

PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TO



Association des
Grands-Parents
du Québec

Grandparents' Association of Québec

MAY 30, 2010

20th anniversary of foundation (1990-2010)

Yes, the Grandparents Association has come a long way. Founded in 1990, it served exclusively the city of Beauport until 2004.

After the death of its founding president, Lucienne Beaudet, the Association changed its name to extend its action throughout Quebec. A website was then created. A toll-free helpline is available to all grandparents in difficulty throughout Quebec.

The AGPQ presented briefs to the Ministers of Justice, Ms. Katleen Weil, the Elders, Ms. Marguerite Blais, and the Youth Protection Department, Ms. Marguerite Delisle.

Many representations have been made to ministers, their political attachés and deputies to make them aware of the problems experienced by grandparents.

Information meetings, conferences and symposiums were organized in Beauport, Québec City, Montréal, Trois-Rivières, Longueuil, Laval, Sherbrooke, Lévis, Baie St-Paul, Rivière-du-Loup, Victoriaville, Drummondville, Saint-Hyacinthe, Portneuf, Saint-Jérôme and Val d'Or.

Several seniors' groups have invited the AGPQ to give conferences to their members, including several AFÉAS, AREQ, Saint-Félicien, AQDR de la Mauricie, several Circles de fermières, some Volunteer Action Centres and several other organizations.

The Association conducted multiple interviews with many Quebec media (television, radio and newspapers).

It is possible to refer to the appendices for more information on the history of the Association.

In short, from a small, little-known local organization, the Association has become a national organization that regularly intervenes in the media and with government decision-makers.

Highly talented professionals regularly come to inform grandparents, including Luc Trudeau, Richard Langevin and Marie-Michelle Jaouich, psychologist, at conferences given to grandparents at the request of the AGPQ.



However, there is a setback to the expansion of the Association's services and activities at the national level. The Association will no longer be able to benefit from certain services it previously enjoyed from the Borough of Beauport. And this, even if it serves the grandparents and elders of Beauport much better. It is the "national" nature of the AGPQ that causes the problem.

Activity report 2009-2010

The AGPQ had another busy year defending the rights of seniors, grandparents, grandchildren and families.

In addition to regular activities such as the helpline, media interventions on grandparents' issues, regular grandparent meetings in Quebec City, Montreal and the regions focusing on rights, conferences with various groups and networking activities with other family or seniors' organizations, two important events were also held. These are the launch of the "Sentry of the Elderly" pilot project in the Beauport Borough and our interventions on the reform of the Quebec adoption system.

Help line

The help line is the gateway for many grandparents to the Association. We receive 5 days/week between three to five calls and on weekends we can receive an average of three. Sometimes these grandparents are in distress so it is possible that the telephone interview may be longer. These calls come from all over Quebec. In fact, they come from all regions of Quebec except the far north of Quebec. There are about 900 calls per year.

"Sentry for the Elderly": an extraordinary launch

On November 18, the **"Sentry for the Elderly"** service was launched and we can say that it was a great success. More than **225 people** attended the launch, taking advantage of the Théâtre des Aînés de Charlesbourg's performance **"Le droit d'être vieux"**, which focused on cases of elder abuse.

We would like to thank all those present as well as the municipal councillors, Lisette Lepage and Marie-France Trudel, our sponsors and the volunteers present during the play. Not to mention, of course, the Théâtre des aînés de Charlesbourg and Québec City, which so graciously lent us its magnificent auditorium.

Twelve "Sentry for the Elderly" have already been trained and put into action

Indeed, following the training sessions given by our group on December 8, 12 and 17, we now have the pleasure and great satisfaction of having 12 Presidia fully trained and able to be the eyes and ears of the elderly victims of abuse.

These "Riverkeepers" come from a variety of backgrounds: credit unions, Canada Post, banks, and citizens concerned about the health, safety and well-being of seniors.

