

ACTIVITY REPORT 2017-2018

PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



ASSOCIATION DES GRANDPARENTS DU QUÉBEC

June 3, 2017

A word from the President



The year 2017-2018 was a particularly busy one.

Our usual activities naturally continued: helpline, information sessions on grandparents' rights in different cities, self-help groups, coffee meetings, etc.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have once again dedicated themselves to the Grandparents Association and the members of the Board of Directors.

I also want to acknowledge the exceptional contribution of Me Luc Trudeau, who gave his time to inform grandparents at his conferences in different regions of Quebec.

I also want to acknowledge the dedication of Ms. Monic Avoine, who has been in charge of the crisis line for 14 years. She met several grandparents in groups or individually at the Maison de la Famille in Quebec City.

I am proud of the steps we are taking to serve English-speaking grandparents. I thank Mr. Peter Eusario for "pushing us behind" us to offer this new service.

I wish you a great summer with your family and, if possible, with your grandchildren.

Henri Lafrance, President and
CEO

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. As a result, it has changed its name. Since then, it has organized events and activities in the main urban areas of Quebec. Since 2004, it has maintained a toll-free crisis line for 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 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 Beaupré
20 Fatima Street East, P. O.
Box 2011
Beaupré (QC) G0A 1E0

Our postal address
Post office box
2011
Beaupré (QC) G0A 1E0

Administrative telephone: 418-702-3544

Montreal Crisis Line: 514-745-6110

Toll-free crisis line: 1 866-745-6110

Website: [www w.w.grands-parents.qc.ca](http://www.w.grands-parents.qc.ca)

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

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

Highlights of 2017-2018

Bill 113



Stéphanie Vallée
Minister of Justice

Bill 113 "An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions relating to adoption and communication of information" was finally adopted and assented to on 16 June 2017. It should enter into force no later than 16 June 2018. For adopted children, they will be able to know at least one year after the death of their biological mother. There will no longer be any presumption of refusal of access to origins and contact access as is currently the case. It will be possible to access information on the origins of the person concerned if the mother has not objected. The father is rarely mentioned in the files of the Youth Centre.

The demands, which we made in the petition we submitted to the National Assembly in February 2017, were completely ignored by the Minister of Justice, Stéphanie Vallée. The rule in adoption continues to be that of full adoption, which completely breaks the child's filiation with his or her biological parents and grandparents. Adoptions will continue to be closed to any contact with his or her family of origin, with rare exceptions. These will be at the discretion of the adoptive parents who may change their minds at any time.

It's very disappointing, but we're still fighting. In this context, the AGPQ will submit a brief to the Citizens' Commission on Family Law to defend the fundamental right of adopted children to know their origins. We will, of course, defend the right of children to have relationships with their grandparents, as provided for in the article 611 of the Civil Code. We will defend the right of children to continue to have relationships with their original grandparents even after an adoption.

Jurisprudence

On April 5, 2017, an important case law was rendered in favour of a grandmother under number 760-04-011900-140. A maternal grandmother had previously obtained access rights from her granddaughter. The mother had passed away. The father had had the child adopted by his new spouse. He asked the court to cancel the maternal grandmother's access rights on the grounds that the child had been adopted by the new spouse. The filiation ties were therefore severed between the maternal grandmother and the child. Article 611 no longer applied.

The important thing to remember is that if grandparents anticipate a possible adoption of their grandchildren, they must hurry to have their rights recognized by the court.

Change to the AGPQ's general by-laws

To encourage greater involvement, we have increased the number of directors on our Board of Directors from five to seven. This was voted at the Special General Assembly on 15 October 2017. Subsequently, this modification was authorized by the Registre des Entreprises du Québec.

Development of the AGPQ on the English-speaking community side

Mr. Peter Eusanio has been mandated by the AGPQ Board of Directors to represent the Association to the English-speaking community or organizations.

To make this new orientation of the AGPQ known, Mr. Eusanio contacted and met Laura Casella, host on Morning Show Global News TV.

