

ACTIVITY REPORT 2018-2019

**PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL MEETING
OF**



Association des
Grands-Parents
du Québec

GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF QUÉBEC
national organization since 2004

May 25, 2019

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A word from the President



1989-2019: 30 years of service to grandparents

2004-2019: 15 years as a national advocacy and support organization for grandparents and their grandchildren

I am very pleased to celebrate with you a double anniversary, the **30th anniversary** of the founding of the Grandparents Association and the **15th anniversary** of its re-foundation as a national organization covering and serving grandparents throughout Quebec. Until recently, the Association des grandparents du Québec (AGPQ) covered 16 of the 17 regions. Recently, grandparents from the Nord-du-Québec region joined the Association. We can now say that the AGPQ is present in all 17 regions of Quebec. **It is therefore truly but truly a national organization** (see Annexes 1, 2 and 3 on the regional distribution of the population served).

First of all, I would like to pay tribute to Ms. Monic Avoine, Vice-President, volunteer line manager and event organizer for the past 15 years. The Council of Elders recognized her exceptional dedication to the cause of grandparents in 2007.

Thank you very much, Ms. Oats, for your continued support over the years. The grandparents you helped, accompanied and even comforted. For 15 years, you have been the ear of thousands of grandparents who are greatly grateful to you. You are also the soul of the Association. Your empathic listening has been a great comfort to thousands of callers over the years. Ms. Avoine, without you, the Association would not have survived the death of its founding president, Ms. Beaudet.

I also want to pay tribute to Luc Trudeau and highlight his commitment since 2006. Over the years, he has devoted himself to advising the AGPQ and volunteering to give about ten conferences a year to grandparents in the main cities of Quebec. He also accompanied me to the Parliamentary Committee to defend the cause of grandparents on a voluntary basis. His exceptional commitment to advancing the law of grandparents was recognized by the Council of Elders in 2011.

Mr. Trudeau, I would like to thank you for your valuable advice to the listeners and the Board of Directors (BOD) of the AGPQ. On the one hand, we have an empathetic ear with Ms. Oats and on the other hand, Mr. Trudeau is a man of great wisdom and experience in law, 35 years of legal practice is not insignificant. On behalf of all the grandparents you have defended and helped, I would also like to thank you sincerely.

I would also like to thank Ms. Céline Pichette for her involvement in the cause of grandparents and her dedication as a Facebook page host and board member.

I thank Mr. Peter Eusanio for his insistence on developing the English-language component of our organization. Thanks to you, the Association will soon be serving both English-speaking and French-speaking grandparents. Your knowledge of the English-speaking community is very enriching for the Board.

I would also like to thank Mr. Claude Roch, Secretary of the Board, who faithfully reports our discussions and decisions.

I would like to thank Mrs. Vita Fontana for having joined the Board of Directors a few months ago. His contribution enriches the discussions at the AGPQ Board of Directors. Thank you also for responding to the English-speaking grandparents. It is very much appreciated.

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



Henri Lafrance, President and
CEO

Presentation

The Grandparents Association was founded in 1989 and incorporated in 1990 as a local organization in Beauport and the surrounding area. In 2004, it extended its scope of action to all of Quebec. As a result, it has changed its name. In addition, it organizes 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. In Appendices 1, 2 and 3, you will see the regional representativeness of the AGPQ in the 17 administrative regions of Quebec.

The AGPQ held activities, conferences, coffee meetings and information meetings in the following cities: Beaupré, Québec City, Montréal, Longueuil, Boucherville, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières, Gatineau, Saguenay, Saint-Félicien, Laval, Val-d'Or, Montmagny, Saint-Damase (Montérégie), Drummondville, Saint-Hyacinthe, Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan, Chambly, Carignan, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Rivière-du-Loup.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Association des grands-parents du Québec (AGPQ) is to defend the rights of grandparents and seniors. She also defends the rights of children to maintain relationships with their grandparents. 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.

Meetings with legal, psychological or political information.

Self-help, reflection and action group (coffee meetings).

Our contact details

Our offices are located on the Côte-de-Beaupré region near Québec City.

