

ACTIVITY REPORT 2013-2014

PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



THE ASSOCIATION OF GRANDPARENTS OF QUEBEC

SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

Presentation :

The Association des grands-parents du Québec was founded in 1990 as a local organization in Beauport. In 2004, it extended its scope of action to all of Quebec. It has therefore changed its name accordingly. Since then, it has organized events and activities in the main urban areas of Quebec. Since then, since 2004, it maintains a toll-free helpline for all grandparents and seniors.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Association des grands-parents du Québec is to defend the rights of grandparents and seniors. It also defends the rights of children to maintain relationships with their grandparents and extended families. Its mission is also to help grandparents in difficulty and to accompany them on their journey.

Vision

Through its action, the Association makes it possible to improve the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren and thus help many children to grow better. It aims to make things more equitable for grandparents and seniors.

Our main services and activities:

- Political representation, intervention with the authorities.
- Toll-free crisis line in all regions of Quebec.
- Legal, psychological or political information sessions.
- Self-help, reflection and action group (coffee meetings).

Our contact details:

The Association des grands-parents du Québec

Our office is located inside the Centre communautaire de Beauport
20 Fatima Street East Suite C-19
Beauport (QC) G0A1E0

Our postal address:
Post office box 2011
Beauport (QC) G0A1E0

Administrative telephone: 418-702-3544

Montreal Crisis Line: 514-745-6110
Toll-free crisis line: 1 866-745-6110

Site Web : www.grands-parents.qc.ca


Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AssociationGPQuebec>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/grandsparents>

Our demands to the political authorities

1. The AGPQ claims the right for grandchildren whose adoption is required and who have previously established a significant relationship with their biological grandparents, the ***right to maintain it even after the adoption.***
2. The AGPQ demands the same financial compensation for grandparents who take care of their grandchildren as part of a DPJ intervention as those allocated to foreign foster families.
3. The AGPQ demands that grandparents who have custody of their grandchildren receive the same assistance to take a break if necessary as that offered to parents and foster families in similar situations.
4. The AGPQ demands the same tax and social benefits for grandparents who have legal custody of their grandchildren as if they were the parents.
5. That the federal Divorce Act take into account the role of grandparents in families.

Members of Parliament and ministers met to promote our above-mentioned demands

	Mrs. Pauline Marois: Premier and MNA for Charlevoix-Côte de Beaufort.
	Mr. Jonathan Tremblay: Member of Parliament for Montmorency-Charlevoix-Haute-Côte-Nord.
	Mrs. Micheline St-Laurent: Spokesperson for the Coalition Avenir Québec on justice and MNA for Montmorency.
	Mr. Denis Blanchette: Member of Parliament for Louis-Hébert.

Honoured grandparents

As part of International Grandparents Day, celebrated in Canada and the United States on the first Sunday in September following Labour Day, the Grandparents Association marked the event by organizing a major event. It was September 8, 2013.

The Association fights for the recognition of the importance of grandparents for grandchildren both by society in general and by political authorities. This also includes special tributes to grandparents like these.



The honoured grandparents with Luc Trudeau,
Mr. Denis Blanchette, MNA, Mr. René Sanfaçon, Master of Ceremonies
and
Mr. Henri Lafrance, President of the
AGPQ.

Intervention with the media

Ms. Monic Avoine, Vice-President, Mr. Luc Trudeau, lawyer Mr. Luc Langevin, psychologist who are in favour of the grandparents' cause were interviewed by a **Videotron MATv** host in order to raise public awareness of the issues faced by grandparents. The interviews occupied the entire half-hour program. It has been repeated several times.

The President gave an interview to **Radio-Canada Atlantique** to denounce the injustices experienced by grandparents in Canada and to call for a reform of the Divorce Act that makes no room for grandparents at this time.

The President and Vice-President gave interviews to **Radio X** in **Quebec City** and **Radio-Galilée**. Each of these programs lasted one hour. They spoke about the problematic situations experienced by grandparents and encouraged the public to convey the Association's demands to their MPs.

The Vice-President gave an interview to **TV-Beauce** to explain the Association's demands.

Seeking allies in our political demands

At each meeting with our partners and with the national and regional organizations of which the AGPQ is a member, we seek allies in our political demands.

The AGPQ is constantly looking for allies to support its political demands. We are proud to have obtained the support of an organization as important as AFÉAS in our adoption claims. Indeed, here is an excerpt from AFÉAS' demands, which can now be found on its W EB website: <http://www.afeas.qc.ca/>

"Adoption: Code of Civil Procedure

We ask the Minister of Justice to provide in the Code of Civil Procedure for the summons of grandparents when there is a n application for adoption with a breakdown of parentage.

