



2020-2021
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



**Monteregie East Partnership
for the English-Speaking Community**

**Partenariat de l'est de la Montérégie pour
la communauté d'expression anglaise**

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Word from the President and the Executive Director



As President, I find myself reflecting on a number of events that have led MEPEC to where it is today. In March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and we were forced to change how we provide services to our members. ZOOM became a household word and computers became our connection to friends and family. We shifted from working in an office to work remotely. Everyone adapted well and we ended the year with a strong team under Karoll-Ann's supervision and a dedicated Board of Directors. Indeed, we have very talented board members and I believe we complement each other quite well. I'd also like to acknowledge the great bunch of volunteers we have in the Library. They have done an exceptional job of getting the Library ready for our members. I can't express how impressed I am by Karoll-Ann and her team as they have worked very hard this year to provide our members with information as well as events and activities. So all in all I believe we have had a banner year and I know we have much planned for 2021-2022 and hope to see you participate.



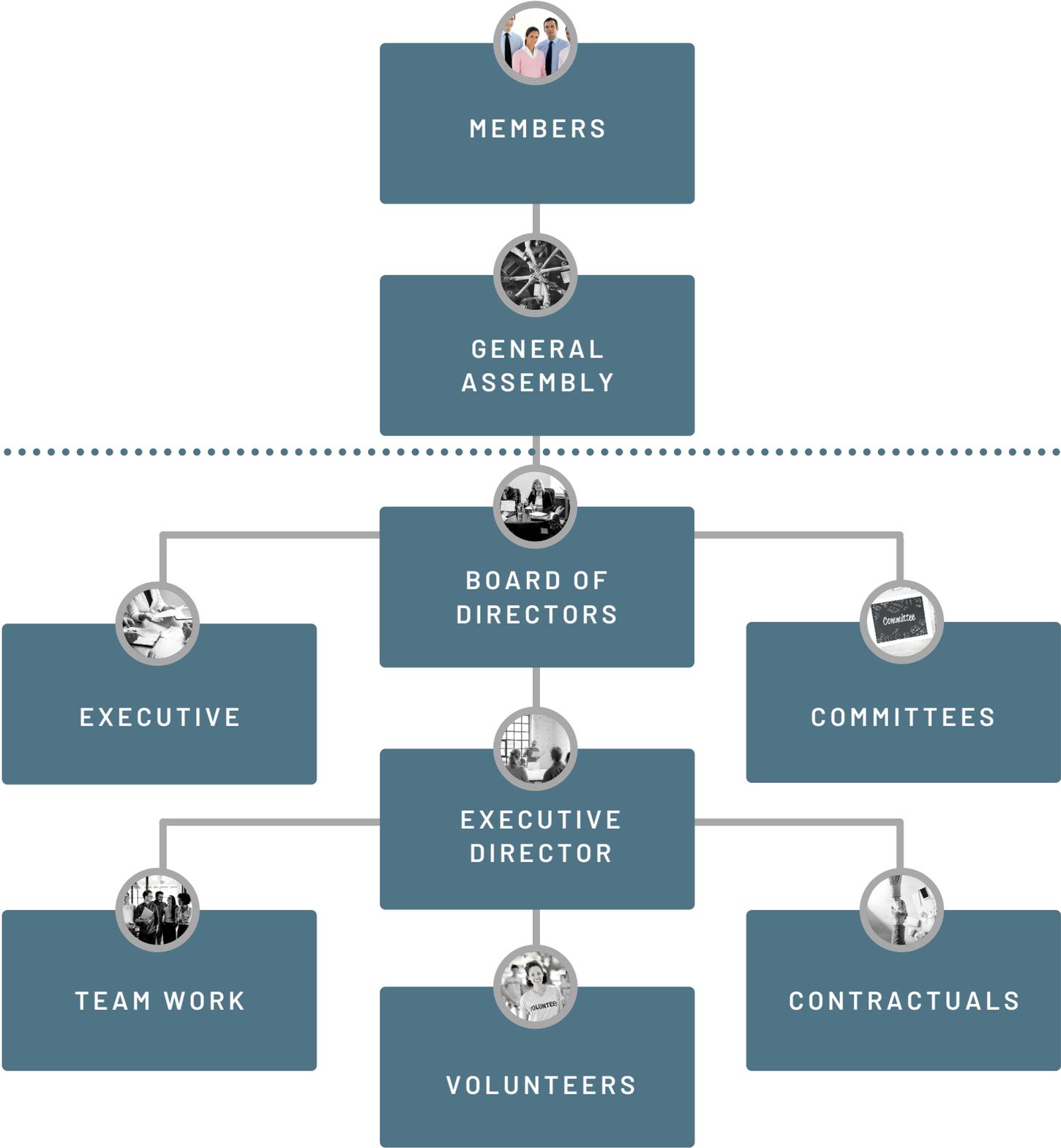
Paul Mitchell
Interim President

This year was marked by many accomplishments that reflect the skills and dedication of our volunteers, staff and Board members. It is with great satisfaction that I look back at how far we have come and it is with pride that we present the annual report for the year 2020-2021. Let's take special note of the arrival of the