Our mailing address: P.O. Box 2011, Beaupré, Québec 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.ca](http://www.w.grands-parents.ca)

Facebook: [https:// www
w.facebook.com/grandparents.quebec](https://www.w.facebook.com/grandparents.quebec)

Highlights of 2018-2019

Family Law Reform

In April 2018, the Chambre des notaires du Québec initiated the Citizens' Commission on Family Law. The purpose of the campaign was to put pressure on political parties to commit to updating family law. The President of the Chambre des notaires has asked our President, Mr. Henri Lafrance, to be one of the seven commissioners to sit on this Commission. It was co-chaired by Alain Roy and Jean-Paul Dutrisac. The commissioners were Me Marie-Ève Brown, Me Sophie Gagnon, Me Sylvie Schirm, and Me Michèle Vatz Laaroussi

Me Luc Trudeau, member of the AGPQ Board of Directors, defended the cause of grandparents and their grandchildren before this commission. This document is available on the [Commission citoyenne n e onthe droit d' la famille](#). We invite you to read the summary of what was said about the relationship between grandchildren and grandparents (see Appendix 4).

The Association prepared a brief to the Citizens' Commission on Family Law initiated by the Chambre des notaires du Québec. It was tabled by Ms. Monic Avoine, Vice-President of the Association at the hearings held on June 12, 2018 in Quebec City. It is important that the rights of grandchildren to maintain relationships with their grandparents continue to be maintained through article 611 C.C.Q. We made the Commission aware of the importance of grandparents, which is what was done in our brief and what Ms. Oats defended when she appeared before the Commission.

We have also made recommendations to remind Commissioners that plenary adoptions should not be unduly made. These, as we know, permanently sever the child's filiation ties with his or her family of origin and grandparents.



From left to right: Alain Roy, Sophie Gagnon, Jean-Paul Dutrisac, Mr. Henri Lafrance and Me Sylvie Schirm

Missing from the photo: Me Marie-Ève Brown and Mrs Michèle Vatz Laaroussi

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 in our recruitment of volunteers.

The AGPQ thus seeks 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 June 3, 2018, the AGPQ General Assembly was held at Hôtel le Mortagne in Boucherville. More than 40 people attended.

Facebook page

Ms. Céline Pichette used Facebook to promote the Association's activities and interventions. 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 nearly 1400 people following the page. We invite those of you to love and follow our Facebook page.

Ongoing political issues

The AGPQ will defend the right of grandchildren to maintain a relationship with their grandparents with the Minister of Justice, Sonia Label.

We invite each of you to register for the public consultation on family law reform that is currently taking place in various regions because the general public can appear before the Commission and present their arguments on various topics that affect family law in some way.

The Association will follow very closely the work of the Special Commission on the Protection of Youth.

The AGPQ helped a grandmother who was forced to leave her job to take care of her grandchildren. The judge had granted her custody of her grandchildren as a local foster family. But, unlike other foster families, being the grandmother, she had to wait at least 6 months before receiving the financial compensation provided for foster families. The AGPQ has denounced this situation to the ministers of health and to several members of Parliament. To date, she has not yet received a positive response to ensure that grandparents in such a situation are treated fairly. This demand will be submitted to the new Special Commission on Youth Protection.

Non-partisan political analysis

The AGPQ conducted research on trends in case law regarding the relationship between grandchildren and grandparents. The documents produced will be used in the presentation of our brief on family law reform and in our various representations to political authorities.

The AGPQ examined Bill C-78: "An Act to amend the Divorce Act, the Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act and the Garnishment, Attachment and Pension Diversion Act and to make consequential amendments to another Act". A synthesis of this project was prepared by legal volunteers.

Intervention with the media

On October 29, 2018, Ms. Monic Avoine met with a journalist from Beauport Express. On

5 November 2018, Ms Monic Avoine met the journalist Ms Isabelle Légaré of the *Nouvelliste de Trois-Rivières*.

In June 2018, Ms. Monic Avoine met with Ms. Gisèle Gizard, President of the European Grandparents School.

Meeting of Members of Parliament and Ministers

The AGPQ met with MPs and ministers in 2018-2019 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.

