

ACTIVITY REPORT 2007-2008

PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL MEETING BY



**Grandparents' Association of Québec**

May 27, 2008

## **The origins of the organization**

The Association des grandparents was founded in 1990 by Lucienne Beaudet St-Gelais with a group of grandparents from Beauport. For 13 years, she directed and animated the Association. She died in June 2003.

In 2004, the organization changed its name to expand its action to help and defend the rights of grandchildren and grandparents nationally under the name "Association des grands-parents du Québec (AGPQ)". The organization is very active in Montreal and Quebec City. Information meetings are held regularly. In addition, several booths and information conferences were held in other regions.



## **Network of lawyers and psychologists**

The Association has established a network of partners (lawyers, psychologists and mediators) in the various regions of Quebec. It is worth mentioning the extraordinary collaboration of Luc Trudeau in the Greater Montreal area but also in the regions. His expertise and competence in defending grandparents are assets for them as well as for their Association. He comes to meet the grandparents at our monthly meetings in Montreal. He also travelled to Quebec City to attend some meetings. He represented us by giving several interviews on behalf of the Association. Thank you, Mr. Trudeau.

## **Help line**

We are particularly proud of our toll-free 1-866-745-6110 line, which is available to grandparents in difficulty throughout Quebec and which we maintain seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. We counted more than 18,000 minutes of listening to grandparents in difficulty during the year.

The AGPQ received only a grant of \$23,343 to provide professional training to listening volunteers, some of whom will be bilingual.

## **Main highlights of the year**

The October 2007 conference in Quebec City was organized in collaboration with the Quebec Bar Association on: "The place of grandparents in Quebec families and the justice system". This has brought a lot of visibility and credibility to the organization.

Many personalities came to meet the grandparents (list in appendix) including a judge, several lawyers, psychologists, a director of youth protection, a radio host and many others. Several grandmothers came to give moving testimonies.

This year, the AGPQ's media presence was exceptional: interviews at Le Soleil, Le Devoir, Canoë, Le Journal de Québec, LCN, TVA, Radio-Canada and several community television stations (See Appendix).

Several conferences were given in the regions to inform seniors about AGPQ services: Montreal, Quebec City, Victoriaville, Saint-Augustin and Baie-Saint-Paul.

We are talking about the AGPQ on 1700 pages of the Web: according to google.ca. (See attached document).

The AGPQ is a member of several regional seniors' tables, including :

- The Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale-Nationale
- The Table régionale des aînés de la Montérégie
- The Table de concertation des aînés de l'Île de Montréal (through its regional chapter, the AGPM)
- The Regional Table of Seniors of the Richelieu Basin
- The Golden Valley Regional Seniors' Table

She is also a member of family reunions such as:

- The Confederation of Family Organizations of Quebec
- The Inter-Agency Group for Family Policy in Quebec

She is a member of the Volunteer Centre, including:

- Le Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
- The Volunteer Centre Helps 23
- The Centre d'aide et d'action bénévole de Charlesbourg
- The SERS Volunteer Centre
- The Centre d'information et de référence de la Capitale -Nationale et de la Chaudière-Appalaches, 211 service
- Seniors in Solidarity (AS)
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The AGPQ presented a brief to Ms. Marguerite Blais, Minister responsible for Seniors on "Les Problématiques familiales des aînés et des grandparents" as part of the "Public Consultation on the Living Conditions of Seniors".



The AGPQ is very proud to see that the Vice-President and Head of the listening service, Ms. Monic Avoine, was honoured by the Conseil des aînés, Me Georges Lalande and the Minister responsible for Seniors, Ms. Marguerite Blais.