community library, the creation of several partnerships and the approval of our membership to the Regional Development Network (RDN). The COVID-19 didn't stop us from providing services to the community. With some special funding we have increased the number of activities and memberships. As you will see, MEPEC is growing exponentially both financially and in terms of human resources. With the community library, we have welcomed 5 wonderful volunteers working all year to set up the library, which was not easy. I would like to personally thank you for your help and efforts in this beautiful project. Finally, I would like to thank the MEPEC staff for all the work you have done. This has not been an easy year, but we have managed to achieve our goals.



Karoll-Ann Carrier
Executive Director

Organizational Structure



Mission



Montérégie East Partnership for the English-Speaking Community (MEPEC) is an organization dedicated to serving the interests of the English-speaking community (ESC) in the Montérégie East region. MEPEC works in collaboration with public, community and private organizations as well as citizens in relation to the needs of the English-speaking population of the Montérégie East in order to:



- Connect with and represent the ESC of the Montérégie East.
- Work in collaboration with citizens and public, community and/or private organizations serving the needs of the ESC.
- Improve communication between English-speaking citizen and local service providers.
- Increase opportunities for the English-speaking citizens of the Montérégie East of all ages to learn, socialize and remain active.
- Facilitate access to English documentation and services.

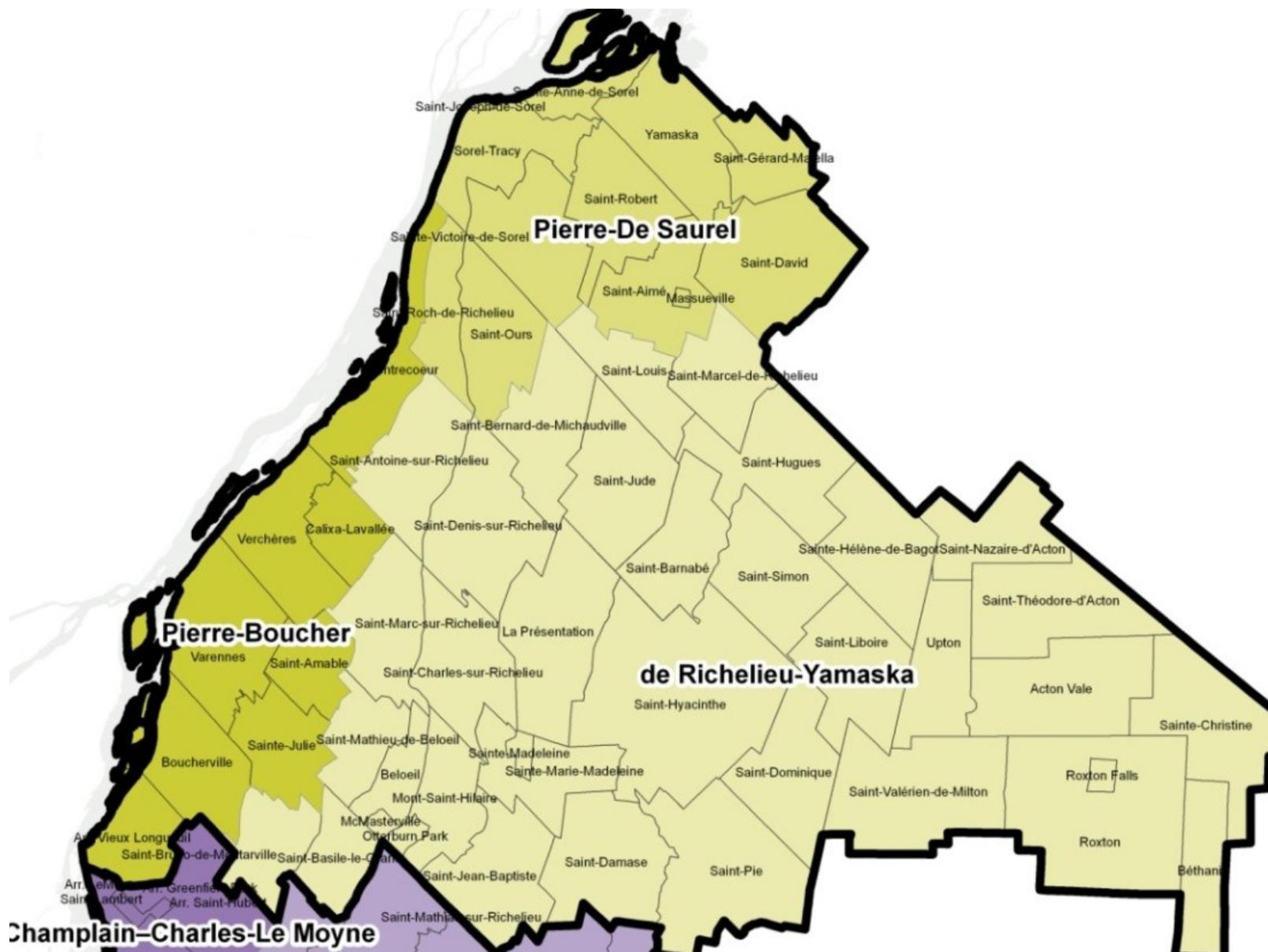
3.8%
of the English-speaking population
in Québec lives in Montérégie East