To make the AGPQ known, a letter of congratulations was sent to each of the MPs or re-elected on December 10, 2018.

In April 2018, Luc Trudeau met with Kathleen Weil, Minister responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers

On May 26, 2018, Mr. Lafrance met with Simon Jolin-Barrette, Member of Parliament responsible for justice in the 2nd Opposition, to discuss family law reform. He also met with Sylvain Lévesque, a candidate from the Coalition avenir Québec.

On July 3, 2018, Mr. Henri Lafrance met with Minister Stéphanie Vallée and Associate Chief Judge Robert Pidgeon to discuss the renewal of the pilot project "Parenting, Conflict and Resolutions" of the Ministry of Justice.

On July 30, 2018, Mr. Lafrance met with the candidates of the Coalition avenir Québec Émilie Foster, Jean-François Simard and François Legault.

On August 5, 2018, Mr. Lafrance and Ms. Avoine met with the Coalition avenir Québec candidate, Émilie Foster.

On September 18, 2018, Mr. Lafrance met with the Member of Parliament for Lafontaine, Mr. Marc Tanguay.

On October 9, 2018, Mr. Lafrance met with the Member of Parliament for Charlevoix-Côte-de-Beaupré, Émilie Foster.

On November 28, 2018, Mr. Lafrance met with the Minister of Justice, Ms. Sonia Lebel in Montreal.

On December 12, 2018, Mr. Lafrance met with the Member of Parliament for Chauveau, Mr. Sylvain Lévesque.

On March 4, 2019, Mr. Lafrance met with the Member of Parliament for Charlevoix-Côte-de-Beaupré, Émilie Foster.

On March 20, 2019, Mr. Lafrance attended a 6 to 8 meeting with the Minister of Justice, Ms. Sonia Lebel, and the Member of Parliament for Montmorency, Mr. Jean-François Simard.

On March 30, 2019, Mr. Lafrance met with Sylvain Lévesque, Member of Parliament for Chauveau, and Jean-François Simard, Member of Parliament for Montmorency.



Mr. Henri Lafrance and Me Sonia
Lebel, Minister of Justice



Me Kathleen WeilMme Émilie FosterM Sylvain Lévesque



Mr. Jean Francois SimardM. Simon Jolin-BarretteM. Marc Tanguay



Mr. Lionel CarmantMme Stéphanie ValléeM. François Legault



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 always 8 hours a day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, for a total of more than 2000 hours per year.

Once again this year, we would like to acknowledge the exceptional contribution of our warmest speakers, Ms. Monic Avoine and Ms. Monic Godin. It should be noted that grandparents' calls come from all regions of Quebec. The number of calls was about 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 will never see them again.
- 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 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 died.

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 meetings

The AGPQ continues to keep its grandparents well informed by holding regular legal information meetings with Luc Trudeau, a lawyer for 35 years in family and youth law. Mr. Trudeau has been a lecturer since 2006 on the law of grandparents and their grandchildren.



Me Luc Trudeau

The meetings were presented this year in Quebec City, Saint-Hyacinthe, Drummondville, Longueuil, Boucherville and Montreal respectively.

During the information sessions, Mr. Trudeau informs grandparents about the right of grandchildren to maintain relationships with them. It also discusses the psychological aspects and political issues surrounding the exercise of rights.

It was noted that information sessions are increasingly popular and appreciated by members. There are between 35 and 40 people attending each meeting. This increase encourages us to continue and increase the number of meetings. They are also intended to greatly strengthen our members' sense of belonging and the organization's community life.



During the information meetings, Mr. Henri Lafrance, Director (or other members of the Board of Directors) also 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, the AGPQ organized 15 information 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 requests of four seniors' groups: Québec City, Saint-Léonard (Montréal), Rivière-des-Prairies (Montréal), Maison des grand- parents (Sherbrooke) and the Association des retraités de l'Enseignement (Saint- Hyacinthe).

