

**ACTIVITY REPORT 2005-2006**

**PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL MEETING BY**



Association des  
**Grands-Parents**  
du Québec

**Grandparents' Association of Québec**

**June 4, 2006**



## Revision of the Youth Protection Act

Last year, when we presented our 2005-2006 action plan to the General Assembly, we said this:

*« Our most important issue in the coming year will be the review of the Youth Protection Act. Many grandparents risk losing the right to see their grandchildren if the government responds to DYPs' requests for early adoptions of children whose parents are in difficulty. In the event of adoption, biological grandparents no longer have any rights.*

*That is why we will present a brief from the Association des grandparents du Québec on the revision of the Youth Protection Act. We must make the political authorities aware of the consequences of the DPJ's demands ».*

We have kept our word and we have indeed put a lot of energy into this issue. We met with the people in charge of this file from the three political parties represented in the National Assembly, namely Margaret F. Delisle, Solange Charest and Sylvie Roy. We met with representatives of the Association of Youth Centres and three directors of youth protection.

We also organized a public information meeting on the subject. We have submitted and presented a brief on the subject. We conducted numerous media interviews: radio, television, newspapers and magazines.

In December, we submitted a brief to the Commission des Affaires sociales on Bill 125 amending the Youth Protection Act. We asked for a better definition of the powers of the Director of Youth Protection. We are waiting for the final version of the bill.

We have also asked that the Civil Code be amended to introduce the principle of simple or open adoption as is done in several other countries.

We have developed many alliances with social groups who share our point of view on simple or open adoption. We believe that all our efforts have advanced the grandparents' cause.

On May 16, 2006, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Yvon Marcoux, and the Minister responsible for Youth Protection and Rehabilitation, Ms. Margaret Delisle, announced the creation of a working group to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Quebec adoption system.

Some will say that this is a way to save the government time, that the problems and solutions are already known. Regardless, as an advocacy group, we will present the Association's views to this working group, which will submit its report on November 1, 2006.

## **Help line**

We were committed to continuing to improve our telephone listening and referral services.

This service is the pillar of our action. This is what allows us to reach and understand the problems of grandparents in difficulty. It is what allows us to present to the political authorities and the media a representative point of view of the experiences of grandparents in difficulty. The injustices reported to this service are then reported to the media and political authorities by the Association.

What could be more rewarding for our volunteers than finally hearing a grandmother who started the conversation in tears laughing at the end of a call.

Telephone service is now available 12 hours a day, seven days a week. Grandparents from all over Quebec can contact the Association at one of the following numbers: 514 745-6110 in Greater Montreal, 1 866-745-6110 in other regions.

## **Publication of a newsletter**

We wanted to publish a regular newsletter for our members, supporters and the general public.

We did so in the fall of 2005. We did not have enough time to do it more. However, we had media coverage that more than compensated.

## **Updating our website**

We wanted to update our website more regularly:  
<http://www.grands-parents.qc.ca>.

We have improved the updating of our website and we intend to announce our activities regularly in 2006-2007.

## **Establishment of regional action committees**

We were considering setting up regional action committees to organize activities in their respective regions.

We have decided to develop solid nuclei as a priority in the Quebec City and Montreal regions. This is why monthly meetings of members are now held in the Quebec City and Montreal regions. Projects are in the pipeline in other regions.

We will continue to develop partnerships. Thus, we are involved in the organization of Grandparents' Day (September 11) and the organization of activities surrounding Seniors' Day.

We continued to participate in the various activities of the Table de concertation des aînés de la région de Québec. We participated in the annual meetings of ROC03, the Centre d'action bénévole de Québec and the Regroupement des organismes sociaux communautaires de Beauport. We were involved in organizing the grandparents' day on September 11. And we organized a meeting as part of Seniors' Day. We have developed many new partnerships as you will see below.