Adoption: standard

We ask the Minister of Justice that adoption without severing the parent-child relationship be the norm in the case of adoptions placed under the Youth Protection Act, unless it is not in the best interests of the child.

Adoption: origins

We ask the Minister of Justice to grant all adopted children the r i g h t to know their origins, without exception.

Adoption: parent-child relationship

We are asking the Minister of Justice to make much more room for the adoption without breaking the parent-child relationship. »

In its argument, AFÉAS quotes verbatim from the Brief prepared by the Association des grandparents du Québec and presented to the Minister of Justice, Ms. Kathleen Weil, December 10, 2009.

"... for grandparents, adoption relegates them, within the meaning of t h e law, to the status of strangers for t h e i r grandchildren. Grandparents are rarely notified or invited by the court to make their views known. The members of the Afeas consider it important that the court be able to hear all parties i n order to be able to make a f a i r decision in the best interests of the child. It should be recalled that the Youth Protection Act requires grandparents to report cases of negligence to the Youth Protection Departments. However, they risk losing all contact with their grandchildren if they are placed in foster care and then adopted. When grandparents lose their granddaughter or grandson, this child is also deprived of his grandparents with whom he may have forged better ties than with his parents."



Monic Oats Respondent
to a grandmother in trouble

Crisis line

The crisis line is still widely used by grandparents and still represents the "gateway" to the Association for many grandparents experiencing difficulties. The crisis line, as last year, was maintained over 4000 hours of availability thanks to a few dedicated volunteers. But this year, we had the help of ten trainees from Laval University who listened. They did three hours a week for ten weeks.

This year again, we must highlight the exceptional contribution of our warmest second-line service workers, Monic Avoine and Micheline Drouin. It should be noted that grandparents' calls come from all regions of Quebec. The number of calls is still close to 1000 this year.

Information sessions

Legal information sessions with Luc Trudeau were held in Montréal, Québec City, Drummondville, Ste-Marie de Beauce, Gatineau, Saint-Rémi and Longueuil respectively. These meetings resulted in a conference that is always intended to be a support for those who wish to learn about their rights as grandparents as well as those who wish to learn more about their rights as grandparents.

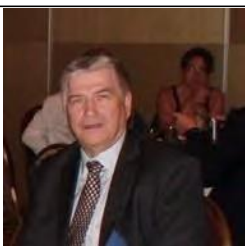
for their grandchildren

Me Luc Trudeau informing the grandparents



These meetings are highly appreciated by members and greatly strengthen our members' sense of belonging and the organization's community life.

Seven such meetings were held.



During these meetings, Mr. Henri Lafrance, President (or other members of the Board) presented the Association and its main political and social demands. Members and supporters are encouraged to raise awareness and denounce to elected officials the unfair or problematic situations experienced by grandparents. This year, we organized **eight** of these meetings.

Sometimes, groups of seniors, families or women invite us to meet their members to explain the difficulties experienced by grandparents. We take this opportunity to invite them to support our demands and forward them to elected officials. It is through these types of meetings that AFÉAS has rallied to our demands for adoption. This year, we organized **six** meetings.

Coffee meetings (self-help group)

Coffee meetings are used to:

- Meet other grandparents or elders.
 - Share difficulties, concerns, concerns, but also accomplishments.
 - Find a space for mutual support and exchange.
 - Address themes related to family situations.
 - Strengthen the organization's associative life
- Identify the problematic and unfair situations they are experiencing. These are used to raise awareness among politicians and the media.

A facilitator is present at each coffee meeting to ensure that it runs smoothly, in a confidential setting and with respect for all. They were prepared in February and March 2014, but took place in April and May 2014 for a total of four coffee meetings.

The AGPQ: international internship environment



This year, the Association welcomed a graduate of the Haute École de travail social de Sierre (Valais Switzerland). The student, Aube Brouchoud, was with us for five months to do an internship on community work.

This international unpaid internship experience was highly appreciated by all, including the intern, Aude, La Haute École de travail social de Sierre and the AGPQ. We hope to repeat this beautiful Win-Win formula.



Photo of the Annual General Meeting of 21 September 2014

Meetings of the Board of Directors

Date	Event
2013-05-14	AGPQ Board of Directors
2013-11-17	AGPQ Board of Directors
2014-01-18	AGPQ Board of Directors
2014-03-15	AGPQ Board of Directors
2014-03-28	AGPQ Board of Directors

Members of the Board of Directors 2013-2014



From left to right: **Luc Trudeau, Monic Avoine, Micheline Drouin, Henri LaFrance and Bernard Schroeder**

ANNEX

Legal or political information sessions 2013-2014

Member of the following national organizations:

- ✓ Inter-agency grouping for family policy in Quebec
- ✓ Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome (RQ-ACA)

Member of the following regional organizations:

