**

The website of the ADGPQ has been completely revised and redone. The tree structure, the new content, the writing of all the texts, the research of new images and visuals required more than 150 hours of work. As for the graphic production and the setting on line, it was realized by the firm VIGLOB.

The objective was to create a more current, more easily accessible and user-friendly site, according to the comments obtained, it is successful!



- **New visual signature of the ADGPQ**

Since the Association (which was then called AGPQ) was more difficult to find in search engines (the Association des garderies du Québec had the same acronym) and since the creation of the new website required a change of visual signature, our organization decided to change its name to "*L'Association des grands-parents du Québec (ADGPQ)*".

- **Creation of three new information videos**

Three new videos were created, one of which is associated with the mobilization campaign to fight Bill 2. These were previewed at the Salon des aînés.

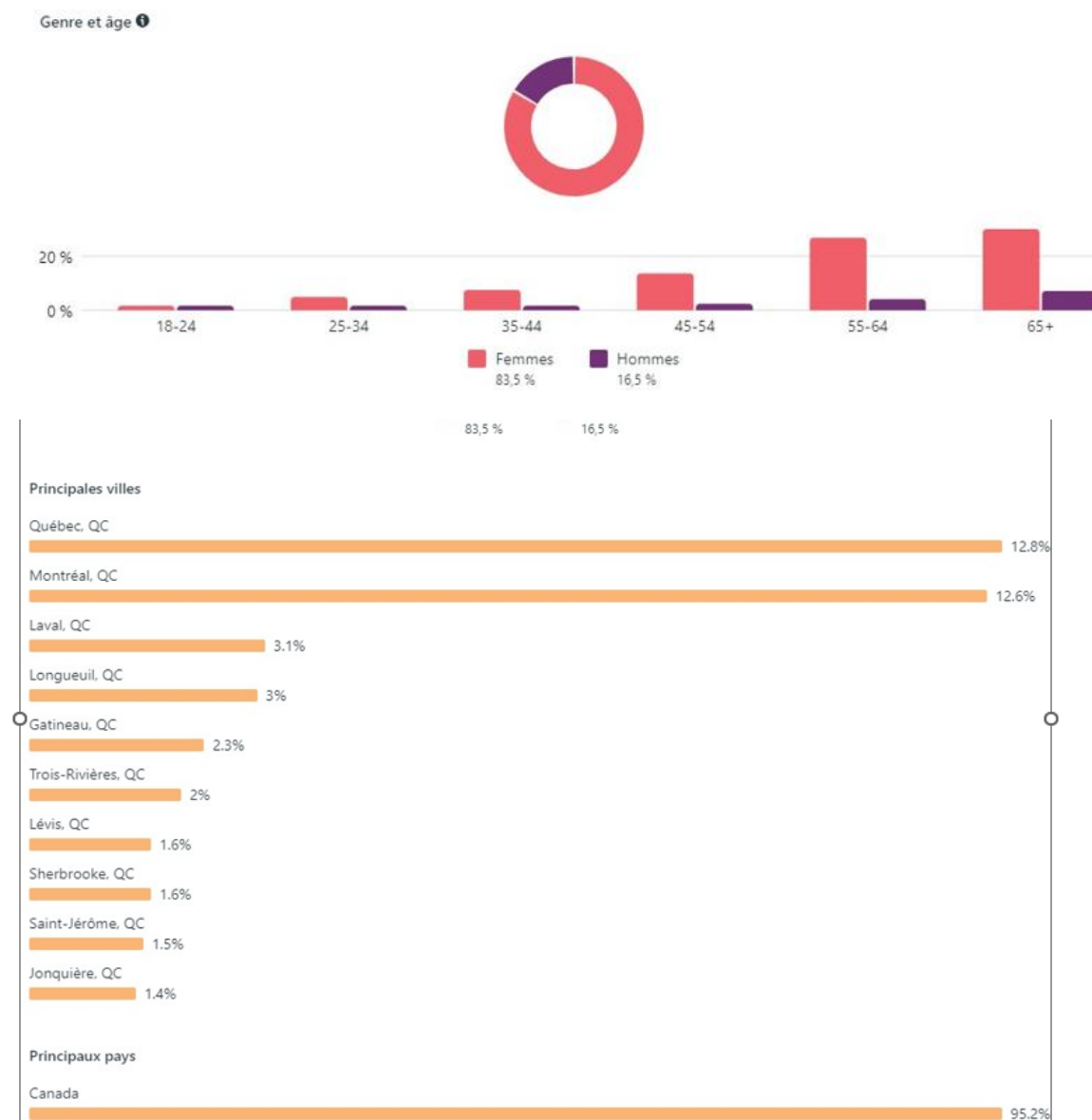
## Social Media

### Facebook page



Facebook Page likes as of March 31, 2021: 2014

### Main cities in Quebec



- **Twitter and Linked'IN**

More publications took place in 2021-2022 than before. Many were related to the distribution of our press releases, our video vignette, our mobilization efforts to fight Bill 2, etc. Further efforts will be made in 2022-2023 through the implementation of a rolling editorial calendar.