## Meetings in which the AGPQ participated

- Working committees of the Association de l'Association de l'Association des grand-parents du Québec.
- Quebec City Grandparents' Day working committees in collaboration with seniors' organizations.
- AGPQ Boards of Directors.
- Henri Lafrance participated in all meetings of the Organizing Committee of the États généraux sur la famille (COFAQ).
- Henri Lafrance participated in all meetings of the COFAQ Executive Committee.
- Henri Lafrance participated in all meetings of the COFAQ Board of Directors.
- Monic Avoine participated in all the meetings of the Organizing Committee of the Grand-Parents' Day in the Quebec City area.
- Henri Lafrance participated in all meetings of the Strategy Committee(COFAQ).
- COFAQ Annual Meeting.
- Annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Group for Family Policy.
- Annual meeting of the Regroupement des organismes sociaux communautaires de Beauport.
- Annual meeting of the Centre d'action bénévole de Québec.
- Annual meeting of the Regroupement des organismes communautaires de la région 03 (ROC-03).
- Annual and monthly meeting of the Table de concertation des aînés de la région de Québec.
- Annual meeting of the Association québécoise de défense des retraités de la région de Québec (AQDR-Québec) in Quebec City.
- Annual meeting of the Association québécoise de défense des retraités de La Vallée Mont et Rivières de La Vallée du Richelieu. (AQDR-Vallée du Richelieu) in Carignan.
- Annual meeting of the Action des nouvelles conjointes du Québec.

- Annual meeting of the Mouvement Retrouvaille de la région de Québec.
- 8th Symposium de la famille à Trois-Rivières (Centre de développement de la recherche sur la famille).
- Monthly meetings of the Table de concertation des aînés de la région de Québec.
- Meeting with Mrs. Margaret F. Delisle, Minister of Family Protection, his Deputy Minister and Political Attaché.
- Meetings with MPs Solange Charest and Sylvie Roy.
- Participation in the Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly.
- Meeting with the Association des Centres jeunesse du Québec and three DPJs in Montreal.
- Meeting with a CARP representative in Montreal.
- Many private meetings of grandparent and grandparent couples.
- Participation in the Salon des générations de Québec.
- Day 211 of Quebec City.
- Training of CABQ volunteers.
- Interviews with the following media: Radio-Canada, LCN, TQS, La Presse canadienne, CJMS, CKNU, HOUR, Canal Vox.

Henri Lafrance, President of the AGPQ and Vice-President of the Confédération des organismes familiaux de Québec (COFAQ), was elected to the Board of Directors of the Conseil de développement de la recherche sur la famille to represent community groups.

## Non-exhaustive details on the various activities

Date	Activities
2005-04-02	COFAQ Board of Directors Meeting
2005-04-06	Annual general meeting of the Regroupement des organismes sociocommunautaires de Beauport (ROSCB) at the Centre Mgr Laval. Assessment and review of the year.
2005-04-11	Report on CANAL VOX on the program OUI-DIRE, a program devoted to grandparents' rights and the services offered by the Association.
2005-04-15	Regional symposium "Association québécoise de gérontologie".
2005-04-17	Representatives of the four Borough of Beauport recreational groups gathered at Auberge Baker, the directors of the Service Aide 23 paid tribute to volunteers for their involvement and dedication on several committees and launched the Semaine de l'action bénévole under the theme "C'est bon pour le morale".
2005-04-26	Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association des grands-parents du Québec. Publication in Le Courrier de Louise (Journal de Montréal and Journal de Québec) of the Association's contact information and our telephone listening services. This publication has generated many calls from grandparents (especially grandmothers) in difficulty.
2005-04-28 2005-04-29	Training day on "research", an essential tool for influencing family policies.
2005-05-05	Information meeting for representatives of the organizations present at the Salon des générations, AGPQ and Institut de la famille.
2005-05-10	Meeting with Ms. Carole Keough to complete the grant application for an educational project, a service offered to elementary school seniors and youth.
2005-05-12 2005-05-13 2005-05-14 2005-05-15	Participation in collaboration with the Institut de la famille in the Salon des générations under the theme, <i>Let's go TOGETHER!</i> This event gave our organization great visibility.
2005-05-16	Participation in the annual meeting of the Table de concertation des aînées de la région de Québec.
2005-05-28	Participation of the President and Vice-President of the AGPQ as guests at the Annual General Meeting of the Action des nouvelles conjointes du Québec. This is one way for us to develop partnerships between advocacy organizations.
2005-06-04	Annual General Meeting of the Association. Conference with Mrs. Christine Morin, notary and professor of law at Laval University. Meeting of the AGPQ Board of Directors.
2005-06-15	Meeting of the AGPQ Board of Directors.



