

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2019-2020

PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF



Association des
Grands-Parents
du Québec

THE GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF QUEBEC
national organization since 2004
and recognized as such in 2019

June 20, 2020

A Word from the President



Dear members of the Grandparents' Association,

I am very proud of how far we have come since the Grandparents' Association was re-founded. In 2004, it was a small local organization with very limited resources and a low membership.

The Grandparents' Association was incorporated in May 1990, 30 years ago. In 2004, its mission is to serve grandparents throughout Quebec. Finally in 2019, the Minister of Labour and Social Solidarity and the Secrétariat à l'Action communautaire autonome (SACAIS) recognized the national character of the Association des grands-parents du Québec (AGPQ). Thank you to the Minister, Mr. Jean Boulet. Note that thanks to this recognition, the organization's funding is six times higher than it was 16 years ago.

Ms. Monic Oats, Vice President and I had a dream in 2004. It was to transform the small local Beauport Grandparents' Association into a national organization serving grandparents in difficulty throughout Quebec. Although there is still room for improvement to better serve all regions of Quebec, we are not far from the goal. Ms. Oats, I would like to say THANK YOU for your great dedication over the past 16 years.

After 16 years of dedication to the grandparents' cause, I would like to leave the presidency to another person who will be able to develop and diversify even more the services to grandparents throughout Quebec, without forgetting English-speaking grandparents. However, if elected, I will stay on for a final two-year term. I hope to help make the transition a smooth one.

I would like to thank all the people who have devoted themselves with me on the Board of Directors over these 16 years, namely Danielle Adam, Monic Avoine, Lisette Dion, Micheline Drouin, Nicole Ferland, Vita Fontana, Louise Giguère, Nicole Langlois, Sylvie Lemieux, Céline Pichette, Henriette Rodrigue and Sylvie Vanasse. I would also like to thank Peter Eusanio, Raymond Héту, Bernard Lefebvre, Claude Roch, André Rodrigue, Bernard Schroeder and Luc Trudeau.

The first Board of Directors that I chaired in 2004



From left to right Mr. André Rodrigue, Mrs. Henriette Rodrigue, Ms. Louise Giguère, Mr. Lebeuf (as an external speaker), Ms. Monic Avoine and Mr. Henri Lafrance

Thank you to all the volunteers who have allowed the Association to shine throughout Quebec.

I wish you a beautiful summer with your loved ones and, if possible, with your grandchildren.

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 expanded its scope to cover all of Quebec. As a result, it has changed its name. In addition, it organizes events and activities in the main agglomerations of Quebec. Since 2004, it maintains a toll-free hotline accessible to all grandparents and seniors.

Over the years, the AGPQ has held activities, conferences, coffee meetings and information meetings in the following cities: Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Beaupré, Quebec City, Montreal, 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, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Rivière-du-Loup, Saint-Jérôme and Lachute.

Mission

The AGPQ's mission is to defend the rights of grandparents and seniors. It 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 in their journey.

Vision

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

Our main services and activities

- ✓ Political representations, intervention with political authorities and the media.
- ✓ Toll-free hotline in all regions of Quebec.
- ✓ Legal, psychological or political information meetings.
- ✓ Self-help, reflection and action group (coffee meetings).

Our contact details

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

C. P. 2011 - 20 Fatima Street East Beaupré (QC) G0A 1E0
and in Montreal119 - 39 Gouin Boulevard West Montreal, QC H3L 1H9

Administrative telephone : Quebec City : 418-702-3544

Listening line : 514-745-611 or 1 866-745-6110

Website: www.grands-parents.ca

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

Highlights of the year 2019-2020

Children's rights and youth protection

The hearings of the Special Commission on the Rights of Children and Youth Protection, chaired by Ms. Régine Laurent, began in November 2019.

In December 2019, our president, Mr. Lafrance, submitted a brief on behalf of the Association entitled "[Pour la bientraitance de nos petits-enfants](#)" ([For the well-being of our grandchildren](#)). This brief is available on our website in the AGPQ / History section.

For those who have not followed the file, the Commission's mandate is to "examine the youth protection systems in the various intervention networks concerned, in order to identify the issues and obstacles and to make recommendations on the improvements to be made".