Census 2016

Service Area



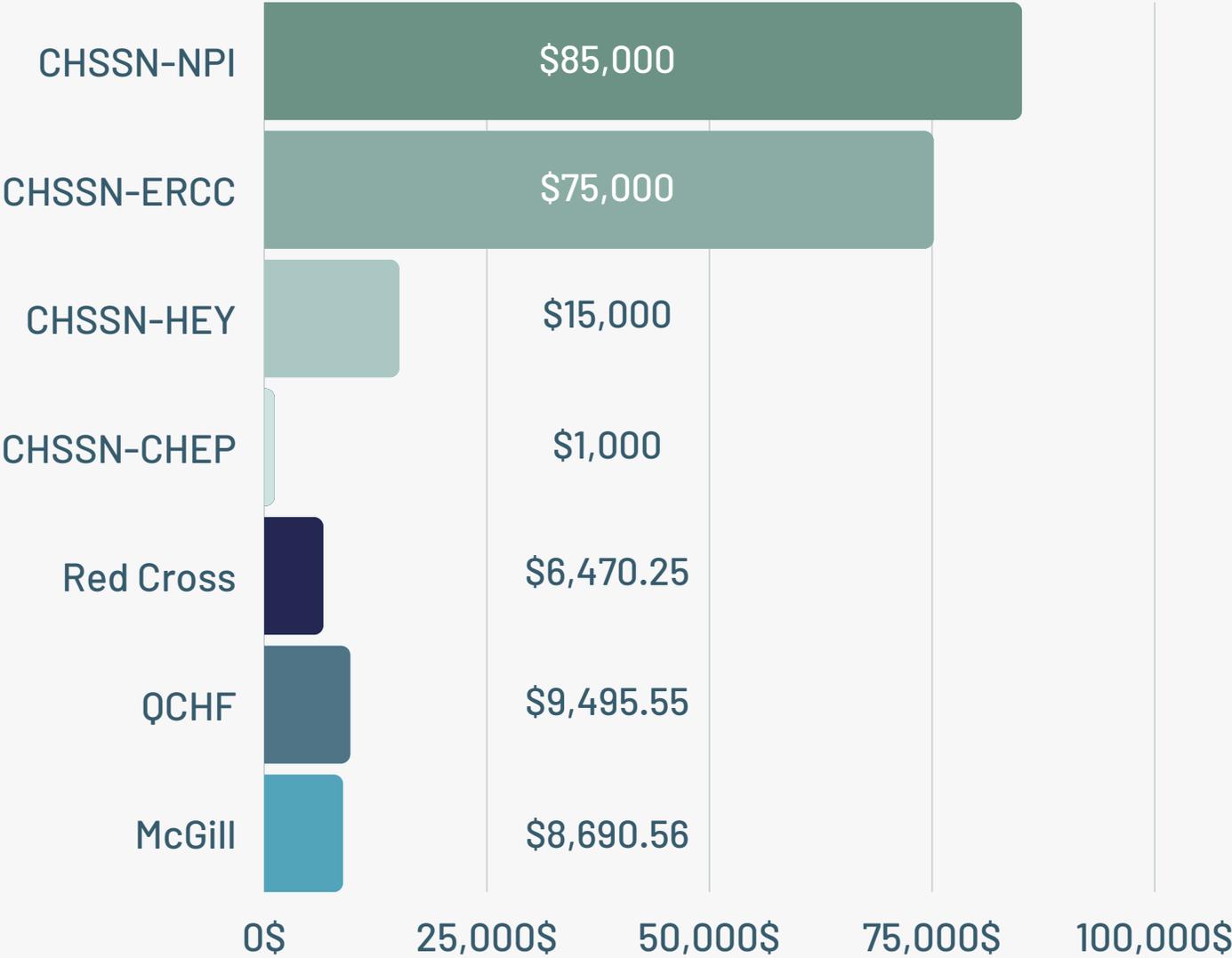
MEPEC serves the Montérégie East region, which has a population of approximately 20,000 English-speaking residents (Census 2016) in 57 municipalities covering 3,484 kilometers. Mainly, the English-speaking population is in the MRC de la Vallée du Richelieu and in the Vieux-Longueuil area.