Date	Activities
2005-06-17	Participation in the COFAQ Annual General Meeting. Appointment of the President of the Association as Vice-President of the Confédération des organismes familiaux du Québec.
2005-06-18	Symposium "The caring family: recourse against neglect and abuse. Assessment of families' potential for resilience": <b>"Importance of grandparents and extended family in problematic situations"</b> . <a href="http://www.ifacef.org/ifacef/colloque_juin_2005/brochure_colloque.pdf">http://www.ifacef.org/ifacef/colloque_juin_2005/brochure_colloque.pdf</a>
2005-06-25	Participation in a celebration for some 50 disabled children called the "Congress of Proud Mongols" at the home of Louise Brissette, the adoptive mother of 30 disabled children.
2005-07-14	Filing a complaint with the office of the Minister of Youth Protection in a case of sexual assault of a young girl, at the request of grandparents.
2005-07-20	Meeting with a group of grandparents in Saint-Jérôme.
2005-08-06	Assembly and conference of Jean-Guy Martel at the Fraternité Saint-Alphonse.
2005-08-30	The President of the AGPQ and Vice-President of the COFAQ, Henri Lafrance, represented these organizations at the meeting in Montreal on the Youth Strategy Consultation.
2005-09-02	Assembly and conference with Yves Pouliot, Amerindian grandfather by his mother, at the Fraternité Saint-Alphonse. He shared with us the lessons he learned from his busy life.
2005-09-11	In collaboration with the Institut de la famille, organization of the grandparents' celebration in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré.
2005-09-15	Board of Directors. The <b>September</b> issue of the Revue du Bel Age spoke at length about the AGPQ's action to defend its rights.
2005-09-17	Monic Avoine, Vice-President of the AGPQ, gives an interview at the Canal Vox de la Côte-de-Beaupré concerning the grandparents' celebration. The interview is broadcast the next day.
2005-09-18	A communication is addressed to Premier Jean Charest concerning the particular situation at the Centre jeunesse de Lanaudière.
2005-09-25	Three members of our Board of Directors participated in the annual Charlevoix Grandparents' Day. Henri Lafrance, President, presented the services offered by the Association to the 200 grandparents present. He also explained to the guests the rights and remedies of grandparents in difficulty.
2005-10-01	A delegation from the Association was present at the Seniors' Day organized by the AQDR of the Quebec City region. Those present had the opportunity to learn about the services offered by the Association.