The Commission is looking at the Youth Protection Act, the role of the courts, social services and other partners of the Youth Protection Directorates (DPJ).

Thank you to Ms. Ginette France Thomas for her valuable contribution to the drafting of this brief and its supplement, which were filed with the Commission.



Ms. Régine Laurent, President of the
Commission des droits des enfants et de la protection de la jeunesse (Children's Rights and Youth
Protection Commission)

Consultation on Family Law by the Minister of Justice

In 2018, the president of the AGPQ sat on the Family Law Commission. In 2019, on behalf of the AGPQ, he defended the rights of grandparents at the Consultation held in Gaspé. The Association also filed the Brief "[For the Recognition of the Importance of Grandparents in Quebec Families](#)".

The brief defended the achievements of grandparents against the lobby of a small group of parents who lost their case in court seeking to have Article 611 of the Civil Code abolished.

The President also gave several interviews to defend the AGPQ's positions presented in one or another of the Association's briefs mentioned above to various media. These were Radio-Canada Trois-Rivières, Le Soleil de Québec, QUB- Radio de Québecor, Radio-Canada de Sept-Îles, FM-93 radio in Québec City and L'Autre-Voix de la Côte-de Beaupré.



Dear Minister of Justice, Sonia Lebel

In its demands, the Association has benefited from the support of an important organization, the Association québécoise de défense de droits des retraités and its regional chapters.

On October 23, 2019, representatives of the AGPQ met with members of the Board of Directors of the national AQDR and all regional AQDR representatives. Our organization was represented by Henri Lafrance, President, Ms. Monic Avoine and Me Luc Trudeau, member of the Board of Directors.

When the bill that will follow this consultation on family law is introduced, AQDR's support will be important to preserve the gains made by grandparents.

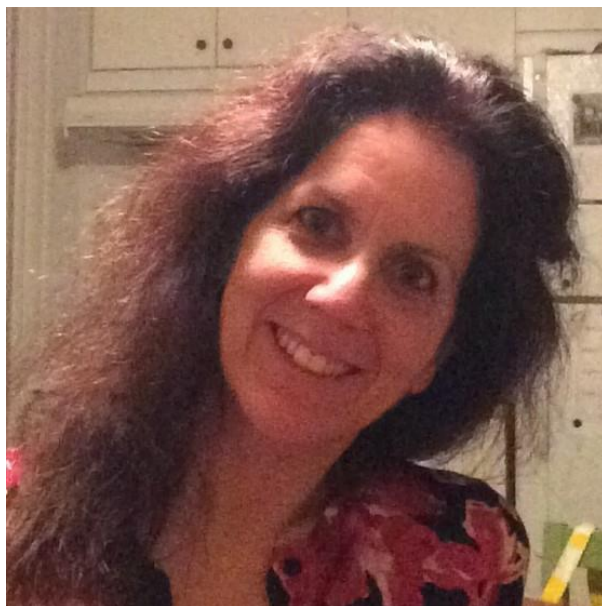
Opening of a new office in Montreal

Last fall, the AGPQ moved to Montreal. The new office is located on Gouin Boulevard in Montreal. This allows the AGPQ to better serve Western Quebec.

Ms. Marie-Josée Vaillancourt was hired by the members of the Board of Directors as coordinator of the AGPQ. She has more than 30 years of experience in the community network. She assists the Executive President, Mr. Henri Lafrance.

However, last March, Ms. Vaillancourt left the Association at the beginning of the Quebec Confinement. She still remains a freelancer at the AGPQ.

We thank her very much for the good work done during this short period and good luck for the future !



Ms. Marie-Josée Vaillancourt, Coordinator Montreal Office

New website

The big news this year is the opening of a new bilingual site. This new site allows members to join the Association on the site, renew their membership and register for activities.

We have linked our CyberImpact account for sending newsletters and our ZOOM account for online teleconferences to this site.

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 Montreal), Centre d'action bénévolat de l'Ouest-de-l'île and the Volunteer Centre of Montreal. This collaboration helps us in our volunteer recruitment.