In October 2017, at Mr. Eusanio's request, the Montreal Gazette organized the weekly integration of our Association into its integration in the West Island.

He regularly participates in the meetings of the Table de concertation des aînées de l'Ouest-de-l'Île. Together with the President, he also introduced the new services of the AGPQ at the meetings of the Table de concertation des aînés de l'Île-de-Montréal.

To better recruit bilingual volunteers for the crisis line, the AGPQ has joined the West Island Volunteer Centre. In this context, he met with Ms Linda Barrett, Director.

Volunteers

We continued to focus on intensified collaboration with the Volunteer Centres, particularly with the Centre d'action bénévole de Québec, Accès Bénévolat, (East of Montréal) Centre d'action bénévolat de l'Ouest-de-l'île and with the Centre d'action bénévole de Montréal. This collaboration helps us a lot in our recruitment of volunteers.

The AGPQ is thus seeking to better manage its volunteers, but above all to recruit new ones. We focus on baby boomers and students in social work and law, as well as our members.

We would like to thank Ms. Monic Avoine, volunteer manager of the helpline, Ms. Céline Pichette, volunteer facilitator of the Facebook Page and Ms. Luc Trudeau for her valuable advice and lectures, which are always much appreciated.

Annual General Meeting

On May 28, 2017, the AGPQ General Assembly was held at Restaurant St-Hubert on Lajeunesse Street in Montreal.



Ms. Céline Pichette used Facebook to inform grandparents of the AGPQ's demands regarding Bill 113. We would like to thank Mrs. Pichette, Vice-President, for her hard work in animating the AGPQ's Facebook page, which is increasingly popular thanks to her. Our visibility has increased significantly over the past year. Currently, there are 1066 people following the page. We invite those of you to love and follow our Facebook page.

Intervention with the media

On November 16, 2017, Ms. Avoine participated in the TV show Mise à jour MA TV. In

December 2017, an article was published in the Issue Table's newsletter des aînés de l'Île-de-Montréal, which mentioned all the services of the AGPQ.

On December 4, 2017, Mr. Peter Eusanio contacted and met Ms. Laura Casella, host on Morning Show Global News TV.

February 28, 2018, interview with Normay St-Pierre.

Meeting of Members of Parliament

The AGPQ met with several MPs in 2017-2018 to present its demands and explain the Association's role. We also invited them to refer grandparents, who would need help or support, to the AGPQ.



Donald Martel
Member for Nicolet-Yamaska



François Paradis
Member for Lévis



Éric Lefebvre
Member for Arthabaska



Chantal Soucy
Member for Saint-Hyacinthe



Pierre Michel Auger
Member for Champlain



Francine Charbonneau
Minister Responsible for Seniors



Catherine Fournier
Member for Marie-Victorin



Dave Turcotte, MP
Member for Saint-Jean



Harold Lebel
Member for Rimouski



François Gendron
Member for Abitibi-Ouest



Carole Poirier
Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve



Stéphane Bergeron
Member for



Caroline Simard



Saul Polo
Member of Parliament for Laval-des-Rapides

Member of Parliament for Charlevoix - La Côte-de-Beaupré



Monic Oats responding to a grandmother in difficulty

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 availability of the crisis line is 8 hours a day, or 9 hours at 17 hours from Monday to Friday, or more than 2000 hours per year.

Once again this year, we would like to acknowledge the exceptional contribution of our warmest second-line service workers, Monic Avoine and Monic Godin. It should be noted that grandparents' calls come from all regions of Quebec. The number of calls is almost 1000 this year.

Here are some of the situations encountered by listeners:

- 1 Parents demand money or property to leave grandchildren to grandparents.
- 2 Parents threaten grandparents: "If you refuse to babysit on weekends, you won't see them anymore".
- 3 Children are neglected by parents. Grandparents compensate for this by taking care of and caring for the young people. Grandparents keep their grandchildren full-time with the consent of the parents. They pay for all the children's needs. But if they ask to receive social or tax programs related to children (Child Support Payment (Quebec) and the Canada Child Allowance), parents threaten them with never seeing the children again.