Information meetings 2018-2019

NB.	Location	Date	Type
1	St-Hubert Restaurant, Montreal	April 15, 2018	M
2	Hotel le Mortagne, Longueuil	June 3, 2018	M
3	Rivière-des-Prairies Library, Montreal	September 9, 2018	E
4	St-Hubert Restaurant, Montreal	October 14, 2018	M
5	Longueuil Campus, Université de Sherbrooke	November 18, 2018	M
6	Hôtel et Suites Normandin, Quebec	December 9, 2018	M
7	Hôtel et Suites Normandin, Quebec	January 13, 2019	M
8	Coopérative funéraire de l'Estrie, Sherbrooke	January 29, 2019	E
9	St-Hubert Restaurant, Montreal	February 3, 2019	M
11	Presentation in Saint-Léonard	February 7, 2019	E
12	St-Hubert Restaurant, Drummondville	March 10, 2019	M
13	Le Lussier Restaurant, Saint-Hyacinthe	March 28, 2019	E
14	Restaurant St-Hubert Montreal	April 7, 2019	M
15	Hôtel et Suites Normandin, Quebec	April 14, 2019	M

M = Organize mainly for members

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



Individual or small group meetings

Ms. Monic Avoine met several times with grandparents, especially grandmothers, sometimes in couples, who needed to speak at greater length than by phone call

This service is currently only available in the Quebec City metropolitan area. He will be extended to other regions as soon as our financial capacity allows.

At each meeting, a smooth running is ensured in a confidential environment and with respect for all.

Date	Location
2018-06-13	Meeting at Maison de la Famille in Quebec City
2018-10-26	Meeting at Maison de la Famille in Quebec City
2019-01-18	Meeting at Maison de la Famille in Quebec City
2019-01-26	Grandmother meeting in Quebec City
2019-03-04	Grandmother meeting in Quebec City

Meetings of the Board of Directors

Date	Event
2018-05-06	AGPQ Board of Directors
2018-06-03	AGPQ Board of Directors
2018-06-22	AGPQ Board of Directors
2018-09-24	AGPQ Board of Directors
2018-10-19	AGPQ Board of Directors
2018-11-15	AGPQ Board of Directors
2019-03-18	AGPQ Board of Directors
2019-05-16	AGPQ Board of Directors

Members of the Board of Directors 2018-2019



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.
Facebook Page Manager



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



Ms. Vita Fontana
Administrator



Mr. Peter Eusanio
Head of the English-language component

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
- Petals Quebec
- 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)
- 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
2018-04-04	Beauport Community Development Corporation
2018-04-04	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de l'Île-de-Montréal
2018-04-04	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2018-04-25	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale
2018-05-05	35th Movement Retrouvailles
2018-05-16	Project to bring together seniors' groups in Montreal (Building)
2018-05-22	Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome
2018-05-23	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2018-05-24	Point Québec Family
2018-05-25	Grouping of organizations in collective defence of rights
2018-05-31	Centre d'action bénévole de Charlesbourg
2018-06-07	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de l'Île-de-Montréal
2018-06-12	Hearings of the Citizens' Commission on Family Law in Quebec City
2018-06-12	Petals Quebec
2018-06-13	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale
2018-06-13	Family House
2018-06-14	Association québécoise des retraités du réseau public
2018-06-15	Association du Québec pour enfants avec problèmes auditifs Québec Métro
2018-06-18	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2018-06-19	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de l'Île-de-Montréal
2018-06-27	Hearings of the Citizens' Commission on Family Law in Montreal
2018-06-27	Carrefour on parental alienation
2018-07-18	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2018-08-29	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2018-09-19	Point Québec Family
2018-09-24	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2018-09-26	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale
2018-10-02	Point Québec Family
2018-11-06	Help 23
2018-11-17	Man Day
2018-11-28	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale
2018-11-29	Grouping of organizations in collective defence of rights
2018-12-04	Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome
2018-12-11	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2018-12-19	FADOQ
2018-12-20	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2019-01-31	Point Québec Family
2019-01-05	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2019-01-06	Centre d'action bénévole de Charlesbourg
2019-02-17	Perspective 50+
2019-02-20	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de l'Île-de-Montréal
2019-02-27	Réseau québécois de l'action communautaire autonome
2019-03-06	Centre d'action bénévole de Québec
2019-03-25	Perspective 50+
2019-03-26	Point Québec Family

APPENDIX 1 - Telephone Calls

The AGPQ is a national organization serving the 17 administrative regions of the Quebec.