Everyone greatly appreciated the training offered by the **"Seniors' Riverkeeper"** and left feeling much better equipped to face the challenge of identifying and intervening in cases of elder abuse.

These training sessions lasted four hours and covered the various forms of elder abuse, the means of detecting them, the resources and recourses of older people to counter them and the role and limits of the "Presidium" in this process.

Information session on financial abuse and financial exploitation Information session on incapacity mandates

Now, the "Sentry for the Elderly" are specifically addressing the issue of **financial abuse and exploitation**. During the months of February and March 2010, we toured the homes and low-rent housing for seniors to offer information and prevention workshops on this difficult subject.

We also offered workshops on **"How to Fulfill Your Mandate of Incapacity"** to ensure that seniors can do so with a minimum of stress and a maximum of information. And don't forget: if you want to become a "Sentry for the Elderly", simply register for one of our training courses by contacting us at 418-529-8484.

Non-partisan political representations with a view to a reform of the Quebec adoption system

As an advocacy organization, the AGPQ makes non-partisan political representations. One of the Association's concerns for more than five years has been that grandparents, having developed attachment ties with their grandchildren, can continue to have contact with them even after a possible adoption.

Thus, on May 11, 2009, AGPQ representatives (Luc Trudeau and Henri Lafrance) met with Christian Veillette, political attaché to Justice Minister Katleen Weil, and insisted that the Minister follow up on the Lavallé report on the necessary adoption reform.

On October 7, 2009, following the tabling of the draft bill reforming the Quebec adoption regime, the AGPQ issued a press release supporting its main orientations while proposing improvements.

On October 8 and 9, 2009, Ms. Monic Avoine and Mr. Henri Lafrance gave interviews to the LCN and CBC networks to explain the Association's views on the draft legislation.

On December 11, 2009, the Association tabled its brief on the draft bill reforming adoption in Quebec. On February 2, Mr. Luc Trudeau and Mr. Henri Lafrance presented it to the Minister and the members of the Parliamentary Committee on Institutions.

It is important to note the various activities that took place throughout 2009-2010. These were classified according to the Association's main sectors: information sessions, meetings with members of the Board of Directors, individual meetings, meetings with volunteers, interviews, community involvement, lunch and learn sessions and other events.

Information sessions

During the year, several information sessions were held.

Date	Activity
2009-05-07	Conference for retired teachers of Lac St-Jean, Saint-Félicien
2009-05-15	Conference in St-Hubert in Montérégie
2009-06-08	AGA CAAP (Complaints Support Centre), participation of the President, Henri Lafrance, Quebec City
2009-09-14	Information meeting with the Chagnon Foundation, Mrs. Avoine invited as a partner, Montreal
2009-10-19	Conference by Henri Lafrance and Monic Avoine at the Centre d'action St-Lambert volunteer in Montérégie
2009-10-29	<i>Conference</i> by Me Luc Trudeau in St-Maurice for the Association Quebecer from tusk of the rights of the retirees (AQDR) of the
2010-01-27	Information meeting at the Monthly Meeting of the residents of the Residence Hébergement Giffard. More than 200 people attended.
2010-03-18	Information meeting at AFEAS in Pont-Rouge (Henri Lafrance)
2010-03-18	Information meeting at the Adult Education Centre in Saint-Romuald (Monic Oats)

Meeting with the members of the Board of Directors

On a regular basis, the members of the Board of Directors met seven times.

Individual meetings

Individual meetings with grandparents were also offered to answer their questions about their rights and refer them if necessary:

Date	Activity
2009-08-17	Information meeting with grandparents about their son and grandchildren, Quebec
2009-08-24	Information meeting with a grandmother (Monic Avoine), Quebec
2009-08-30	Information meeting with grandparents (Monic Oats) in Quebec City (Monic Oats)
2009-09-21	Appointment with a grandmother for information (Monic Avoine), Quebec
2009-10-06	Meeting with a grandmother, city of Deux-Montagnes
2009-10-06	Meeting with a grandfather in Trois-Rivières (noon)
2009-12-02	Meeting with a grandmother (Monic Avoine), Quebec