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

We would like to warmly thank Ms. Monic Avoine, volunteer manager of the hotline, Ms. Céline Pichette, volunteer facilitator of the Facebook Page, and Me Luc Trudeau for his invaluable advice and conferences, which are always very much appreciated.

Annual General Meeting

On May 25, 2019, the AGPQ's Annual General Meeting was held at the WelcomInns Hotel in Boucherville. More than 40 people were present.

Facebook page



Our Facebook page has more and more people following it regularly.

Ongoing policy issues

The AGPQ defended the right of grandchildren to maintain a relationship with their grandparents to the Minister of Justice, Ms. Sonia Lebel, in Quebec City and Gaspé.

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

Non-partisan political analysis

The AGPQ submitted two briefs to the authorities in 2019-2020. One dealt with family law reform and was presented to the Minister of Justice in Gaspé.

The other was about the problems surrounding the protection of youth in our various demands to the political authorities.

Intervention with the media

On May 10, 2019, Mr. Lafrance was interviewed on FM 93 in Quebec City following the tragedy of the child martyr in Granby.

On May 17, 2019, Mr. Henri Lafrance met with Ms. Julie-Rose Vézina, a journalist from the newspaper L'Autre Voix de la Côte-de-Beaupré following the Granby tragedy.

On June 20, 2019, Mr. Henri Lafrance met with Ms. Claudie Simard, a journalist from Radio-Canada in Trois-Rivières regarding family law reform.

On June 9, 2019, Mr. Henri Lafrance gave an interview to Ms. Anne-Sophie Poiré, a journalist for the Quebec City newspaper Le Soleil, concerning family law reform.

On July 15, 2019, Mr. Henri Lafrance and Ms. Monic Avoine gave an interview to Radio-Canada - Côte-Nord regarding family law reform.

On July 26, 2019, Mr. Henri Lafrance gave an interview to QUB Radio to the host Mr. François-David Bernier on family law reform.

Meeting of Deputies and Ministers

To highlight the issues and demands of grandparents, AGPQ representatives met with several elected officials.

The AGPQ met with MPs and ministers in 2019-2020 to put forward its demands and to explain the role of the Association. We also invited them to refer us to grandparents who might need help or guidance.

On May 17, 2019, Mr. Lafrance met with Mr. Jean-François Simard, Member of Parliament for Montmorency.

On May 23, 2019, Mr. Lafrance met with Ms. Catherine Dorion, Member of Parliament for Taschereau in Quebec City.

On June 21, 2019, Ms. Monic Avoine and Mr. Henri Lafrance met with Ms. Marguerite Blais, Minister responsible for Seniors and Caregivers, and Ms. Émilie Foster, MNA for Charlevoix-Côte-de-Beaupré.

On November 11, 2019, Ms. Avoine and Mr. Henri Lafrance met with Ms. Émilie Foster, MNA for Charlevoix-Côte-de-Beaupré in Beaufort.



Ms. Monic Avoine, Ms. Marguerite Blais and Ms. Émilie Foster

Several deputies of the National Assembly were met, including these :



Ms. Émilie Foster
MNA Charlevoix - Côte-de-Beaupré



. Jean-François-Simard
for Montmorency



Ms. Catherine Dorion
Member of Parliament
for Taschereau



**Monic Oats responding to
a grandmother in difficulty**

Listening line

The hotline is still very much used by grandparents and is still the "front door" to the Association for many grandparents who are experiencing difficulties. The availability of the hotline 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 a year.

Once again this year, we would like to highlight the exceptional contribution of our warmest caregivers, Ms. Monic Oats, Ms. Monic Godin and Ms. Maude Fortin. It should be noted that the calls from grandparents come from all regions of Quebec. The number of calls was approximately 1000 this year.