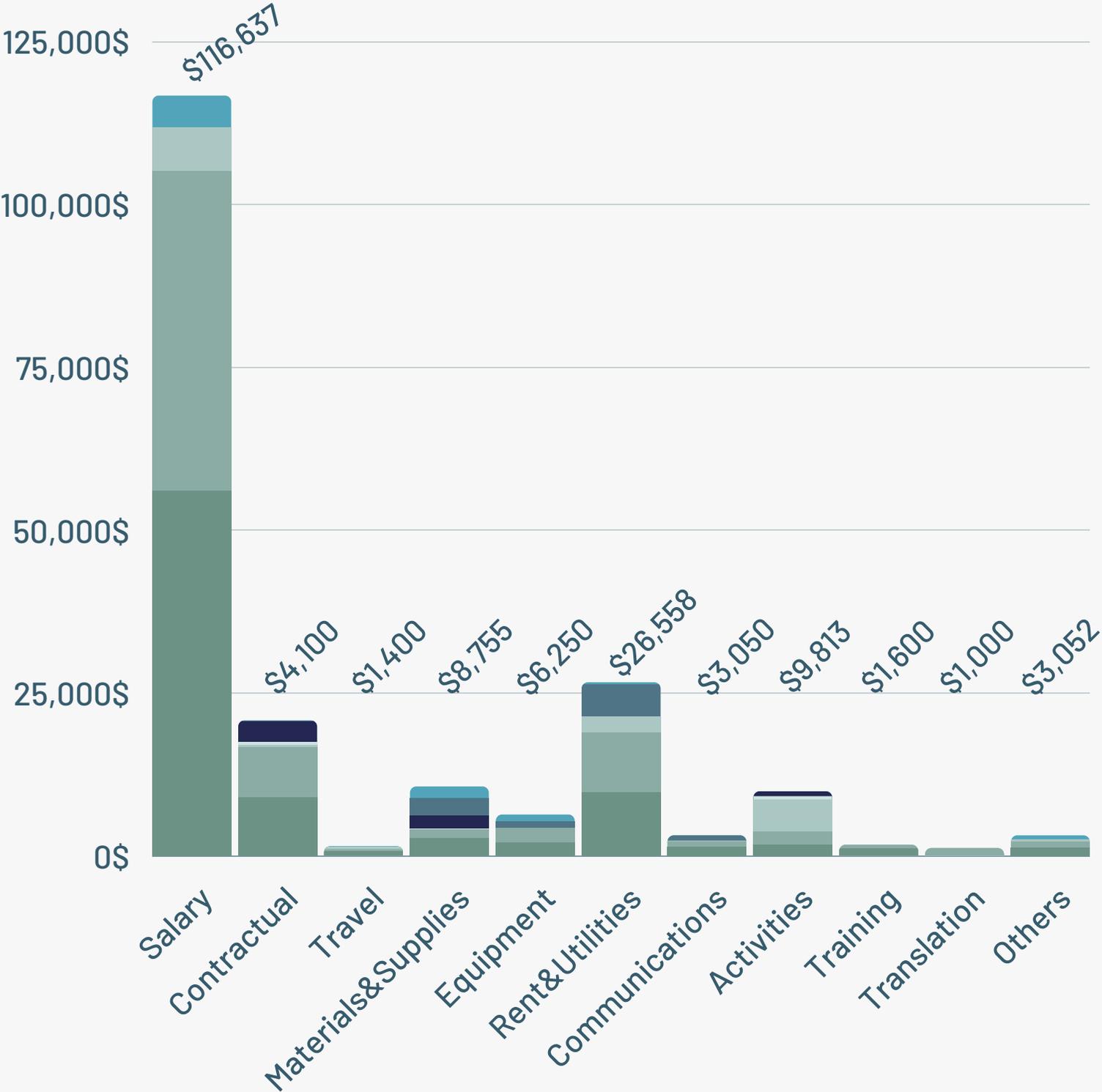
Financial Statement



MEPEC’s main funder is the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN). Over the past year, MEPEC has applied for different project fundings through CHSSN such as Network and Partnership Initiative (NPI), Enhancing Regional Community Capacity (ERCC), Healthy Early Years (HEY), and Community Health Education Program (CHEP) as well as Red Cross, McGill Bursary Program, Kimberly Foundation and Québec Community Health Foundation (QCHF). In total, MEPEC had almost \$200,000 of funding for the year 2020-2021.



Financial Statement



Activity Report



Memberships and Representation



Regional Access Committee of Montérégie

Since January 2021, the Executive Director of MEPEC has sat on the Regional Access Committee of Montérégie. This organization discusses the needs of the English-speaking community (ESC), the health and social services required to meet the needs, analyzes the gaps, decides which service providers are obliged to offer health and social services in the English language and defines the access mechanisms for services in the English language.

Regional Development Network (RDN)

RDN is a provincial network of regional groups working collaboratively for the socio-economic development of ESCs across Québec. In February 2021, MEPEC became a member of RDN to work in the creation of an Employment Strategy for youth, but not limited to youth, in the MRCs of Montérégie East who need better access to employment. MEPEC will develop relationships and create partnerships with organizations working in the fields of employment and socio-economic development in order to help them adapt their services in English.



Coorporations de développement communautaire (CDC)

In 2020, MEPEC became a member of three (3) CDCs: CDC Vallée du Richelieu, CDC des Maskoutains and CDC de l'agglomération de Longueuil. Their mandates are to ensure the active participation of the community base in the socio-economic development of the community and improve the living conditions of the entire community.



Memberships and Representation



