

For immediate release

Powered with \$1.1 Million of Funding, 10 Innovative CIF 2.0 Projects Benefit 1,500 Youth and Seniors Across English-speaking Quebec

Montreal – June 9, 2023— The lives and prospects of some 1,500 vulnerable young people and seniors across English-speaking Quebec have been tangibly and substantially improved with the completion of a second round of projects financed through the Community Innovation Fund (CIF). Managed through community partnerships, these CIF 2.0 projects have put \$1.1 million of funding to work over the past three years to advance an innovative array of promising social initiatives.

“Each these of the 10 projects has, in its own way, directly benefitted many individual vulnerable members of our communities,” said Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN). “At the same time, these projects tackled critical needs and gaps in services across Quebec’s sectors and regions.”

“We are delighted and gratified today to share many of these remarkable success stories,” Martin-Laforge added as the QCGN launched a video documentary package and a booklet to celebrate the accomplishments of QCGN’s CIF 2.0 partners. These partners are: The Depot Community Food Centre; Weredale Summer Camp; the Côte-des-Neiges Black Community Association; Gay and Grey Montreal; Suspicious Fish; the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA); Project 10; Press Start; DESTA Black Youth Network; and the Museum of Jewish Montreal.

Each group tailored an approach to community needs that addressed significant obstacles in accessing employment and services – in an environment where community vitality is also often rendered more challenging by needs for improved French-language and computer capabilities. “Our partners have helped individual participants find jobs, fight isolation, or learn new skills,” Martin-Laforge explained. “They have provided support and confidence building through employability programs, internships, and job training.”

“Each of our CIF 2.0 partners experienced significant growth,” added Riley Dalys-Fine, QCGN’s Director of Community Engagement and Strategic Alliances: “For the first time, some of our partners were able to access core funding. Others were empowered to develop improved governance, launch new strategic plans, or were similarly enabled to mature. All of these projects reached new audiences and clientele.”

“Notably, these projects took effect during a particularly challenging period – they were selected only a few months into the COVID-19 public health crisis,” added Dalys-Fine. “This forced all to adapt their programs to the new normal and readjust to restrictions imposed during the pandemic.”

“We want to sincerely thank and congratulate each of our community partners for their leadership, imagination, and perseverance as they developed and delivered these innovative approaches and solutions,” Martin-Laforge specified.

“We also sincerely thank the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program for this significant investment in our community. We were pleased to learn that Canada’s next Official Languages Action Plan, which was launched on April 26, commits to renewing funding for this program,” said Martin-Laforge. “The QCGN advocated vigorously for more such investments in our community’s future and vitality, and we are working closely with our community to ensure that vulnerable English-speaking Quebecers continue to have access to the opportunities provided by the Community Innovation Fund.”

View our trailer here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sF0dzJsa5bY&list=PLK15YiLcT6QO3DsGie60Pymz4hGhf2_sz&index=1

Watch all the videos and read our booklet and articles on the CIF page of the QCGN website.

<https://qcgnc.ca/community-innovation-fund-2020-2023/>

The Community Innovation Fund is financed in part by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program - Children and Families Component. It is part of Canada’s Action Plan for Official Languages – 2018-2023: Investing in Our Future. The CIF is managed – and project partner organizations are assisted and mentored – by the QCGN.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (qcgnc.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together English-language community organizations across Quebec. As a centre of evidence-based expertise and collective action, it identifies, explores, and addresses strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of the English-speaking community of Quebec and encourages dialogue and collaboration among its member organizations, individuals, community groups, institutions, and leaders.

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