Here are some situations encountered by the listeners:

1. Parents demand money or property to leave grandchildren with grandparents.
2. Parents threaten grandparents: "If you refuse to babysit on weekends, you won't see the kids anymore."
3. Children are neglected by parents. Grandparents make up for this by caring and nurturing them. Grandparents babysit their grandchildren full time with parental consent. They pay for all the children's needs. But if they ask to receive social or tax programs related to children (the Quebec Child Support Payment and the Canada Child Tax Benefit), parents threaten them that they will never see the children again.
4. Children are neglected by parents. Grandparents make up for this by caring and nurturing them. They become exhausted and ask for help from the CLSC. The CLSC's interveners request the intervention of the Director of Youth Protection. The director will place the child in a foster family. If the child is young or very young, he will probably be placed in a family that wants to adopt him. If this happens, the grandparents would become strangers under 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, not only is he or she targeted, but also his or her parents and siblings. The big losers, of course, are the children.

6. Parents demand money or property to leave grandchildren with grandparents.
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8. Children are neglected by parents. Grandparents make up for this by caring and nurturing them. Grandparents babysit their grandchildren full time with parental consent. They pay for all the children's needs. But if they ask to receive social or tax programs related to children (the Quebec Child Support Payment and the Canada Child Tax Benefit), parents threaten them that they will never see the children again.
9. Children are neglected by parents. Grandparents make up for this by caring and nurturing them. They become exhausted and ask for help from the CLSC. The CLSC's interveners request the intervention of the Director of Youth Protection. The director will place the child in a foster family. If the child is young or very young, he will probably be placed in a family that wants to adopt him. If this is done, the grandparents would become strangers under the law.
10. 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, not only is he or she targeted, but also his or her parents and siblings. The big losers, of course, are the children.
11. The son or daughter of the grandparents, father or mother of the grandchildren is deceased. The surviving parent wishes to erase from his or her life and that of his or her child the lineage of the deceased parent. The surviving parent wishes to have his or her child adopted by a new spouse. If this is done, the grandparents would become strangers under the law.
12. As a result of some kind of dispute between parents and grandparents, grandchildren are denied access to grandparents. However, parents used to be very happy with their devotion to the care and custody of their children.

Information meetings

The AGPQ continues to keep its grandparents well informed by holding regular legal information meetings with Me Luc Trudeau.

Me Luc Trudeau, a family lawyer with more than 35 years of experience, advocates the right of grandchildren to maintain their ties with their grandparents, both at the Superior Court and Youth Chamber levels. He also explains the existing recourses in this regard. Mr. Trudeau has been a speaker since 2006 on the rights of grandparents and their grandchildren.



Me Luc Trudeau

He also answered questions from the members then present on this thorny but very real subject.

The information meetings allow Mr. Trudeau to inform grandparents about the right of grandchildren to maintain relationships with them. They also discuss the psychological aspects and political issues surrounding the exercise of these rights.

It was found that information meetings are becoming increasingly popular and appreciated by members. Attendance is between 35 and 40 people at each meeting. This increase encourages us to continue and multiply the meetings. They are also intended to greatly strengthen the sense of belonging of our members and the associative life of the organization.

This year's meetings were held in Quebec City, Rivière-des-Prairies, Saint-Hyacinthe, Sherbrooke, Laval, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Boucherville, and Montreal respectively.

AGPQ Presentations



During the information meetings, Mr. Henri Lafrance, President and CEO (or other members of the Board of Directors) gave a brief overview of the purpose of their existence and the contributions provided to Quebec grandparents when they need help, especially when they are cut off from their ties with their grandchildren. It also presents the AGPQ, its main political and social demands.

Sympathetic members are encouraged to raise awareness and denounce to elected officials the unfair or problematic situations that grandparents experience. This year, the AGPQ organized 12 information meetings and 4 representations of our Association. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AGPQ had to cancel 5 information meetings and 2 presentations (see table of AGPQ information meetings and presentations).

Sometimes, groups of seniors, families or women invite us to meet with their members to explain the difficulties experienced by grandparents. This year, we responded to the request of 4 groups of seniors in Quebec City, Lachute (Montreal), Joliette and Montreal.