Date	Activities
2005-10	Publication of the AGPQ newspaper: "For the love of our grandchildren".
2005-10-10	Participation in a program on grandparents at the Canal Vox de la Côte de Beauré.
2005-11-01	Meeting with MP Sylvie Roy.
2005-11-03	Interview at CJMS with Monic Avoine, Vice-President of the Association.
2005-11-03 2005-11-04	Henri Lafrance, Vice-President of the COFAQ and President of the AGPQ, represents these organizations at the 7th Symposium of the Centre de développement de la recherche sur la famille in Trois-Rivières.
2005-11-08	Meeting with MP Solange Charest.
2005-11-10	Interview with the Canadian Press on the reform of the Youth Protection Act and the issue of early adoptions of children in difficulty. This interview was repeated by several CBC private radio stations during the weekend of November 19 and 20, 2005. <a href="http://www.cyberpresse.ca/article/20051120/CPACTUALITES/51120007/1064/CPACTUEL">http://www.cyberpresse.ca/article/20051120/CPACTUALITES/51120007/1064/CPACTUEL</a>
2005-11-13	Interview with the English-language newspaper "Hour". Article on November 17, 2005.
2005-11-16	Participation in Louise Deschatelets' program on Canal Vox (network) to publicize the November 18 Assembly.
2005-11-17	Meeting with the DPJs of Lanaudière, Laval and Montérégie regarding their practices and the reform of the Youth Protection Act.
2005-11-17	Participation in the Annual General Meeting of the Inter-Agency Grouping.
2005-11-18	Public information meeting in Montreal on the reform of the Youth Protection Act and the issue of early adoptions of children in difficulty. Le Journal La Presse covered the event in its edition of 21 November 2005: "Reform of the DPJ Act, worried grandparents. »
2005-11-19	Board of Directors of the AGPQ.
2005-11-22	Interview at CKNU on the reform of the Youth Protection Act and the problem of rapid adoptions of children in difficulty.
2005-11-22	Interview at the LCN Network on the reform of the Youth Protection Act and the issue of rapid adoptions of children in difficulty. The interview was broadcast the same day in the evening.
2005-11-23	Meeting with the Minister of Youth Protection, Margueret Delisle, as well as her political attaché and the Deputy Minister, to raise their awareness of the problems of grandparents.
2005-11-25	Interview at CBC (Montreal) with Ms. Colombe Duclos on the reform of the Youth Protection Act and the issue of early adoptions of children in difficulty.
2005-12	Working committee for the preparation of the Association's brief on Bill 125.
2006-01-10	Participation in the program Droit au cœur de France Castel on Radio-Canada.

Date	Activities
2006-01-24	Henri Lafrance, President of the AGPQ, is accompanying the Confédération des organismes familiaux du Québec in presenting his brief to the Commission des affaires sociales on Bill 125 on the reform of the Youth Protection Act.
2006-01-26	Henri Lafrance, Monic Avoine, Nicole Ferland, Michel Legris and François Côté presented the AGPQ's brief to the Commission des affaires sociales on Bill 125 on the reform of the Youth Protection Act. The event was covered by Claudette Samson, a journalist with the newspaper Le Soleil, who published an article the next day.
2006-02-17	Meeting with a CARP representative in Montreal to establish collaboration with this English-speaking seniors' rights organization.
2006-03-12	Meeting of the AGPQ members of the Quebec City region. Brunch and sharing.
2006-03-14	Attendance at the AFÉAS de l'Ancienne Lorette meeting and conference by André Ruffo.
2006-03-15	Participation in the Annual General Meeting of the Mouvement Retrouvailles de la région de Québec et Est du Québec.
2006-03-16	Participation in "Day 211, your community on the phone".
2006-03-20	Organization of a conference with Me Denis Bélanger on grandparents' rights and the judicial process at the monthly meeting of members of the Montreal region.
2006-03-21	Participation in the general meeting of the AQDR Monts et Rivière de la Vallée du Richelieu, as a resource person.
2006-03-25	Board of Directors.
2006-04-09	Organization, in collaboration with the COFAQ, of the Forum régional des États généraux de Québec.
2006-04-16	Organization of a conference on grandparents' rights with Me Sophie Gauthier at the Quebec City Regional Members' Meeting.
2006-04-30	Conference with Ms. Viviane Dubé of the Centre d'assistance et d'accompagnement aux plaintes de Montréal and monthly regional meeting on April 30.
2006-05-08	Participation in the general meeting of the Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la région de Québec.
2006-05-19 2006-05-20 2006-05-21	Participation in the "Salon des générations de Québec" in collaboration with the Institut de la famille.
2006-05-28	Board of Directors.
2006-05-28	Conference with Mr. Michel Legris, member of the AGPQ, on interest-based negotiation (win-win) and meeting of members from Montreal and western Quebec.
2006-06-04	Annual General Meeting in Quebec City.