- **Training and coaching tools for the hotline**

In 2022, we completed a revision of our volunteer handbook and developed training for our crisis line volunteers.

- **Press Relations**

In 2021-2022, the ADGPQ wrote and distributed the following press releases. These press releases were distributed via the press wire (Parliament Hill media, national and regional media). Me Trudeau has been a speaker since 2006 on the rights of grandparents and their grandchildren. In addition, personalized mailings and contacts were made to some fifteen national journalists (print, TV and radio).

- **Name of the releases**

Release date: May 5, 2021

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Laurent Report - While welcoming the recommendations, the ADGPQ insists on the importance of a change of culture at the DPJ.

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Broadcast: (name of other release)

Family Law Reform Bill - A Reform that Discriminates Against Seniors, Denounces the Quebec Grandparents Association (newswire.ca)

Release date: December 9, 2021

Bill 2: Harm to Grandparents

Association québécoise de défense des droits des grands-parents (AQDR)

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AQDR PRESS RELEASE ON BILL 2 - AQDR

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## Press review

### Mention in the media

We have made numerous publications in support of our demands concerning Bill 2. In particular, the changes affecting the rights of grandparents (article 611 CCQ). We received the support of the national AQDR which issued a press release to this effect. Many regional AQDRs have done the same.

Here are some of the titles of articles that have been published about the Grandparents' Association's cause

[Grandparents and Family Law Reform: Quebec News Releases \(arrondissement.com\)](http://arrondissement.com)

[Grandparents have rights - L'Hebdo du St-Maurice \(lhebdo.com\), 10 May 2021](http://lhebdo.com)

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Provisions deemed discriminatory to seniors

### The AQDR denounces several aspects of the family law reform bill

[Le courrier du sud : prejudice towards grandparents](#)

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[Measures deemed to discriminate against seniors | Journal Le Soir](#)

[Mentions in the news bulletin of the radio stations Radio Acton and Horizon FM 95,5](#)

Rights of seniors and grandparents

[Rights of seniors and grandparents - Le Journal L'Horizon \(journalhorizon.com\)](http://journalhorizon.com)

[Bill 2: Harm to grandparents \(lecourrier.qc.ca\)](http://lecourrier.qc.ca)

[Family Law Reform Bill: A reform that discriminates against seniors, denounces the Quebec Grandparents Association,](#) November 25, 2021 - *Modified at 3:07 pm on November 24, 2021*

Reading time: 3 min 30 s

### [The year was marked by the return of intergenerational hugs | Le Devoir](#)

**December 28, 2021**

**Preparation of content: partner messages: request for distribution of the press release**

[Parents and grandparents: promoting harmony / Dossier \(naitreetgrandir.com\)](http://naitreetgrandir.com)

## Other media mentions



On August 2, 2021 and February 14, 2022, Mr. Henri Lafrance gave an interview with Mr. Jean Carette, retired professor from UQAM and vice-president of the AQDR National. The subject discussed was the rights of grandparents and bills 2 and 15.



On December 1, 2021, Mr. Henri Lafrance gave an interview to Ms. Stéphanie Gendron, journalist and author of the Journal Le Placoteux de la Côte-du-Sud concerning Bill 2, which reduces the rights of grandparents.



On May 18, 2021, Ms. Monic Avoine, Vice President gave an interview to journalist Julie Marcoux on LCN in anticipation of the grandparents' deconfinement plan.

## Distribution of the newsletter

In 2021-2022, we distributed about 20 newsletters to over 2,000 people.

### List penetration rate statistics of subscribers to our newsletter as of March 31, 2022 by region

Region code	Region	Population 2020	Ratio per 100,000 population	Subscribers	of subscribers by region
01	Lower St. Lawrence	197 987	17	33	1,97%
02	Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	278 971	17	48	2,88%
03	Capitale-Nationale	757 065	36	271	16,17%
04	Mauricie	274 013	25	69	4,15%
05	Eastern Townships	333 704	22	73	4,36%
06	Montreal	2 069 849	14	293	17,51%
07	Outaouais	401 388	15	59	3,52%
08	Abitibi-Témiscamingue	147 897	30	44	2,60%
09	North Shore	90 529	17	15	0,91%
10	Northern Quebec	46 178	4	2	0,14%
11	Gaspésie-Iles-de-la-Madeleine	90 697	20	18	1,05%
12	Chaudière-Appalaches	432 782	18	78	4,64%
13	Laval	442 648	13	59	3,52%
14	Lanaudière	524 368	25	131	7,81%
15	Laurentians	631 592	23	146	8,72%
16	Montréal	1 603 232	18	286	17,09%
17	Centre-du-Québec	251 671	19	49	2,95%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8 574 571</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1675</b>	<b>100,00%</b>

## **Interns and volunteers**

The Association continues to emphasize an intensified collaboration with the Volunteer Centres, particularly with the Volunteer Centre of Quebec, Accès Bénévolat (East of Montreal), Volunteer Centre of the West Island and with the Volunteer Centre of Montreal. This collaboration helps us in our recruitment of volunteers.