2019-2020 Information Meetings and AGPQ Presentations

NB.	Location	Date	Type
1	St-Hubert Restaurant, Montreal	April 7, 2019	M
2	Suites Normandin Hotel, Quebec	April 14, 2019	M
3	Hotel le WelcomInns Boucherville	May 25, 2019	M
4	Rivière-des-Prairies Library, Montreal	September 8, 2019	E
5	AGPQ Presentation - Cégep de Drummondville, Drummondville	September 17, 2019	E
6	St-Hubert Restaurant, Montreal	September 29, 2019	M
7	AGPQ Presentation - Lebourgneuf Recreation Center, Quebec	October 9, 2019	E
8	Presentation AGPQ - Centre de Loisirs Douville, Saint-Hyacinthe	October 31, 2019	M
9	Presentation by Mr. Gilles Bernatchez of the AGPQ, City of Val-d'Or	November 2019	E
10	St-Hubert Restaurant, Sherbrooke	November 17, 2019	M
11	Normandin Hotel and Suites, Quebec	December 1, 2019	M
12	Carrefour Axion 50+, Laval	February 16, 2020	E
13	Gaétan Rousse Building, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield	February 26, 2020	E
14	Suites Normandin Hotel, Quebec	March 1, 2020	M

M =Organize primarily for members

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

Meetings organized but cancelled due to VIDOC pandemic measures-19

NB.	Location	Date	Type
1	St-Pierre Community Centre, Drummondville	March 29, 2020	E
2	Presentation of the AGPQ - HLM Émilien Gagnon, Saint-Léonard	April 9, 2020	E
3	AQDR of L'Islet - Restaurant de la Rive, Montmagny	April 14, 2020	E
	Salon des aînés de Montréal	April 2020	
4	Presentation of the AGPQ in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli	April 16, 2020	M
5	St-Hubert Restaurant, Montreal	April 19, 2020	M
6	AQDR of Quebec City	April 23, 2020	E
7	AQDR Lévis, Patro de Lévis, Lévis	May 25, 2020	E
8	AQDR of Granby - Carrefour Bingo	October 19, 2020	E

THE AGPQ ON QUEBEC'S ROADS

On September 27th and 28th and October 4th, the Executive President, Mr. Henri Lafrance and the new coordinator, Ms. Marie-Josée Vaillancourt, met with seniors and grandparents from two regions of Quebec. On September 27 and 28, the AGPQ responded to an invitation from the FADOQ - Lanaudière region, while in October, it was the turn of the AQDR - Pointe-de-l'Île to organize its biennial seniors' fair.

These fairs are opportunities to promote the Association, its services and the rights of grandparents. They also provide an opportunity to network and establish links with players in the associative and institutional communities who are likely to collaborate in various ways in the cause of grandparents.

A few people from the Lanaudière region showed interest in participating in a future support group. A former member of the AGPQ came to tell us his grandmother's story which ended well. After two years of work, she was able to reestablish the lost link with her granddaughter. We invited her to tell us her story. We hope she will follow up.

We also took advantage of our visit to begin the process of finding a place in Joliette that could accommodate the support group.

We met many happy grandparents (and great-grandparents) but also grandparents who do not have access to their grandchildren as they would like.

Several seniors have taken our pamphlet in order to help an acquaintance, a relative with a problem of access to grandchildren. Few elders testified about cases of abuse but a few testified about attempts at abuse which, fortunately, ended in failure.

At the Pointe-de-l'Île Seniors' Lounge, in the context of the federal election campaign, many politicians came to shake our hands. There was a heartfelt speech by Mrs. Marguerite Blais, Minister responsible for Seniors and Caregivers. Other elected officials from the municipal, provincial and federal levels also spoke about the importance of caring for seniors. In fact, we were told that Pointe-de-l'Île is the oldest borough on the Island of Montréal. Indeed, many seniors were present. We listened to all our brochures! Unfortunately, there are still far too many grandparents deprived of their grandchildren.

These fairs confirm the need for an association like ours. Other seniors' lounges are to come and we hope to be there for the grandparents.



Mr. Robert Gour, Ms. Marie-Josée Vaillancourt and Mr. Henri Lafrance Salon de Joliette September 27 and 28, 2019

Individual or small group meetings

Mrs. Monic Avoine and Mr. Henri Lafrance met a few times with grandparents, especially grandmothers, sometimes as a couple, who needed to talk at greater length than by phone call.

