

ACTIVITY REPORT 2014-2015

**PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**



**Association des
Grands-Parents
du Québec**

GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF QUÉBEC

SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

Presentation

The Association des grands-parents du Québec (AGPQ) 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 help and information line accessible free of charge to all grandparents and seniors.

Mission Statement

The AGPQ's mission is to defend the rights of grandparents and elders. 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 political authorities and the media.
- Toll-free help and information 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 Beaupré Community Centre
20 Fatima Street East Suite C-19
Beaupré (QC) G0A 1E0

Our postal address
Post Office Box 2011 Beaupré
(QC) G0A 1E0
Administrative telephone: 418-702-3544

Help and information line in Montreal: 514-745-6110
Toll-free help and information line: 1-866-745-110

Website: www.grandparents.qc.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/grandparents.quebec>

Highlights of the year 2014-2015

Volunteers

We focused on intensified collaboration with volunteer centres, particularly with the Centre d'action bénévole de Québec, Accès Bénévolat (Est de Montréal) and, to a lesser extent, with the Centre d'action bénévole de Montréal.

The AGPQ is thus seeking to better manage its volunteers, but above all to recruit new ones. We mainly target baby boomers and students in social work and socio-cultural animation. As you will see below, we are currently developing a very good collaboration with a Swiss university institution, the Haute École de travail social de Sierre in the canton of Valais.

Partnerships

We have established a great collaborative relationship with a Montreal seniors' organization, Présages de la Fondation Berthiaume-Du Tremblay. In 2015, our general assembly will be held at the offices of another seniors' organization in Montreal, the Maison des grands-parents de Villeray. We celebrated Seniors' Day with our members in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region and also with the residents of the Villas de Chicoutimi Seniors' Residence. More than 100 people attended. We continue to participate each year in the Beauce Seniors' Information Clinic. The organizers of this activity are the Association québécoise des défenses des retraités (AQDR) de la Beauce and the local MP Maxime Bernier.

Help line





Our listening volunteers continue, of course, to offer excellent service to grandparents throughout Quebec.

However, the service is no longer available on weekends and evenings. However, grandparents can leave a message on the voicemail at any time. These are recalled within the next business day.

Our demands to the political authorities

1. The AGPQ demands that article 611 of the Civil Code be maintained despite the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Family Law to the contrary.
2. 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.***
3. The AGPQ demanded 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. The regulations have now been amended to this effect.
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

	<p>Alexandre Cloutier: Lawyer and Member of the National Assembly of Québec for Lac-Saint-Jean</p>
	<p>Mr. Jonathan Tremblay: Member of Parliament for Montmorency-Charlevoix-Haute-Côte-Nord</p>
	<p>Ms. Véronique Hivon: Lawyer and Member of Parliament for Joliette, Vice-Chair of the Health and Social Services Commission</p>
	<p>Maxime Bernier: Member of Parliament for Beauce, Minister of State for Small Businesses</p>

Intervention with the media

A member of the Board of Directors, Me Luc Trudeau, was interviewed by Isabelle Richer, journalist, to raise public awareness of the issues faced by grandparents. The interview was broadcast throughout Radio-Canada's RDI network.

The President, Mr. Henri Lafrance, gave an interview to the Bel-Âge newspaper to inform seniors in the Montreal area about the various services offered by the Association, the issues and demands of the organization and its future activities.

The president gave an interview to the newspaper L'Autre Voix to discuss the association's activities. The importance of international internships from Switzerland for the Association was also discussed.

The Vice-President, Ms. Monic Avoine, was interviewed by a journalist from the Université de Montréal for the newspaper l'Atelier.

The president had an interview at Radio Pointe-St-Charles in Montreal to explain the rights, the objectives of defending the rights of grandparents.