Instance régionale de concertation en persévérance scolaire et réussite éducative de la Montérégie (IRCM)



MEPEC is a member of the [IRCM](#) whose mission is to contribute to educational perseverance and success of young people through the mobilization of stakeholders and the development of concerted initiatives and the promotion of the implementation of protective factors for youth and their families. The IRCM also brings together a group of regional, inter-sectoral and inter-domain partners who wish to work together to promote student's educational success for youth and adults in the Montérégie region.

Tables de concertation

This year, MEPEC has continued its participation in the Table de concertation jeunesse de la Vallée des Patriotes, but also joined two (2) other tables as well. In the fall, MEPEC joined the Table de concertation en petite enfance de la Vallée des Patriotes and the Table de concertation maskoutaine des organismes pour les aînés to better represent the needs of the ESC.



Table de concertation
Jeunesse
de la Vallée des Patriotes



Table de concertation
en petite enfance
de la Vallée des Patriotes



Regional Health and Social Services Partnership Table (RHSSPT)

MEPEC has participated in several meetings of the RHSSPT as well as subcommittee meetings on projects. In fact, MEPEC is part of two (2) subcommittees to help organize the annual Montérégie Health Fair and to collaborate on the creation of the STAR program. The STAR Program is a recognition program for the special efforts made by people to improve the health and well-being of the ESC.



Events, Projects and Activities



For Early Childhood and Families

Early Childhood Week

The Early Childhood Week is an opportunity to raise awareness, promote dialogue and engage society about early childhood matters, and address issues related to the development of babies and toddlers, from the perinatal period to preschool. From November 15 to 21, 2020, MEPEC has participated in the Early Childhood Week by posting activities online geared at reading and activities parents can do with their children. MEPEC's goal was to encourage parents to develop early childhood skills and challenge a child's imagination.

