



Regional Association of
West Quebecers

"Supporting the English-speaking community in West Quebec."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
WEST QUEBECERS
2016-2017

Wednesday
June 7th, 2017

181 rue Principale, Unit A-11 Gatineau, Quebec, J9H 6A6
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Agenda of Annual General Meeting

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Guest Speaker: David O. Johntson**
- 3. Call to order**
- 4. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 5. Approval of Minutes of the RAWQ AGM of Wednesday June 8th, 2016**
- 6. President's report**
- 7. Executive Director's report**
- 8. Auditor's report**
- 9. Nominations Committee's report**
- 10. Elections**
- 11. New Business**
- 12. Adjournment**



Draft Minutes from West Quebecers AGM, June 8th, 2016

Annual General Meeting of the Regional Association of West Quebecers

Wednesday, June 8th, 2016

West Quebec Career Centre

Aylmer, Québec

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Welcome**

At 18:46, Mr. James Shea welcomes everyone.

The following people were introduced and asked to say a few words:

Mr. Charles Taker, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada;

Ms Stephanie Olney, President of APICA;

Mme Rose Régimbald, West Quebec Representative of Seniors Action Québec;

Mme Audrey Bureau, Representative of Will Amos, MP Pontiac;

Mr. Noel Gates, Past President of RAWQ;

Guest Speaker

“Moving Forward Together”

Mr. Mike Duggan, City Councillor, Lucerne District, Ville de Gatineau.

Mr. Duggan was presented with a token of appreciation: “Mayors Gone Bad”

At 19:33, Mr. Shea Call

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

a) Proposed by Mr. Neven Humphrey

b) Seconded by Mr. Neil MacIntosh

Carried unanimously.



3. **President's Report**

Mr. James Shea said, "The Regional Association of West Quebecers is committed to working with the English-speaking community of the Outaouais in a vibrant and bilingual Quebec within Canada.

- a) Proposed by Ms. Mary Tessier
- b) Seconded by Ms. Patricia Graham

Carried unanimously.

4. **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Brian Rock spoke of RAWQ's mandate: to try to increase funding from different sources.

Canadian Heritage granted an amount of \$128 000.

Many projects are pending upon receiving more grants.

- a) Proposed by Mr. Neven Humphrey
- b) Seconded by Mr. Neil MacIntosh

Carried unanimously.

5. **Approval of minutes of the RAWQ AGM of Wednesday, June 3rd, 2015**

- a) Proposed by Ms. Patricia Graham
- b) Seconded by Ms. Mary Tessier

Received unanimously.

6. **Report of the finance committee**

Mr. Joseph Makevic presented his report.

- a) Proposed by Mr. Arthur Ayers
- b) Seconded by Ms. Rose Régimbald

Received unanimously.

7. **Report of the Auditor**

Mr. Ricky Dumont presented his report.



- a) Proposed by Mr. Joseph Makevic
 - b) Seconded by Mr. Clinton McCrank
- Received unanimously.

8. **Report of the priorities and strategic planning committee**

Ms. Nancy Peppy presented her report.

- a) Proposed by Ms. Mary Tessier
 - b) Seconded by Ms. Antonia Papa
- Received unanimously

9. **Report of the fundraising and event planning committee**

Ms. Nancy Peppy presented her report.

- a) Proposed by Ms. Patricia Graham
 - b) Seconded by Mr. Arthur Ayers
- Received unanimously.

10. **Report of the constitution and by-laws committee**

Mr. Arthur Ayers presented his report.

- a) Proposed by Arthur Ayers
 - b) Seconded by Dorothee Larochelle
- Received unanimously.

11. **Report of the nominations committee**

Mr. Brian Rock presented his report.

- a) Proposed by
 - b) Seconded by
- Received unanimously.



12. **Elections**

Nomination of Election President

Nomination of Election Secretary

Proposed by

Seconded by

Director Mr.Arthur Ayers (returning)

Director Mr.Joseph Makevic (returning)

Director Ms.Audrey Bureau (returning)

Director Ms.Patricia Cassidy (returning)

Director Mr.Bryan Daly (returning)

Director Mr.Frank Therien (returning)

Director Ms.Donna Cushman (absent)

Director Mr.Wayne Daly (absent)

Director Mr.Alain Guy

Director Mr.Neil MacIntosh

Director Ms.Julie Murray (absent)

Director Ms. Judith O'Rourke

Ex officio James Shea (Past President)

Movers: Ms. Mo Laidlaw, Mr. Neven Humphrey

Approved unanimously.

13. **2015-2016 AGM motions for approval**

Whereas the accounting records and financial statements of the Association shall be examined by one or more

a) Proposed by Mr. Joseph Makevic

b) Seconded by Mr. Clinton McCrank



14. **New Business**

None

15. **Adjournment**

20:30

a) Proposed by Mr. Judith Matheson

b) Seconded by Noel Gates



President's Report

I have had the privilege of serving as a director of the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ) for the past three years. In my first two-year term as director, I served as vice-president. Since 2016, I have had the added privilege of serving as your president and will stand for re-appointment for 2017-2018, and will in any event serve my second two-year term as director.