The Association has recruited many new volunteers for its hotline and its other various services. The pandemic has greatly facilitated the recruitment of its volunteers through the Volunteer Centres, but especially through the new [JeBenevole.ca](https://www.jebenevole.ca) website of the Fédération des Centres d'action bénévole du Québec.

## **Annual General Meeting**

In this period of pandemic COVID-19, the General Assembly of the Association was held on September 11, 2021 via ZOOM. More than 30 people were present.

## Hotline



Monic Oats responds to a grandmother in need

The crisis line is still very much used by grandparents and it is still the "gateway" to the Association for many grandparents who are experiencing difficulties. The helpline is still available 8 hours a day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday for a total of more than 2000 hours a year.

Once again this year, we would like to highlight the exceptional contribution of our warmest advocates, Mrs. Monic Avoine and her team of volunteers. It is important to note that calls from grandparents come from all regions of Quebec. The number of calls was approximately 1000 this year.

Here are some situations encountered by the listeners:

1. Parents demand money or property to leave grandchildren with grandparents.
2. The parents threaten the grandparents: "If you refuse to keep the children at the end of the week, you won't see them anymore".
3. Children are neglected by parents. Grandparents compensate for this by caring for and nurturing the young ones. Grandparents provide full-time care for their grandchildren with the consent of the parents. They pay for all the children's needs. But if they ask to receive social or tax programs related to the children (Child Support Payment (Quebec) and Canada Child Allowance), the parents threaten them with not seeing the children again.
4. Children are neglected by parents. The grandparents compensate for this by taking care of and caring for the youngsters. They become exhausted and ask the CLSC for help. The CLSC workers ask the director of youth protection to intervene. The Director of Youth Protection places the child in a foster home. If the child is young or very young, he or she will probably be placed with a family that wants to adopt him or her. If this happens, the grandparents would become foreigners under the law.
5. Grandparents help their son or daughter who is going through a difficult divorce or separation. When one parent is demonized by the other and experiences parental alienation, it is not only the parent who is targeted but also the parents and siblings. The big losers are, of course, the children.
6. Parents demand money or property to leave grandchildren with grandparents.
7. The parents threaten the grandparents: "If you refuse to keep the children at the end of the week, you won't see them anymore".
8. Children are neglected by parents. Grandparents compensate for this by caring and nurturing the young ones. Grandparents provide full-time care for their grandchildren with

the consent of the parents. They pay for all the children's needs. But if they ask to receive social or tax programs related to the children (Child Support Payment (Quebec) and Canada Child Allowance), the parents threaten them with not seeing the children again.

9. Children are neglected by parents. The grandparents compensate for this by taking care of and caring for the youngsters. They become exhausted and ask the CLSC for help. The CLSC workers ask the director of youth protection to intervene. The Director of Youth Protection places the child in a foster home. If the child is young or very young, he or she will probably be placed with a family that wants to adopt him or her. If this happens, the grandparents would become foreigners under the law.
10. Grandparents help their son or daughter who is going through a difficult divorce or separation. When one parent is demonized by the other and experiences parental alienation, it is not only the parent who is targeted but also the parents and siblings. The big losers are, of course, the children.
11. The son or daughter of the grandparents, father or mother of the grandchildren has died. The surviving parent wishes to erase the deceased parent's lineage from his or her life and that of his or her child. He or she wants to have the child adopted by a new spouse. If this is done, the grandparents would become strangers under the law.
12. As a result of some kind of dispute between parents and grandparents, the grandparents are denied access to the grandchildren. Yet, the parents were previously very happy with their dedication to the care and custody of the children.

This year we had about 20 volunteers join the team of volunteers for the telephone listening.

## Coffee meetings



The coffee meetings were organized by the vice-president Mrs. Monic Avoine and the president Mr. Henri Lafrance. They served both to allow members to come out of their isolation, their frustration of being deprived of access to their grandchildren in this period of confinement but also to mobilize them in relation to the bills 2 and 15 which endanger the rights of grandparents.

## Virtual meetings of the Board of Directors

Nine meetings of the Board of Directors were held virtually during this period.

Date	Board of Directors Meetings
2021-04-21	Board of Directors
2021-05-17	Board of Directors
2021-06-11	Board of Directors
2021-09-06	Board of Directors
2021-10-30	Board of Directors
2021-11-29	Board of Directors
2022-01-11	Board of Directors
2022-01-26	Board of Directors
2022-03-06	Board of Directors