Children are neglected by parents. Grandparents compensate for this by taking care of and caring for the young people. They get exhausted and ask the CLSC for help. The latter's workers request the intervention of the Director of Youth Protection. The latter places the child in a foster family. If the child is young or very young, he or she will probably be placed with a family that wants to adopt him or her. If this were to happen, grandparents would become foreigners within the meaning of the law.

- 5 Grandparents help their son or daughter who is going through a difficult divorce or separation. When one parent is demonized by the other and suffers parental alienation, it is not only the parent who is targeted, but also his or her parents and siblings. The big losers are of course the children.

6. The son or daughter of the grandparents, father or mother of the grandchildren has passed away.

The surviving parent wishes to remove the lineage of the deceased parent from his or her life and that of his or her child. He wants to have his child adopted by a new spouse. If this were to happen, grandparents would become foreigners within the meaning of the law.

7) Following any dispute between parents and grandparents, they are denied access to grandchildren. Yet parents were previously very happy with their dedication to child care.

Information sessions

The AGPQ continues to keep its grandparents well informed by holding regular legal information sessions with Luc Trudeau. The sessions were presented this year in Quebec City, Saint-Hyacinthe, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Longueuil, Boucherville and Montreal respectively.



During the information sessions, Mr. 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.

Information sessions are increasingly appreciated and requested by members. We also note that they greatly strengthen our members' sense of belonging and the organization's community life.



Also, during the information meetings, Mr. Henri Lafrance, Director (or other members of the Board of Directors) presents the Association and its main political and social demands. Supporting members are encouraged to raise awareness and denounce to elected officials the unfair or problematic situations experienced by grandparents.

This year, 10 information sessions were held.

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, in L'Ancienne-Lorette and Saint-Hyacinthe.

Information sessions 2017-2018

NB.	PLACE	DATE	TYPE
1	Centre des Loisirs du Petit-Village (conference). Quebec City	April 23, 2017	M
2	St-Hubert Restaurant, Montreal	September 17, 2017	M
3	Centre Aquatique Desjardins, Saint-Hyacinthe	September 28, 2017	E
4	Collège Maisonneuve, Montreal	October 15, 2017	M
5	Entraide AGAPÉ, Quebec	November 12, 2017	M
6	St-Hubert Restaurant, Montreal	December 3, 2017	M
7	Longueuil Campus, Université de Sherbrooke, Longueuil	January 21, 2018	M
8	Centre des Femmes du Haut-Richelieu, Saint-Jean- sur-Richelieu	March 18, 2018	E
9	Ambassadeur Hotel, Quebec City	March 25, 2018	M
10	St-Hubert Restaurant, Montreal	April 15, 2018	M

M = Organize mainly for members

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

Coffee meetings (self-help group)

The objectives of the coffee meetings are:

- to meet other grandparents or elders;
- to share difficulties, worries, but also happiness and accomplishments;
- to find a space for mutual support and exchange;
- to address themes related to family situations;
- to strengthen the associative life of the organization;
- 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. Here is the list of coffee meetings held.

2017-04-19	Coffee meeting - Quebec City
2017-09-20	Coffee meeting - Quebec City
2018-02-19	Coffee meeting - Quebec City
2018-03-02	Coffee meeting - Quebec City
2018-03-09	Coffee meeting - Quebec City
2018-03-14	Coffee meeting - Quebec City
2018-03-21	Coffee meeting - Quebec City

Meetings of the Board of Directors

Date	Event
2017-04-13	AGPQ Board of Directors
2017-05-23	AGPQ Board of Directors
2017-05-28	AGPQ Board of Directors
2017-09-16	AGPQ Board of Directors
2017-10-10	AGPQ Board of Directors
2017-11-28	AGPQ Board of Directors
2018-01-23	AGPQ Board of Directors
2018-03-26	AGPQ Board of Directors