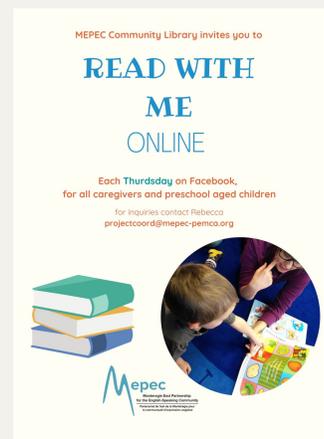


Mother Goose

In collaboration with the South Shore Reading Council, MEPEC has funded a Mother Goose program in Boucherville that started in September 2020. This pre-literacy music program for parents and their children ages 0-3 provides parent-child interactions, language acquisition and socialization. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all the sanitary restrictions, the activity was held online from the beginning. Thirteen (13) parents and/or caregivers and sixteen (16) children participated in total. Several workshops were held after the sessions to give information about Emergency First Aid for Infants and Toddlers and Postpartum depression.

Read with Me Online

Launched in October 2020, the activity Read with Me Online had the objective to promote literacy at an early age. Each Thursday, pre-recorded or live book reading videos were posted on Facebook which presented different types of children books. At the end of the recording, the animator asked questions to engage children and their parents to comments on the books. Ten (10) videos were published before the big shutdown due to the COVID-19 sanitary restrictions.



Events, Projects and Activities



For Seniors

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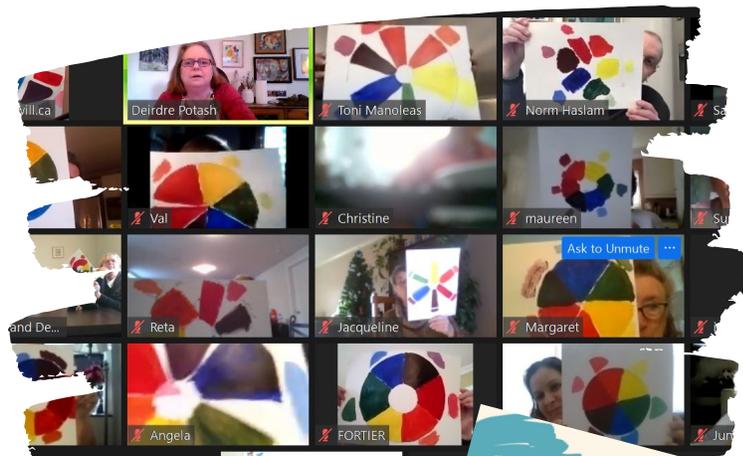
Coffee Chat

Launched on November 13, 2020 the monthly online Coffee Chat was held every third (3rd) Thursdays of the month. There, seniors gather together to discuss topics of interest to break isolation due to the COVID-19. During, every session a different topic was discussed: the new Project Coordinator, Christmas Traditions, New Year Resolutions, Health and Social Services in Montréal East and Hobbies.



Painting Experience

Started on January 6, 2021, twenty-five (25) people joined an online painting class held in collaboration with ArtWill Studio. Deirdre Potash, the art teacher, taught the basic of acrylic painting twice a week for 1-hour. Participants painted land-scapes, portraits and real-life objects. They also learned how to use certain paint brushes and mix colors. MEPEC provided the paint kits, the canvases and the watercolor pad. This activity was a huge success.



Events, Projects and Activities



In Education

Health and Social Services Community Leadership Bursary Program

In the fall of 2020, MEPEC applied to become a partner with McGill Dialogue, which manages the Community Leadership in Health and Human Services Scholarship program. This program was created to support opportunities for English-speaking and bilingual students to increase the number of health and social services offered in English. By partnering with McGill Dialogue, MEPEC's goal was to offer the program in the Montérégie East region and to help retain health and social service professionals in the area. In early February, the MEPEC team was able to begin planning for the 2021-2022 academic year.

CHEP workshops

The Community Education Health Program (CHEP) is a program that seeks to improve access to health information. MEPEC has organized two sessions, one in December and the second in March: Flu and Other Vaccines and Intuitive Eating.



Parents Talk Teens

In collaboration with ParenTeenFocus, MEPEC hosted a series of four (4) 1-hour sessions for parents of teens. Parents were offered a space to learn about the development of adolescence, what changes to expect, how to prepare for them and interact with other parents of teens.



