

GATHERING FOR THE ENG-LISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY OF THE MONTÉRÉGIE EAST

Monteregie East Partnership for the English-Speaking Community organizes a festive BBQ for its members

On June 11th, the non-profit organization, Monteregie East Partnership for the English-Speaking Community (MEPEC), hosted a barbecue at the Royal Canadian Legion in Otterburn Park to celebrate the opening of its offices in Beloeil. MEPEC also held for the first time its annual general meeting where the 25 members present elected the official directors of the organization's Board of Directors.

Gathering for MEPEC members

More than 70 people gathered to celebrate the opening of MEPEC's office on Tuesday, June 11th, around hotdogs, small sandwiches and raw vegetables. In front of a very pleasant mix of English and French-speaking citizens, Eric Jabbari, Polit-

ical Advisor to Prime Minister François Legault, who is also the Minister responsible for relations with English-speaking Quebecers, delivered a heartfelt speech in English and in French on the importance of community organizations such as MEPEC, to their communities. These organizations are on the ground and can facilitate communication and collaboration with citizens and other community organizations. He also welcomed the partnership between the Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers and MEPEC in the future.

What is MEPEC?

MEPEC incorporated in October 2018 and began operating only in February 2019 with the hiring of their Executive Director (ED) Karoll-Ann Carrier. Supported by a Board of Directors consisting of members of the English-speaking community (ESC), the ED has in a short time found the space in which MEPEC now exercises its activities. But what are they? The main mission of the organization is to serve the interests of the English-speaking community in East Montérégie.

MEPEC is the 22nd NPI (Network and Partnership Initiative) in the Province of Quebec. NPI is a program designed to help Quebec's English-speaking minority communities improve and maintain access to all health and social services. Funding for this program is provided by Health Canada and managed by the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

MEPEC will also receive funding for the Regional Community Capacity Building Project (ERCC) provided by the Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers through an aid agreement with CHSSN. This project, managed by CHSSN, helps MEPEC improve its services and better understand the Montérégie East ESC

to better meet its needs and priorities in relation to government, regional and community actors.



Left to right: Brian Peddar (President of MEPEC), Eric Jabbari (Political Advisor to the Prime Minister), Marie-Hélène Leboeuf (Political Attaché to Simon Jolin-Barrette), Francine Guay (Political Attaché to Matthew Dubé) and Karoll-Ann Carrier (Executive Director of MEPEC).