Members of the Board of Directors 2017-2018



**Mrs. Monic Avoine, V. P.
Listening Line Manager**



**Mr. Henri Lafrance
President and CEO**



**Me Luc Trudeau
Director of the
Board of**



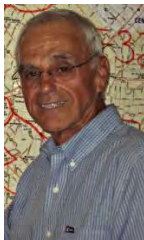
**Mrs. Céline Pichette, V. P.
Responsible for the page**



**Mr. Claude Roch, Secretary
Director of the Board of
Directors**



**Mr. Bernard
Vice-President**



**Mr. Peter Eusanio
Head of the
English**

Annex

Grandparents Association Networking

Member of the following national organizations:

- ✓ Point Québec Family
- ✓ Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome (RQ-ACA)
- ✓ Grouping of organizations in collective rights defences (RODCD)

Member of the following regional organizations:

- ✓ Volunteer access (Montreal East)
- ✓ Seniors Solidaires (AS) of Centraide Capitale-Nationale
- ✓ Centre d'accompagnement et d'assistance aux plaintes de la Capitale-Nationale
- ✓ Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport (CDC-Beauport)
- ✓ Centre d'information et de référence de la Capitale-Nationale et de la Chaudière-Appalaches soit le service 211
- ✓ 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
- ✓ West Island Volunteer Centre
- ✓ Table de concertation des aîné-e-s de l'Île de Montréal (via its regional chapter)
- ✓ Table de concertation des personnes aînées de la Capitale-Nationale
- ✓ West Island Issue Table

Partnership and collaborative relationships with the following organizations:

- ✓ AFÉAS (Association féminine d'éducation et d'action sociale)
- ✓ Borough of Beauport
- ✓ Association de défense des droits des retraités (AQDR)
- ✓ FADOQ - Mouvement des Aînés du Québec
- ✓ Town of Beaupré

The networking of the Grandparents Association

DATE	EVENT
2017-04-05	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport
2017-04-18	Table de concertation des aînés de la Capitale Nationale
2017-04-21	Colloquium on Digital Seniors and Libraries
2017-04-25	Centre d'action bénévole Contrefort
2017-04-26	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2017-05-03	Quebec Seniors Information Network
2017-05-11	Point Québec Family
2017-05-18	Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome
2017-05-23	Table de concertation des aînés de la Capitale Nationale
2017-05-23	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2017-05-24	Family Meeting Point Québec
2017-05-31	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2017-06-07	Table de concertation des aînés de l'Île-de-Montréal
2017-06-13	Fédération des Centres d'action bénévole du Québec
2017-06-14	Fédération des Centres d'action bénévole du Québec
2017-06-15	Fédération des Centres d'action bénévole du Québec
2017-06-26	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2017-08-02	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2017-09-09	West Island Consultation Table
2017-09-15	Salon des aînés Jean Coutu Pharmacy in L'Ancienne-Lorette
2017-09-20	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2017-09-25	Point Québec Family
2017-10-03	AQDR - Presentation of the claims Hotel Ambassadeur
2017-10-24	Symposium "What if we talked about my rights" by Marguerite Blais in
2017-10-25	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport
2017-11-01	Help 23
2017-11-06	Quebec Seniors Information Network
2017-11-07	West Island Issue Table
2017-11-07	West Island Volunteer Centre
2017-11-29	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport
2017-11-29	Table de concertation des aînés de l'Île-de-Montréal
2017-12-12	Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome
2017-12-13	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport
2018-01-29	Point Québec Family
2018-02-14	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2018-02-28	Table de concertation des aînés de la Capitale Nationale
2018-03-01	Equi-Justice
2018-03-08	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2018-03-15	Point Québec Family
2018-03-27	Point Québec Family
2018-03-28	Table de concertation des aînés de la Capitale Nationale
2018-04-04	Centre de développement communautaire de Beauport
2018-04-11	West Island Issue Table