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 the Association féminine d'éducation et d'action sociale (AFÉAS) in our adoption demands. Indeed, here is an excerpt from AFÉAS' demands, which can now be found on its 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 an 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 right 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 the law, to the status of strangers for their grandchildren. Grandparents are rarely notified or invited by the court to make their views known. AFÉAS members believe it would be important for the court to be able to hear all parties in order to be able to make a fair 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 authorities. 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**

Help and information line

The help and information line is still widely used by grandparents and still represents the "gateway" to the Association for many grandparents experiencing difficulties. The help and information line, like last year, was maintained over 4000 hours of availability thanks to a few dedicated volunteers. But this year, we had the help of ten interns 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 Montreal, Quebec City and Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville respectively. An information booth was also held in Sainte-Marie de Beauce. During these meetings, Me Trudeau informs grandparents about the right of grandchildren to maintain relationships with their grandparents. It also discusses the psychological aspects and political issues surrounding the exercise of rights.



**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.



During these meetings, Mr. Henri Lafrance, President (or other members of the Board) presented the Association and its main political and social demands. Members 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. This year, we responded to the request of two groups of seniors, one in Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce and the other in Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville. Unfortunately, due to an unfortunate accident, we were unable to travel to Saint-Hyacinthe.

Coffee meetings (self-help group)

Coffee meetings are used to:

- Meet other grandparents or elders.
- Share difficulties, worries, but also happiness and 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 meeting to ensure that it runs smoothly, in a confidential setting and with respect for all.

2014-04-24	Café rencontre - 60, Avenue Willowdale, Outremont
2014-04-30	Café rencontre - Manoir Archer, route de l'Église
2014-05-22	Café rencontre - Manoir Archer, route de l'Église
2014-05-29	Café rencontre - 60, Avenue Willowdale, Outremont
2014-09-24	Café rencontre - Maison de la famille Québec
2014-10-29	Café rencontre - Maison de la famille Québec
2014-11-26	Café rencontre - Maison de la famille Québec
2015-02-25	Café rencontre - Maison de la famille Québec
2015-03-11	Café rencontre - Montreal
2015-03-25	Café rencontre - Maison de la famille Québec
2015-04-08	Café rencontre - Montreal
2015-04-29	Café rencontre - Maison de la famille Québec
2015-05-27	Café rencontre - Maison de la famille Québec
2015-06-03	Café rencontre - Montreal
2015-09-17	Café rencontre - Montreal

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, Aude Brouchoud, was with us for five months to do an internship on community work.

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



Following the success of this first collaboration with the Haute École de travail social de Sierre (Switzerland), it was agreed to repeat the experience. This is how we had the pleasure of welcoming a new intern, Mylène Rossier, last August. She will be with us until December 2015.

Photo of the Annual General Meeting of 21 September 2014



Meetings of the Board of Directors

Date	Event
2014-06-25	AGPQ Board of Directors
2014-09-21	AGPQ Board of Directors
2015-03-30	AGPQ Board of Directors
2015-04-13	AGPQ Board of Directors

Members of the Board of Directors 2014-2015



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

Annex

Legal or political information sessions 2014-2015

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)
- The Centre d'information et de référence de la Capitale-Nationale et de la Chaudière-Appalaches, 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 Beauport
- FADOQ - Mouvement des Aînés du Québec
- The Association de défense des droits des retraités (AQDR)
- AFÉAS (Association féminine d'éducation et d'action sociale)
- Omen
- Grandparents' house in Villeray
- The University of Social Work of Sierre HES-SO (Valais Switzerland)