Meetings with AGPQ and Sentinel project volunteers

On several occasions, the volunteers of the AGPQ and the Sentinel project were met:

Date	Activity
2009-09-17	Appointment with a volunteer (for phone tapping) Monic Avoine, Quebec
2009-11-05	Meeting with a volunteer to listen in on the phone, Beauport
2009-11-09	Meeting with a volunteer to listen in on the phone, Beauport
2009-12-17	Training for Sentinelles project volunteers at AGPQ, Beauport

Interviews

Interviews were conducted to raise awareness of the Association, its mission, the rights of grandparents and their grandchildren:

Date	Activity
2009-04-07	Interview with the hosts of RDI Program 109 and SRC, Beauport
2009-05-15	Broadcast of the J.E. program on grandparents with custody of their grandchildren, Montreal
2009-05-24	Several interviews on TVA and LCN news
2009-10-08	Interview with LCN (Henri Lafrance) regarding the draft bill on the Quebec adoption regime, Quebec
2009-10-09	Interview with CBC (Ms. Avoine and Mr. Lafrance) regarding the draft bill on the Quebec adoption regime, Quebec
2010-01-27	Interview on the program Kilomètre Zéro on Télé-Québec (Henri Lafrance and Monic Avoine), Quebec
2010-03-06	AGPQ's participation in the documentary program Mamie Boom presented at 109, RDI, Quebec
2010-03-16	Radio interview with Luc Trudeau on Radio Centre-ville 102.3 FM, Montreal
2010-04-08	Radio interview with Luc Trudeau at Tribune 55+ TVRM Terrebonne, Montreal
2010-05-04	Interview at Radio Choice X 98.1 with Mario Tremblay (2 hours)

Community involvement

The AGPQ's community involvement is also to be highlighted:

Date	Activity
2009-04-01	ROSCB General Assembly (Regroupement des organismes socio-Beauport), Beauport
2009-04-14	AM - PM Members' Meeting of the Seniors of the National Capital (conference and General Assembly), Quebec
2009-04-15	ROSCB Board of Directors (Monic Oats, Board Member), Beauport
2009-04-20	AQRP - Annual General Meeting, Quebec
2009-04-24	Receipt of the FADOQ Tribute Award Montreal, Montreal
2009-05-10	AQDR - Quebec City Annual General Meeting, Quebec
2009-05-19	Annual General Meeting of the Table de concertation des aînés de la Capitale nationale
2009-05-24	Table de concertation des aînés de la Montérégie, Longueuil
2009-05-31	25th Anniversary ROSCB Dinner, Beauport
2009-06-03	ROSCB Board of Directors, Beauport
2009-06-08	ROSCB Board of Directors, Beauport
2009-06-10	Evening tribute to the AGPQ by FADOQ in Magog
2009-06-13	COFAQ meeting (Confédération des organismes familiaux du Québec) participation of Henri Lafrance, Montreal
2009-06-17	AGPQ depicted to the Colloquium in the University of Sherbrooke World Organization of Families North America (Ms. Louise Côté and Danielle Piquette), Sherbrooke

Date	Activity
2009-09-08	ROSCB Board of Directors, Beauport
2009-09-09	Dinner with ROSCB (Monic Oats, Board Member), Beauport
2009-09-19	Salon des organismes bénévoles et communautaires de Charlesbourg, Québec
2009-09-22	Monthly meeting of the Table de concertation des aînés de la Montérégie, Longueuil
2009-10-06	In the evening: Launch of "Growing Up Well" Chagnon Foundation (Monic Oats with 2 other grandmothers) in Montreal
2009-10-21	ROSCB Board of Directors, Beauport
	<p>In Montérégie:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly: Table de concertation des aînés du Bassin du Richelieu, Chambly • Monthly: Table de concertation des aînés de l'Île de Montréal
2009-11-13	Dinner and show with ROSCB (Monic Avoine), Beauport
2009-11-30	Invitation from Mr. André Drolet, MNA, to a 5 to 7 for the volunteers of the Quebec City area, Quebec
2009-12-09	ROSCB Board of Directors and Christmas Party (Monic Oats), Beauport
2009-12-12	COFAQ Board of Directors (Henri Lafrance), Montreal
2010-01-26	Table de concertation des aînés (Henri Lafrance), Quebec
2010-01-26	ROSCB Board of Directors, Beauport

Dinner Conferences

Many luncheon conferences were offered to grandparents from the various regions.