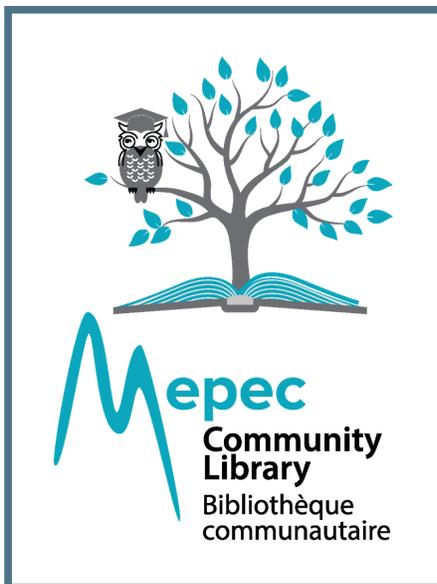
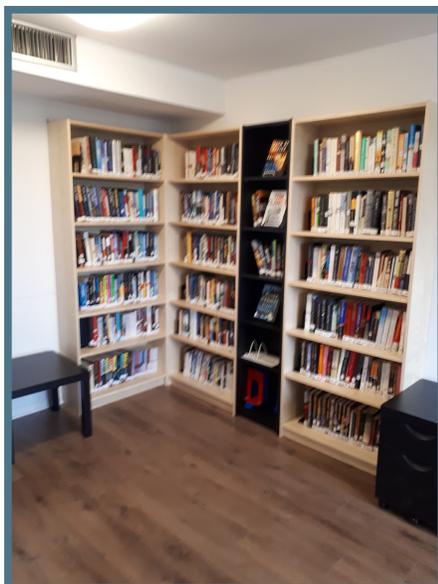
Other Activities

Trivia Night

As everyone was looking to have fun and break the isolation during the lockdown since January, MEPEC began hosting an online Trivia Night every last Thursday of the month. Nearly fifteen (15) people met each session to test their knowledge and win the first place.



Events, Projects and Activities



MEPEC's Community Library

In May 2020, MEPEC was notified that the RVCLC Library, which resided at Mountainview School in Otterburn Park, would have to relocate by September 2020 due to the lack of space needed for children to safely return to school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

After several meetings with the Library Volunteers, who are the guardians of the books, it was decided to move the library into the premises of MEPEC.

In August 2020, with the collaboration of the Richelieu Valley Community Learning Center (RVCLC) and many volunteers, the RVCLC Library was moved to MEPEC's office.

Since September 2020, the Library volunteers have work every week to set up the library which contains more than four thousand (4000) books, mainly in English.