ANNEX

The Grandparents Association networking

DATE	EVENT
April 22, 2014	Table de concertation des aînés de la Capitale nationale
May 14, 2014	AGA-Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome
May 19, 2014	AQDR meeting
May 23, 2014	C. A. Quebec Family
May 24, 2014	RIOPFQ Congress
May 27, 2014	A.G.A TCACN
May 28, 2014	Lévis Family House
May 31, 2014	AGA ANCQ
June 16, 2014	CIMIC AGA
June 17, 2014	CABQ AGM
June 18, 2014	AGM - RQACA
June 19, 2014	AGM
August 28, 2014	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
September 5, 2014	Lac à l'épaule Inter-agency grouping for policy family in Quebec
September 18, 2014	Table of the 3 CABs
September 21, 2014	AGPQ General Assembly
September 26, 2014	Presentation of the AGPQ to flyee retirees
September 29, 2014	Carrefour du bénévolat de Québec
October 1, 2014	Grandparents' Day in Chicoutimi
October 14, 2014	Table de concertation des personnes aînées de la Capitale-Nationale
October 18, 2014	Family. Point Québec (Presentation of the Association)
October 21, 2014	Table des aînées de la Côte-de-Beaupré
October 27, 2014	Meeting with the volunteer action centres of Quebec City
October 30, 2014	Table de concertation des aînées de l'Île de Montréal
November 6, 2014	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
November 25, 2014	Table de concertation des personnes aînées de la Capitale-Nationale
November 27, 2014	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport
December 1, 2014	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
December 4, 2014	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
December 17, 2014	Regroupement québécois de l'Action communautaire autonome (RQ-ACA)
January 14, 2015	Meeting Maison de la Famille Québec
21 January 2015	Regroupement québécois de l'Action communautaire autonome (RQ-ACA)
January 22, 2015	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport (CDC)
January 22, 2015	Information booth at McGill University in Montreal
January 25, 2015	Legal Information Session
27 January 2015	Meeting Maison de la famille Québec

DATE	EVENT
29 January 2015	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
February 9, 2015	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
February 11, 2015	Family. Point Québec
February 19, 2015	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport (CDC)
21 February 2015	Parents of children with attachment disorders (PETALS)
March 3, 2015	Table de concertation des aînés de la Capitale-Nationale
March 14, 2015	Meeting with MPs Jonathan Tremblay and Denis Blanchette
16 March 2015	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
March 17, 2015	Meeting with MP Véronique Hivon
March 17, 2015	Meeting of the Table de concertation des aînés de la Ville de Montréal
March 19, 2015	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport (CDC)
March 23, 2015	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
April 2, 2015	Grandparents' meeting in Beaupré
April 3, 2015	Beaupré Community Development Centre
April 12, 2015	Centre d'action bénévole de Beauport (Help 23)
April 13, 2015	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
April 15, 2015	Information booth in Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce
April 20, 2015	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport (CDC)
April 21, 2015	Table de concertation des aînés de la Capitale-Nationale
April 27, 2015	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport (CDC)
April 29, 2015	Family. Point Québec
May 25, 2015	Maison de la famille Québec
May 26, 2015	Table de concertation des aînés de la Capitale-Nationale
May 30, 2015	Action by new wives
June 1, 2015	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
June 9, 2015	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
June 12, 2015	Centre d'aide et d'action bénévole de Charlesbourg
June 16, 2015	Volunteer access (Centre d'action bénévole de Montréal-Est)
June 17, 2015	Family. Point Québec to Boucherville
June 22, 2015	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
August 24, 2015	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
September 8, 2015	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport (CDC)
16 September 2015	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport (CDC)
September 27, 2015	Annual General Meeting

Legal or political information sessions 2014-2015

NB.	PLACE	DATE	TYPE
	Ambassadeur Hotel, Quebec City	September 14, 2014	M
	Millen Garden, Maurice Group Montreal	September 21, 2014	M
	Ambassadeur Hotel, Quebec City	October 19, 2014	M
	Montreal	November 2014	M
	Montreal	February 1, 2015	M
	Ambassadeur Hotel, Quebec City	March 1, 2015	M
	Club Richelieu de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville	February 2015	E
	St-Hubert Restaurant, Montreal	May 24, 2015	M
	Ambassadeur Hotel, Quebec City	October 18, 2015	M
	Ambassadeur Hotel, Quebec City	November 5, 2015	E
	Saint-Hubert, rue Lajeunesse, Montréal	November 15, 2015	M
	To be determined	December 13, 2015	M

M = Organize mainly for members

E = Organize at the request of external groups to inform their members