## List of the main AGPQ events

Date	Details
2007-01-22	<b>TVRS - Télévision Rive -Sud</b> - <a href="http://www.tvrs.ca/">http://www.tvrs.ca/</a> Me Luc Trudeau gave an interview to introduce the AGPQ.
2007-04-04	<b>ROSCB General Assembly</b> Ms. Monic Avoine, Ms. Lisette Dion and Mr. Henri Lafrance participated in the General Assembly of the grouping of socio-community organizations in Beauport.
2007-04-05	<b>General Assembly of the Action des nouvelles et nouveaux conjoints du Québec</b> The AGPQ was represented by Mrs. Monic Avoine and Mr. Henri Lafrance.
2007-04-18	<b>Meeting of a group of grandparents from L'Ancienne-Lorette</b> Mrs. Monic Avoine and Mr. Henri Lafrance met a group of grandparents in difficulty.
2007-04-21	<b>Colloquium of the Movement Reunion of Origin and Adoption</b> Monic Avoine and Henri Lafrance participated in this conference. This organization is a partner of the Mouvement retrouvailles in the fight for the right to origins.
2007-04-25	<b>Participation in the tribute meeting of Centraide Québec's Solidarity Seniors</b> Roger Fatta and Henri Lafrance attended
2007-04-27	<b>Board of Directors of the Conseil de développement de la recherche sur la famille au Québec</b> Henri Lafrance participated as a director
2007-05-15	Grandparents' Day Organizing Committee Meeting
2007-05-16	<b>Conference at the Centre des fermières de Saint-Hubert</b> Monic Avoine and Henri Lafrance jointly gave a conference on the services of the Grandparents Association.
2007-05-27	<b>Beginning of the General Assembly in Montreal</b> Guest: Me Luc Trudeau
2007-06-10	<b>Continuation of the General Assembly in Quebec City</b> Guests: Me Dominique Pagé, lawyer Mrs. Lise Bilodeau, President of the ANCQ
2007-07-10	<b>Interviewing</b> Henri Lafrance gave an interview to Louise-Maude Rioux-Soucy of Le Devoir newspaper when Bill 125 on youth protection came into force (see press kit).
2007-08-18	Montreal Grandparents' Assembly
2007-08-27	<b>Meeting with the Member for Shefford</b> Meeting with MP François Bonardel, Official Critic for the Family. The purpose of the meeting was to make the MP aware of the problems experienced by grandparents whose grandchildren are adopted.
2007-09-07	<b>Submission of the Elders' Consultation Brief</b> Ms. Roxanne A. Aryana and Mr. Henri Lafrance prepared a brief as part of the public consultation on the living conditions of seniors.
2007-09-08	<b>Interviewing</b>

Date	Details
	Danielle Piquette gave Suzanne Laberge an interview as part of Radio-Canada's La belle vie à la télévision. The program focused on the AGPQ, its mission and the problems experienced by the latter.
2007-09-09	Grandparents' Day
2007-09-15	<b>Conference by Mrs. Roxane Aryana</b> Monic Avoine and Claire Rondeau were there on behalf of the AGPQ.
2007-09-15	COFAQ Board of Directors
2007-09-16	<b>Montreal Grandparents' Meeting</b> Mr. Henri Lafrance is a member of the Board of Directors of the AGPQ in Montreal. Grandparents' brunch at the Centre Roussin  About forty people attended this meeting. The AGPQ also held an information meeting on September 16 at the Centre Roussin. For the occasion, Me Luc Trudeau, lawyer and Richard Langevin psychologist, answered many questions from the public. A brunch was served to the forty or so people present on site.  In the photo, Mr. Trudeau (left) and Mr. Langevin (right) surround Henri Lafrance, President of the AGPQ (see photo below).
2007-09-19	COFAQ Board of Directors
2007-09-24	<b>Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale-Nationale.09-25</b> Monic Avoine and Lisette Dion represented the Association at this meeting.
2007-09-25	<b>Table de concertation des aînés de l'Île-de-Montréal</b> Claire Rondeau represented the AGPM (AGPQ regional chapter)
2007-09-26	<b>Growth breakfast</b> Mr. Raymond Hétu participated in this activity of the Regroupement inter organismes pour une politique familiale au Québec.
2007-10-04	<b>Presentation of the Volunteer Tribute Award</b> Receipt of the 2007 tribute award by Monic Avoine as a senior volunteer from the Quebec City region. This award was presented to her by the President of the Conseil des aînés, Mr. Georges Lalande and the Minister responsible for seniors, Ms. Marguerite Blais.
2007-10-05	<b>Information booth on International Seniors Day</b> Monic Avoine, Henri Lafrance, Yolande Loiselle and volunteers from the Richelieu Basin region held an information booth in Chambly.
2007-10-12	<b>Board of Directors CDRFQ</b> Henri Lafrance attended as a director.
2007-10-19	<b>Elder Consultation</b> Monic Avoine and Henri Lafrance represented the Association at the Quebec City public consultation on the living conditions of seniors, which was chaired by Marguerite Blais.
2007-10-20	<b>The place of grandparents in Quebec families and the justice system</b> On Saturday, October 20, 2007, at the Palais de justice de Québec, the AGPQ, in collaboration with the Barreau de Québec, organized an