Date	Activity
2009-04-18	Grandparents' information meeting in Trois-Rivières
2009-06-06	Conference meeting for grandparents in Montreal at Angus Square
2009-09-13	Conference meeting for grandparents in Montreal at Angus Square
2009-09-27	Conference meeting for grandparents in Beauport
2009-10-06	Conference meeting for grandparents Laval with Me Luc Trudeau
2009-10-17	Grandparents' information meeting at Grand-Mère
2009-10-18	Conference meeting for grandparents in Trois-Rivières with Me Luc Trudeau
2009-11-08	Conference meeting for grandparents in Montreal at Angus Square Angus
2009-12-13	Conference meeting for grandparents in Montreal, at Square Angus 32 people attended
2010-01-17	Conference meeting for grandparents in Beauport 21 people were present
2010-02-07	Conference meeting for grandparents in Montreal at Angus Square
2010-03-21	Conference meeting for grandparents for the first time at Drummondville
2010-04-11	Conference meeting for grandparents in Montreal at Angus Square
2010-05-02	Conference meeting for grandparents in Montreal at Angus Square

Other events

Other events and conferences were offered such as:

Date	Activity
2009-04-22	Conference of Fletcher Peacock "Water the flowers, footstep weeds! ", Quebec City
2009-04-29	Les Abus envers les aînés: agir ensemble pour que ça cesse Formation 4 Temps Pavillon Alphonse-Desjardins Université Laval, Québec
2009-04-30	Elder Abuse: Acting Together to End It Laval University, Quebec
2009-05-24	AGPQ - AGPQ Annual General Meeting, Quebec
2010-05-30	20th Anniversary and AGPQ Annual General Meeting, Quebec

It is important to note that during the fall of 2009, several meetings and trips were held to prepare for the launch of the Riverkeeper project.

In November 2011, the Sentinelles project was launched at the Centre Mgr-de-Laval in Beauport. More than 220 people attended the launch of the project with the presentation of the play "Le droit d'être vieux", Beauport.

The Grandparents Association networking

Member of the following national organizations:

- Confédération des organismes familiaux du Québec (COFAQ)
- Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome (RQ-ACA)
- Inter-agency grouping for family policy in Quebec
- Réseau d'information des aînés du Québec.

Member of the following regional organizations:

- Table de concertation des aîné-e-s de l'Île de Montréal
- Table de concertation des personnes aînées de la Capitale-Nationale
- Table régionale des aînés de la Montérégie (TRAM)
- Table des aînés de la MRC Vallée de l'Or
- Table de concertation de la Vallée du Richelieu
- The Information and Reference Centre of the Capitale-Nationale and the Chaudière-Appalaches is 211 service
- Les Aînés Solidaires (AS) of Centraide Capitale-Nationale.

Member of the following local organizations:

- Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
- Centre d'aide et d'action bénévole de Charlesbourg (CAABC)
- Volunteer Centre Help 23
- Regroupement des organismes sociaux-communautaires de Beauport (ROSCB)
- Centre d'action bénévole SERS de Lévis

In addition, we have partner relationships and collaboration with many other organizations including:

- The Beauport Borough
- Caisse Desjardins du Vieux-Moulins de Beauport
- FADOQ - Mouvement des Aînés du Québec
- The Association de défense des droits des retraités (AQDR)
- Afeas (Association féminine d'éducation et d'action sociale)
- And many others.