Here are some statistics on the regional origins of grandparents who have called the Association des grands-parents du Québec's hotline over the past four years. Persons who have not left their addresses are not included in this table.

Regional code	Region	Appellants AGPQ	Percentage AGPQ	Demographic weight region / Province	Population
01	Bas-Saint-Laurent	63	2.02%	2.35%	197 384
02	Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean	77	2.47%	3.31%	277 406
03	Capitale-Nationale	520	16.68%	8.88%	745 135
04	Mauricie	119	3.82%	3.21%	269 332
05	Eastern	105	3.37%	3.89%	326 476
06	Montreal	558	17.90%	24.19%	2 029 379
07	Outaouais	114	3.66%	4.66%	390 830
08	Abitibi-Témiscamingue	44	1.41%	1.76%	147 508
09	North Shore	23	0.74%	1.09%	91 213
10	Northern Quebec		0.06%	0.54%	45 558
11	Gaspésie/Îles-de-la-Madeleine	18	0.58%	1.08%	90 709
12	Chaudière-Appalaches	160	5.13%	5.08%	426 130
13	Laval	146	4.68%	5.16%	432 858
14	Lanaudière	261	8.37%	6.05%	507 947
15	Laurentians	289	9.27%	7.28%	611 019
16	Montréal	542	17.38%	18.52%	1 554 282
17	Centre-du-Québec	77	2.47%	2.95%	247 333
	Québec	3118	100.00%	100.00%	8 390 499

APPENDIX 2 - Newsletter

The AGPQ is a national organization serving the 17 administrative regions of the Quebec.

Here are some statistics on the regional origin of grandparents who have registered on the AGPQ mailing list.

Regional code	Region	Subscribers	Percentage AGPQ	Demographic weight region / Province	Population
	Bas-Saint-Laurent	17	1,74%	2.35%	197 384
	Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean	20	2,04%	3.31%	277 406
	National Capital	157	16,05%	8.88%	745 135
	Mauricie	29	2,97%	3.21%	269 332
	Eastern Townships	33	3,37%	3.89%	326 476
	Montreal	221	22,60%	24.19%	2 029 379
	Outaouais	39	3,99%	4.66%	390 830
	Abitibi-Témiscamingue	20	2,04%	1.76%	147 508
	North Shore		0,41%	1.09%	91 213
10	Northern Quebec		0,20%	0.54%	45 558
11	Gaspésie/Iles-de-la-Madeleine		0,31%	1.08%	90 709
12	Chaudière-Appalaches	51	5,21%	5.08%	426 130
13	Laval	35	3,58%	5.16%	432 858
14	Lanaudière	72	7,36%	6.05%	507 947
15	Laurentians	87	8,90%	7.28%	611 019
16	Montréal	164	16,77%	18.52%	1 554 282
17	Centre-du-Québec	24	2,45%	2.95%	247 333
	Québec	978	100.00%	100.00%	8 390 499

APPENDIX 3 - Facebook accounts

Where do the people who follow our Facebook page come from? They are women with 82% and men 18%.

Coun	Your
Canada	1 241
France	17
Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon	17
United States of America	
Spain, Italy	
Other countries	18
City	Your
Montreal	231
Quebec City	181
Laval	38
Longueuil, Brossard	43
Gatineau	35
Trois-Rivières, Shawinigan	40
Sherbrooke	26
Saint-Jérôme	21
Lévis, St-Georges	26
Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu	18
Repentigny, Terrebonne	35
Chicoutimi, Alma, Dolbeau-Mistassini	24
Drummondville	13
Granby	12
Saint-Hyacinthe	12
Gaspé, Matane	16
Nice one,	
Chambly,	
Lachute	
Mirabel	
Rimouski	
Salaberry-de-Valleyfield	
Victoriaville	
Saint-Lin, Laurentians,, Mascouche	21
Sept-Îles	
Brome Lake	
Lac-Mégantic	
Mont-Laurier	
Rouyn-Noranda, Val-d' Or, Amos	16
Sorel-Tracy	
Ste-Anne-des-Plaines	
Controversy	
Two-Mountains	

APPENDIX 4 - Excerpt from the Report of the Citizens' Commission

Excerpt from the final report of the Citizens' Commission on Family Law with Respect to Extended Family and Grandparents. September 2018, under the chairmanship of Alain Roy and Jean-Paul Dutrisac. You will find on the website of the Citizens' Commission the report

D- Extended family, relatives and others...