Date	Details
	<p>information day entitled: "La place des grands-parents au sein des familles québécoises et du système judiciaire".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What to do and not to do as grandparents?</li> <li>• How can you protect your relationship with your grandchildren?</li> <li>• What are your rights?</li> <li>• How to enforce them. How far can you go? Four professionals answered these questions.</li> </ul> <p>The Honourable Claudette Tessier-Couture, a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec, delivered the opening address. She spoke with her heart while respecting her duty of reserve. We would like to thank him warmly as well as Mr. Richard Cloutier, professor and researcher in developmental psychology (childhood and adolescence), Mr. Dominique Goubau, professor and researcher at the Faculty of Law of Université Laval. Me Sophie Gauthier, family law lawyer, Me Dominique Pagé, youth and family law lawyer.</p>
2007-10-30	<p><b>Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale-Nationale</b></p> <p>Monic Avoine and Lisette Dion attended this general meeting.</p>
2007-11-02	<p><b>Interviewing</b></p> <p>Mr. Henri Lafrance gave an interview to a journalist from the TVA television network's news department on the theme: The extended family will be able to take care of children (see press kit).</p>
2007-11-05	<p><b>Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale-Nationale</b></p> <p>Henri Lafrance and Monic Avoine participated in a Table conference. The purpose of this last meeting was to pay tribute to her for her volunteer work for the benefit of seniors.</p>
2007-11-06	Training on the functioning of a working group Help 23
2007-11-17	<p><b>Grandparents' brunch at the Centre Roussin</b></p> <p>About forty people attended the AGPQ meeting at the Centre Roussin on September 16, 2008 (see photo below).</p>
2007-11-19	<p><b>Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale-Nationale</b></p> <p>Monic Avoine and Lisette Dion attended this general meeting.</p>
2007-11-19	Meeting with the political attaché of Mr. Philippe Couillard
2007-11-20	Grandparents' Conference
2007-11-26	Meeting of the Regroupement des organismes sociaux communautaires de Beauport
2007-11-30	<p><b>Conference for Quebec City flyés retirees</b></p> <p>Monic Avoine and Henri Lafrance gave a conference on the services of the AGPQ (see press kit).</p>
2007-12-01	Board of Directors.
2007-12-09	<p><b>Conference at the Pavillon du Bois-Papineau in Laval</b></p> <p>Sonia Gilbert, Director of Youth Protection of the Montérégie, Luc Trudeau, Family and Youth Lawyer, and Robert Carrier, Member of Parliament for Alfred-Pellan in Laval, addressed the meeting of about</p>