- ✓ Table de concertation des aîné-e-s de l'Île de Montréal (via its regional chapter)
- ✓ Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale-Nationale
- ✓ Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport (CDC-Beauport)
- ✓ 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 the 211 service
- ✓ Les Aînés Solidaires (AS) de Centraide Capitale-Nationale
- ✓ Centre d' action bénévole de Québec
- ✓ Centre d' aide et d' action bénévole de Charlesbourg (CAABC)
- ✓ Volunteer Centre Help 23
- ✓ Centre d'action bénévole de Montréal
- ✓ Volunteer access (Montreal East)
- ✓ Regroupement des organismes de base en santé mentale (ROBSM)

Partnership and collaborative relationships with the following organizations:

- ✓ The Beauport Borough
- ✓ The Town of Beaupré
- ✓ FADOQ - Mouvement des Aînés du Québec
- ✓ The Association de défense des droits des retraités (AQDR)
- ✓ AFÉAS (Association féminine d'éducation et d'action sociale)
- ✓ Université Laval (School of Social Work)
- ✓ The Haute École de travail social de Sierre (Valais Switzerland)

The networking of the Grandparents Association

Date	Event
April 3, 2013	CDC AGM
April 22, 2013	Volunteer Recognition Activity for Collaborative Loyalty with CAADC Charlesbourg
April 25, 2013	CA-CDC meeting
April 29th. 2013	Interview MY TV.CA
April 30, 2013	Senior Solidarity
May 11, 2013	ANCD Meeting - AGM
May 7, 2013	CAAP-C.N.
May 21, 2013	RQ-ACA AGM - Centre St-Pie
May 22, 2013	CDC BOARD OF
May 25, 2013	AGM - CDC Cote de Beauré
May 29, 2013	AGM-CDC-CB
May 29, 2013	AGM-ROBSM-
June 7, 2013	Meeting of the VP Board of Directors RI OPFQ
June 11, 2013	Attendance at AGM - CIMIC
June 21, 2013	Ca CDC - Cote de Beauré
July 29, 2013	Reopening of the TCPAC
August 30, 2013	CA-CDC - LEO
September 8, 2013	AGPQ AGM
September 9, 2013	Meeting with 100 students from Laval University
September 11,	CA-RIOPFQ
September 24,	TCACN Regional Day Meeting
September 29,	Information meeting with grandparents
November 27, 2013	CIMIC
December 18, 2013	AGE-RQ-ACA -
February 4, 2014	Interview Radio Centre Ville
February 18, 2014	Interview 1 hour President and Vice-President
February 20, 2014	DCC- AGM
February 25, 2014	TCACN regional days -
March 12, 2014	Pauline Marois 5 at 7am
March 19, 2014	CAW Members' Meeting
April 22, 2014	TCACN
May 14, 2014	AGM-RQ-ACA
May 19, 2014	AQDR meeting
May 23, 2014	C.A. RIOPFQ J4
May 24, 2014	RIOPFQ Congress
May 27, 2014	A.G.A TCACN
May 28, 2014	Lévis Family House
May 31, 2014	AGA ANCQ

Date	Event
June 16, 2014	CIMIC AGA
June 17, 2014	CABQ AGM
June 18, 2014	AGA-AGE
June 19, 2014	AGM

Coffee meetings (Self-help group)

NB.	Location	Date	Topic
1.	Montreal	April 24, 2014	Live your role as a grandparent today: find your place improve your well-being and that of your grandchildren.
2.	Quebec City	April 30, 2014	Live your role as a grandparent today: find your place improve your well-being and that of your grandchildren.
3.	Quebec City	May 22, 2014	Share your experience with other grandparents
4.	Montreal	May 29, 2014	Share your experience with other grandparents

Legal or political information sessions 2013-2014

NB.	Location	Date	Type
1	Drummondville (Restaurant Le Charlemagne)	April 14, 2013	M
2	Montreal (Les Appartements Square Angus)	May 5, 2013	M
3	Longueuil (Maison Le réveil)	May 6, 2013	E
4	Quebec City (Charlesbourg - Polyvalente)	May 26, 2013	E
5	Longueuil (Maison le Réveil)	June 4 or 5, 2013	E
6	Meeting with 100 social work students	September 9, 2013	E
7	Montreal (Square Angus)	September 29, 2013	M
8	Ste-Marie de Beauce	October 16, 2013	E
9	Gatineau	October 20, 2013	M
10	Saint-Rémi (CAB "Au coeur du jardin")	November 06, 2013	E
11	Montreal (Bibliothèque St-Henri)	November 13, 2013	E
12	Portneuf (House of Justice)	November 24, 2013	M
13	Quebec City	December 8, 2013	M
14	Montreal	February 28, 2014	M