This service is currently only offered in the Quebec City metropolitan area. It will be extended to other regions as soon as our financial capacities allow it.

At each meeting, a good progress is ensured in a confidential framework and in the respect of all.

Date	Location
2019-10-01	Meeting with grandparents in Quebec City
2019-11-13	Meeting grandparents in Montreal
2019-12-09	Meeting grandparents in Quebec City
2020-03-05	Meeting a grandmother at the Maison de la Famille, Quebec City

Meetings of the Board of Directors

Date	Meetings of the Board of Directors
2019-05-16	Board of Directors of the AGPQ
2019-05-25	Board of Directors of the AGPQ
2019-07-25	Board of Directors of the AGPQ
2019-08-30	Board of Directors of the AGPQ
2019-09-29	Board of Directors of the AGPQ
2019-10-29	Board of Directors of the AGPQ
2020-01-28	Board of Directors of the AGPQ
2020-02-17	Board of Directors of the AGPQ
2020-03-31	Board of Directors of the AGPQ

Members of the Board of Directors 2019-2020



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



**Mr. Henri Lafrance
President and Director**



**Me Luc Trudeau
Director**



**Ms. Céline Pichette, V.P.
Facebook Page Manager**



**Mr. Claude Roch, Secretary
Director**



**Ms. Vita Fontana
Director**



**Mr. Peter Eusanio
Head of the English-speaking component**

The current term of office of the seven directors ends on September 30, 2020 or at the time of the 2020 Annual General Meeting which is between May 15 and September 30. Their current term began at the Annual General Meeting of June 3, 2018, held in Boucherville.

Networking of the Association of Grandparents of Quebec

Member of the following national organizations :

- Point Quebec Family
- Quebec Network for Autonomous Community Action (RQ-ACA)
- Regroupement des organismes en défenses collectives des droits (RODCD)

Member of the following regional organizations :

- Volunteer Access (Montreal East)
- Center d'accompagnement et d'assistance aux plaintes de la Capitale-Nationale (National Capital)
- Beauport Community Development Centre (CDC-Beauport)
- Information and Reference Centre of the Capitale-Nationale et de la Chaudière-Appalaches, i.e. the 211 service
- Quebec City Volunteer Centre
- Center d'aide et d'action bénévole de Charlesbourg (CAABC)
- Volunteer Centre Help 23
- Volunteer Centre of Montreal
- West Island Volunteer Centre
- Table de concertation des aîné-e-s de l'Île de Montréal (Issue Table for Seniors on the Island of Montreal)
- Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale-Nationale (Issue Table for Seniors in the National Capital Region)
- West Island Seniors' Table (WIST)

Partnership and collaborative relationships with the following organizations :

- AFÉAS (Association féminine d'éducation et d'action sociale)
- Association for the Defense of Pensioners' Rights (AQDR)
- FADOQ - Mouvement des Aînés du Québec
- City of Beaupré

Grandparents' Association Networking

Date	Events
2019-04-02	Regrouping of organizations in collective defense of rights
2019-04-03	Quebec City Volunteer Centre
2019-04-10	Regrouping of organizations in collective defense of rights
2019-05-13	Consultation on family rights
2019-05-28	Point Quebec Family
2019-05-29	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale (National Capital's Seniors' Issue Table)
2019-05-31	Consultation on family rights
2019-06-06	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de l'Île-de-Montréal (Issue Table for Seniors on the Island of Montreal)
2019-06-18	Volunteer Centre of Montreal
2019-09-25	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale (National Capital's Seniors' Issue Table)
2019-10-15	Point Quebec Family
2019-10-22	Quebec Network for Autonomous Community Action
2019-10-23	AQDR - Quebec (form a coalition)
2019-11-13	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de l'Île-de-Montréal (Issue Table for Seniors on the Island of Montreal)
2019-11-16	Man's Day
2019-11-27	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale (National Capital's Seniors' Issue Table)
2019-11-28	Beauport Community Development Corporation
2019-12-03	Special Commission on the Rights of Youth Protection
2020-01-16	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de l'Île-de-Montréal (Issue Table for Seniors on the Island of Montreal)
2020-01-22	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale (National Capital's Seniors' Issue Table)
2020-02-06	Table de concertation des personnes âgées de l'Île-de-Montréal (Issue Table for Seniors on the Island of Montreal)
2020-02-13	Charlesbourg Volunteer Centre

Presence in the different regions

This year, the AGPQ had activities in 13 out of 17 different regions.