Date	Details
	50 people. There was a community buffet.
2007-12-19	<b>Breakfast Growth</b> Raymond Hêtu represented the AGPQ.
2007-12-26	Henri Lafrance participated in the Radio Canada program Maisonneuve en direct (see press kit).
2008-01-15	<b>Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale-Nationale</b> Monic Avoine represented the AGPQ at this table.
2008-01-21	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale-Nationale.
2008-01-21	<b>Meeting with Me Sophie Gauthier</b> Henri Lafrance and a grandfather living from the farm on behalf of his family.
2008-01-22	Interview on Community Radio
2008-01-23	<b>Inter-agency grouping for family policy in Quebec</b> Raymond Hêtu represented the AGPQ under the theme: Family and medicine at the Regroupement inter organismes pour une politique familiale au Québec.
2008-01-25	CDRFQ
2008-01-31	<b>Interview on TV Canal 9 in Saint-Jérôme</b> Luc Trudeau and a grandmother gave an interview at the Canal Vox in Saint-Jérôme.
2008-02-01	<b>New Horizons for Seniors Media Availability</b> Henri Lafrance represented the AGPQ at the meeting. She received a grant of \$23,340 from Heritage Canada for the training of her listening volunteers.
2008-02-05	<b>Board of Directors of the Table régionale des aînés de la Montérégie</b> Suzanne Guérin participated in this meeting as a representative of the AGPQ.
2008-02-09	Grandparents' meeting.
2008-02-11	Meeting with the member for Jean-Lesage.
2008-02-11	COFAQ Board of Directors.
2008-02-12	Returns.
2008-02-14	<b>Solidarity Communities Evening</b> Monic Avoine and Henri Lafrance attended the Valentine's Day celebration of the Communities in Solidarity group.
2008-02-23	Grandparents' meeting.
2008-02-23	Board of Directors of the AGPQ.
2008-03-09	<b>Grandmothers' Day by the AGPQ in Rosemont</b> In France and the United States, Grandmothers' Day is celebrated in early March. The AGPQ highlighted their dedication. That is why it organized a small celebration in their honour on Sunday, March 9, 2008 in Montreal. There was a surprise gift given to each grandmother present. Two distinguished guests addressed the public, Ms. Marie-Michèle Jaouich, psychologist and psychoanalyst, and Mr. Luc Trudeau, lawyer.
2008-03-12	<b>Table de concertation des aînés de Montréal</b> Myriam Leblanc represented the AGP of Montreal (regional chapter of the AGPQ) at this meeting.

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2008-03-19	<b>Presence-Family Seniors' Conference</b> Monic Avoine and Henri Lafrance gave one from Saint-Augustin near Quebec City. The purpose was to inform them of the Association's services.
2008-03-27	<b>Lecture by Alain Roy, LL. D, Researcher and Associate Professor, Faculty of Law</b> "Adoption of the child by the spouse or grandparent: self-gift or poisoned gift? ». Henri Lafrance and Monic Avoine attended. The Association fully shares Alain Roy's views on this subject.
2008-03-27	<b>Conference for Montreal flyés retirees</b> In front of a very interested assembly of 250 retirees, Monic Avoine and Henri Lafrance gave a lecture on the rights of grandparents and the problems they face.
2008-04-05	<b>Benefit dinner for the Action des nouvelles conjointes et nouveaux conjoints du Québec</b> Roger Fatta, Monic Avoine and Henri Lafrance represented the AGPQ.
2008-04-10	<b>Table de concertation des aînés de la Vallée-de-l'Or</b> Gilles Bernatchez represented the AGPQ on the Table de concertation des aînés de la Vallée-de- l'Or.
2008-04-13	<b><sup>2nd</sup> Health &amp; Wellness Show - Being an Old Fort Gallery</b> Conference by Henri Lafrance and Information Booth by Monic Avoine and Lucille Labbé on the theme: Health in everyday life!
2008-04-19	<b>Brunch and information meeting on grandparents' rights</b> The Association organized a sharing and information meeting in Montreal at the Centre communautaire des aînés St-Michel/Rosemont. There was a testimony from a grandmother who had been successful in defending her grandson's best interests and relationship with him. There was also an information session with Luc Trudeau, a lawyer in family law and youth law. About thirty grandparents attended this meeting, which was much appreciated.
2008-04-19	<b>25th anniversary of the Mouvement Retrouvailles</b> Luc Trudeau, Monic Avoine, Myriam Leblanc and Henri Lafrance attended the 25th anniversary of this partner organization.
2008-05-12	<b>Annual General Meeting of the Table régionale des aînés de la Montérégie</b> Suzanne Guérin represented the AGPQ at the meeting.
2008-05-12	<b>Annual General Meeting of the Table de concertation des aînés de la Capitale-Nationale</b> Monic Avoine and Henri Lafrance were the representatives of the Association.

## Grandparents' brunch at the Centre Roussin

The AGPQ held an information meeting on September 16 at the Centre Roussin. For the occasion, Luc Trudeau, lawyer and Richard Langevin, psychologist, answered many questions from the public. A brunch was served to the forty or so people present on site.



Mr. Trudeau (left) and Mr. Langevin (right)  
Surrounding them is Mr. Lafrance, President of the AGPQ