"It takes a whole village to raise a child. "This proverb is nowadays blatantly true. The child now evolves within family environments around which different actors gravitate or take turns. These actors include the step-parent (1) and grandparents who are regularly called upon to perform parental functions (2). In addition, a child may need to be placed in the care of a third party for an extended period of time. It also happens that this third party takes advantage of his authority and situation to abuse his powers and the child (3).

1. The step-parent, a landmark for the child

As explained by the Fédération des associations de familles monoparentales et recomposées du Québec (FAFMRQ), the phenomenon of reconstituted families is no longer marginal ⁽³⁰⁶⁾. More and more children are living in an environment composed of a parent and a new spouse, and earlier in their lives. The role of the person you are commonly referred to as "step-parent" is not uniform, however. While some step-parents will be reserved in their dealings with the child, others will be fully involved with the child and actively contribute to his or her development.

According to several of the persons and organizations heard by the Commission, the law must preserve the "significant ties" that a child may have with his or her step-parent, particularly after the breakdown of the reconstituted family ⁽³⁰⁷⁾. This is one of the key recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Family Law ⁽³⁰⁸⁾. However, the importance of properly defining the concept is stressed. The length of the relationship, the child's age and the nature of the relationship with the other parent are all criteria that may be relevant here ⁽³⁰⁹⁾.

That being said, the Association des jeunes notaires du Québec opposes the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Family Law to establish a presumption in favour of maintaining the significant relationship. In his view, the onus should be on the step-parent to prove that maintaining the relationship is in the best interests of the child, not on the parent (his or her ex-spouse) to prove otherwise ⁽³¹⁰⁾. This opinion is shared by the FAFMRQ and the Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale, which are concerned about the challenges that maintaining the child's relationships with the step-parent could pose in the context of domestic violence ⁽³¹¹⁾.

Apart from the child's relationship with his or her step-parent, some would argue that the child's relationship with his or her stepsiblings should also be given special attention⁽³¹²⁾. The maintenance of such relationships after the breakdown of the stepfamily would also be likely to promote the child's development⁽³¹³⁾.

2. Grandparents, always more present

The importance of grandparents in the child's life is no longer in doubt today. The opposite is also true. Several individuals and organizations have told the Commission about the distress and distress experienced by some grandparents who are deprived of contact with their grandchildren as a result of the death of their child (who is the parent) or their marital separation. Sometimes the former spouse tries to limit or even block the child's contact with them. Such conduct, says Luc Trudeau, a lawyer specializing in the field, is entirely contrary to the principle of section 611 of the Civil Code, which presumes the child's interest in maintaining personal relations with his or her grandparents.

Me Trudeau, like the representatives of the Association des grand-parents du Québec (AGPQ)⁽³¹⁴⁾, also considers that the term "grandparents" in article 611 of the Civil Code is too narrow in that it does not allow for the inclusion of great-grandparents, as is the case in France⁽³¹⁵⁾. Nowadays, they can also play a key role in helping children.

The AGPQ also made the Commission aware of the dramatic consequences that intra-family adoption has on grandparents. To illustrate its point, the organization reports the story of a grandmother who lost all contact with her granddaughter following the death of her own daughter⁽³¹⁶⁾. After restarting his life with another woman, the child's father exercised his right under the Civil Code to consent to the adoption of the child in favour of his or her new spouse, which led to the breakdown of the original maternal parent-child relationship and thus transformed the maternal grandmother into a complete stranger from a legal point of view⁽³¹⁷⁾.