Code	Name of the region	Presence 2019-2020	Cities
3	Capitale-Nationale	3	Quebec
4	Mauricie	1	Trois-Rivières
5	Estrie	1	Sherbrooke
6	Montreal	4	Montreal
8	Abitibi-Témiscamingue	1	Val d'Or
9	Côte-Nord	1	Sept-Îles
11	Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	3	Gaspé
			Chandler
			Bonaventure
13	Laval	1	Laval
14	Lanaudière	1	Joliette
15	Laurentians	1	Lachute
16	Montréal	3	Longueuil
15	Laurentians	1	Boucherville
17	Centre-du-Québec	1	Drummondville

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION OF THE AGPQ

On May 31, 2019, following the presentation of our brief at the family law consultation, it became apparent that there was a strong need to form a coalition of seniors' organizations to support us in our demands for grandparents' rights. Indeed, the government is considering abolishing Article 611 of the Civil Code or at least reducing its scope. This is why the Association des grands-parents du Québec (AGPQ) has begun to solicit the support of seniors' organizations, in particular, the various local, regional and national sections of the AQDR (Association québécoise de défense des droits des personnes retraitées) and other seniors' groups.

In June 2019, we received a copy of a letter of support from the AQDR Richelieu-Yamaska to the Minister of Justice, Ms. Sonia Lebel. This letter, in the appendix, was in support of our brief *"For the recognition of the importance of grandparents within Quebec families"*.

A meeting was held on September 25, 2019 with the Table de concertation des personnes âgées de la Capitale Nationale (TCPACN). Most of the seniors' organizations in this region participated in this meeting. On this occasion, the president of the AGPQ asked the representatives of seniors' organizations "to support the demands of the AGPQ regarding the maintenance of article 611 CCQ". "It is necessary to mobilize and form a coalition of seniors' organizations as in 1996. "At that time, a coalition had forced the government to back down and abolish child support paid by grandparents," he added.

On October 23, 2019, a special meeting of the national AQDR was convened to form a coalition of seniors' organizations to protect the rights of grandparents. The president, the vice-president and Me Luc Trudeau of the AGPQ were invited to explain the situation to representatives of the various local AQDR chapters and of course to mobilize them and encourage them to intervene with their respective MPs on the threats to grandparents' rights. These representatives took up before the national AQDR what had been said before the TCPACN.

On November 13, 2019, a similar approach was made to the TCPAIM (Table de concertation des personnes âgées de l'Île-de-Montréal).

The AGPQ held information and mobilization booths for the senior population in Lachute (MRC d'Argenteuil) on September 14 and September 27 and 28 in Joliette as well as on October 4 in Pointe-de-l'Île-de-Montréal.

The following interviews :

- On June 20, 2019, Mr. Henri Lafrance met with Ms. Claudie Simard, a journalist from Radio-Canada in Trois-Rivières regarding family law reform.

- On June 9, 2019, Mr. Henri Lafrance gave an interview to Ms. Anne-Sophie Poiré, a journalist for the Quebec City newspaper Le Soleil, concerning family law reform.
- On July 15, 2019, Mr. Henri Lafrance and Ms. Monic Avoine gave an interview to Radio-Canada - Côte-Nord regarding family law reform.
- On July 26, 2019, Mr. Henri Lafrance gave an interview on QUB Radio to the host Mr. François-David Bernier concerning family law reform.

The purpose of these interviews was to mobilize the population, particularly seniors, regarding the AGPQ's demands with respect to Article 611 CCQ.

The AGPQ will continue its mobilization of seniors' organizations with regard to the abolition of article 611 CCQ when the bill to reform family law is soon to be tabled.

On the other hand, the AGPQ intends to be very present in the public arena following the tabling of the report of the Special Commission on the Rights of the Child and Youth Protection. This report is scheduled for November 2020.