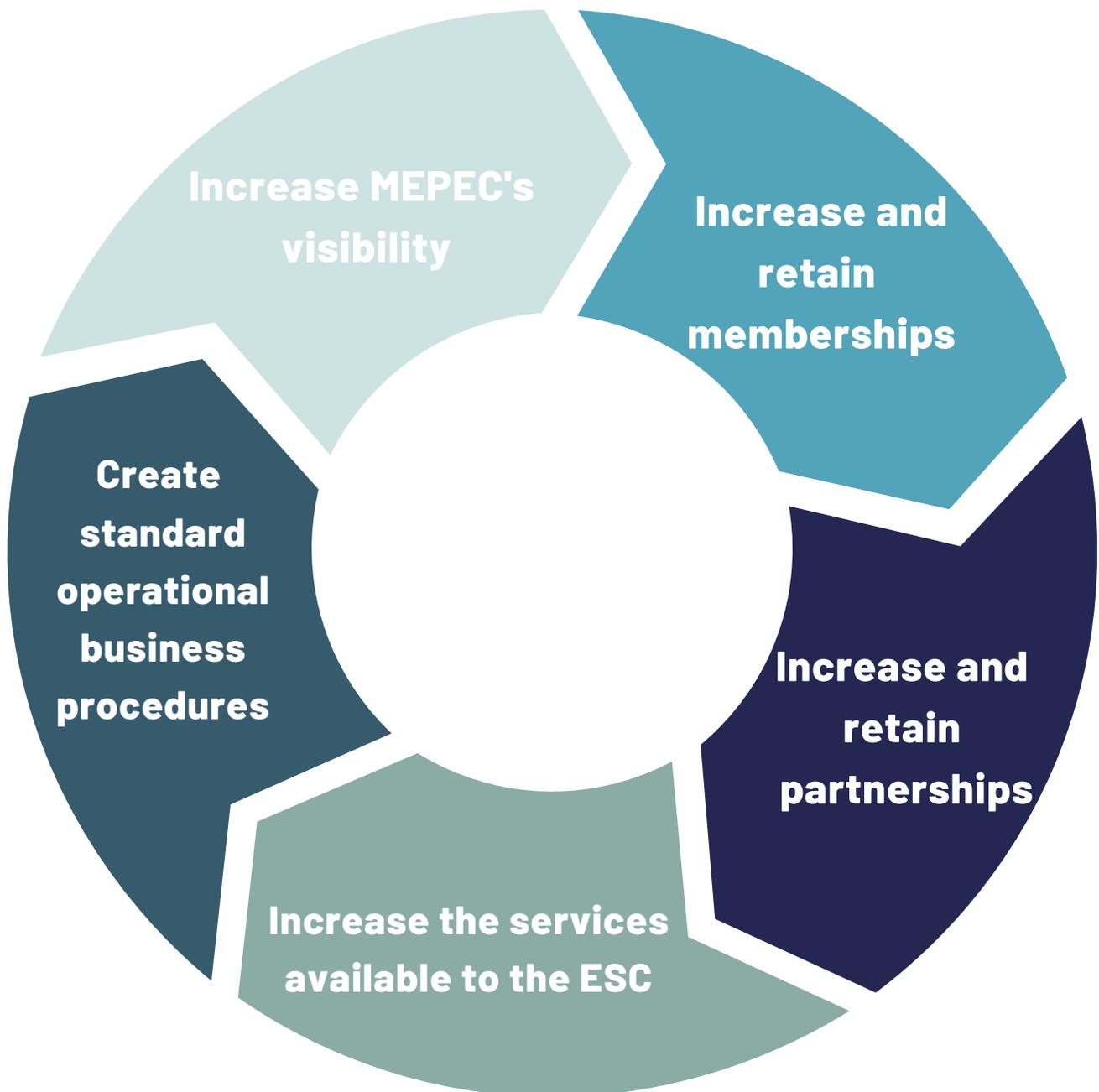
+4000 

Events, Projects and Activities



Strategic Plan 2021-2024

During the 2020-2021 year, the MEPEC Board of Directors and staff worked very hard to create a strategic plan for the next three (3) years. While still in the process of being written, we are still able to provide you with an outline. MEPEC team has defined and will focus on five (5) main components.



Perspective for 2021-2022

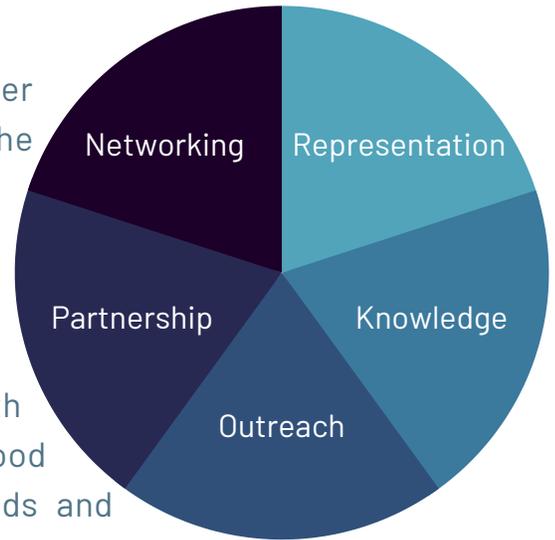


Networking

MEPEC will continue to collaborate with, bring together and mobilize organizations that wishes to improve the Health and Social Services for the ESC.

Representation

MEPEC will continue its participation on advisory and decision-making tables to ensure an essential presence on important tables and committees in the health and social service, education, seniors and early childhood sectors. MEPEC will then better represent the needs and challenges of the English-speaking community.



Knowledge Development

Through the year, MEPEC will organize tables of discussion with targeted age groups to discuss challenges and then create action plans with these groups with the objective to improve access to services in the English-language.



Outreach

There is a greater number of vulnerable English-speakers, MEPEC will, in order to better identify and engage those vulnerable English-speakers, offer information sessions, workshops and share important information through its communication tools (Social Media accounts, Website, Newsletters, etc.).

Partnership

Through partnerships and collaboration with community, public and/or private organizations, MEPEC will support the adaptation of existing services or the creation of new initiatives to improve access to English language services.



Our Funders and Partners



Funders



Health Canada

Santé Canada



Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise



Partners



South Shore Reading Council
non-profit literacy programs serving Montreal's South Shore Communities



Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de la Montérégie-Est



HOPE & COPE



SENIORS ACTION QUEBEC



Mount Bruno United Church
Richelieu Valley United Church



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Secrétariat aux relations
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