As explained by the AGPQ and Me Luc Trudeau, grandparents have no control over adoption procedures - which are not systematically notified to them - despite the resulting consequences on their relationship with their grandchildren⁽³¹⁸⁾. According to the lawyer, article 611 of the Civil Code should be amended so that the presumption set out therein is maintained with respect to the original grandparents, despite the loss of their status as a result of the adoption⁽³¹⁹⁾.

The Commission's attention was also drawn to the importance of maintaining the child's relationships with his or her ancestors for many immigrant families, given the predominant place given to the extended family in their culture. Advocating for greater recognition of the realities experienced by transnational immigrant families⁽³²⁰⁾, Rencontre interculturelle des familles de l'Estrie (RIFE) advocates the importance of extending reflection beyond borders.

RIFE argues that it is necessary to ensure that the child's ties with his or her grandparents or other relatives in the ascending line are preserved, even if they have remained in the country of origin⁽³²¹⁾.

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307. Ibid; RÉSEAU NOTARIAL PLUS, brief presented on June 27, 2018, p. 8; OBSERVATORY JACQUES GRAND' MAISON, brief presented on June 27, 2018, p. 26.

308. CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON FAMILY LAW, Alain ROY (pres.), *Pour un droit de la famille adapté aux nouvelles réalités conjugales et familiales*, Montréal, Éditions Thémis, 2015, p. 291, p. 307 et seq.

309. Remarks made by the representatives of the ASSOCIATION DES FAMILLES MONOPARENTALES ET RECOMPOSÉES DE LA MRC MARIACHAPDELAINE, during the hearing in Saguenay, on May 22, 2018.

310 ASSOCIATION DES JEUNES NOTAIRES DU QUÉBEC, brief presented on June 12 2018, pp. 9 and 10.

311. FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DE FAMILLES MONOPARENTALES ET RECOMPOSÉES DU QUÉBEC, *Le droit familiale : un enjeu d'égalité !* Brief submitted on May 14, 2018, p. 7 and REGROUPEMENT DES MAISONS POUR FEMMES VICTIMES DE VIOLENCE CONJUGALE, *Droit de la famille : viser la protection des femmes et des enfants*, Brief submitted on June 14, 2018, p. 22 and 23.

312. Testimony of Mrs. L. transmitted to the Commission on 23 April 2018.

313. See, on this subject, Claudine PARENT and Marie-Christine SAINT-JACQUES, *La famille recomposée. Stopovers, but what a trip!* 2nd ed. Montreal: Éditions de l'Hôpital Sainte- Justine, 2015.

314. ASSOCIATION DES GRANDS-PARENTS DU QUÉBEC, brief presented on June 12 2018, pp. 3 and 5.

315. Art. 371-4 C. civ. fr. : "The child has the right to maintain personal relations with his ascendants. Only the best interests of the child can prevent the exercise of this right. If it is in the child's interest, the Family Court shall determine the terms of the relationship between the child and a third party, whether or not a parent, in particular where the third party has resided permanently with the child and one of the parents, has provided for the child's education, maintenance or settlement, and has established long-term emotional ties with the child. »

316. ASSOCIATION DES GRANDS-PARENTS DU QUÉBEC, brief presented on June 12 2018, Annex 1.

317. C. v. Q., ss. 555 and 577. See Alain ROY, "L'adoption intrafamiliale: une institution à remanier en fonction des besoins identitaires de l'enfant", in Service de la formation continue du Barreau du Québec, vol. 273, Développements récents en droit familiale, Montréal, Éditions Yvon Blais, 2007, p. 1.

318. Remarks made at the hearing held on June 27, 2018, in Montreal.

319. According to the Fédération des parents adopants du Québec, the problem could also be addressed by considering the idea of an adoption without breaking the original link. See FÉDÉRATION DES PARENTS ADOPTANTS DU QUÉBEC, brief presented on July 13 2018, p. 3.

320 See this report, Part I, section C, 2, (c) "Transnational families when family responsibilities cross borders", pp. 27-28.

321. RENCONTRE INTERCULTURELLE DES FAMILLES DE L'ESTRIE, *Les familles immigrantes et le droit de la famille au Québec*, brief presented on June 5, 2018, p. 9.