2016-2017 has been a year of transitions. Many of our previous board members have moved on, new members have been brought on, and I hope to have the pleasure of welcoming several more, new directors to RAWQ.

Our executive director, Brian Rock, has now retired. I wish to extend a special word of gratitude to Brian for his dedicated contributions to the Association, which has garnered us great visibility in the community. Indeed, I do not believe RAWQ would have had the notoriety to attract local, provincial and federal officials to our informational events, were it not for Brian's dogged networking. On behalf of RAWQ, and dare I say the English-speaking community, thank you, Brian. We wish you a well-deserved rest.

Activities of note this year have been focused on providing a voice and forum for the English-speaking community. RAWQ hosted provincial ministers Rita de Santis and Kathleen Weil, Mayor Maxime Pednaud-Jobin and the Regional Representatives of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, in meetings where English-speaking community members and leaders were invited to voice the issues, concerns and questions they hold dear.

I believe that the meaning of English-speaking community is evolving and so should RAWQ to reflect the population it represents. What it means to be English-speaking in 2017 is an ambiguous, if not politically loaded term. For instance, the English-speaking does and should include French-speakers as well as immigrants and refugees. What therefore is understood by English-speaking community and how can RAWQ better represent that community?

I have been active as well in attending various conferences and events that tie in immigration to linguistic communities, where language is a factor in integration. It is my hope that RAWQ can step up to become one of the organizations that assists immigrants and refugees to integrate into the community, with English serving as an instrument to integration.

A warm welcome goes to our new executive director, Linton Garner, to RAWQ. Mr. Garner brings a wealth of skill, experience and energy to the Association, and I am very excited to have the privilege of working with him over the coming year.

Growth in membership is critical to our vitality. I encourage all current you to renew their membership, to assist in our membership campaign and for those interested, to become a member of RAWQ. I also applaud the initiative to bring youth onto the Board to contribute to our initiatives. Finally, I wish to thank my fellow board members and all members and volunteers who have worked very hard to realize our goals. Indeed, the success of RAWQ is due to their dedication and contributions.

Respectfully yours,

Arthur Ayers

President



Executive Director's Report

Dear Members,

Good Evening and Welcome to the 2017 AGM of the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ). My name is Linton Garner and I am the new Executive Director here at RAWQ. The ensuing paragraphs of this report represent the work done by Mr. Brian Rock the former Executive Director who retired in March 2017.

First of all I would like to thank Brian for his dedicated service to the organization during his 18 month tenure and we wish him a happy and peaceful retirement. As you will see in this report a lot of work has been accomplished and a lot of territory has been covered. The association can be very proud of what it has accomplished and I look forward to working with all of you to accomplish even more.

Thank you

Linton Garner

Executive Director

Report on Activities

Bill 86

Jim Shea Presented before the National Assambly Committee.

In 2015, this same Government introduced An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards to give schools a greater say in decision-making and ensure parents' presence within each school board's decision-making body. Bill 86 intends to reform the school board system by disenfranchising school tax payers and ending the terms of Chairpersons and Commissioners of School Boards democratically elected in November of 2014. The hearings before the National Assembly Committee on Culture and Education in Quebec City are just now coming to a close. Our President, Mr. James Shea, did a fine job recently presenting the RAWQ Brief on Bill 86 before this Committee.

RAWQ presented its position to the National Assembly of Québec in regards to Bill 86. President James Shea and Executive Director Brian Rock, presented RAWQ during the hearings on Bill 86 at the National Assembly of Québec.

Books and Bake Sale

Books and Bake Sale took place Saturday May 14th at the Galeries Aylmer Kiosk. A succesful event with the participation of many volunteers who baked and helped with the sale. The Author Rick Blanchard who presented his lates book, The Chief's Footsteps.





QCGN

RAWQ nominated Immediate Past President James Shea as a candidate for the Presidency of the Quebec Community Groups Network. Jim was acclaimed as President of the QCGN at the Annual General Meeting in Montreal on Friday, June 17th.

Student Summer Project

Employment and Social Development Canada provided a grant to hire two post-secondary students from Monday, June 27th until Friday, August 19th to work on researching and designing the Discover Outaouais bilingual history trivia board game. This continued the work begun by the CEGEP student hired during the summer of 2015 through a similar grant from ESD Canada.

Youth Employment Services (YES Montreal)

Youth Employment Services (YES) Montréal has had a meeting every month with new and already established local business, to which RAWQ maintains a relationship.

Meeting with Provincial Ministers Weil and De Santis



On Tuesday afternoon, September 6th. President Arthur Ayers moderated a forum at Place des pionniers in Aylmer, Gatineau with Ms. Kathleen Weil, MNA for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and Minister of Immigration, Diversity, and Inclusiveness of Québec, and Ms. Rita Lc de Santis, MNA for Bourassa-Sauvé and Minister responsible for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions of Québec.

Following interesting opening remarks by both ministers, a dynamic question and answer session followed covering many current concerns.



RAWQ Fund Diversification Plan Report

On Thursday, October 20th, the RAWQ Board of Directors received the RAWQ Fund Diversification Plan Report bringing Directors up-to-date on the successes of the efforts to diversify funding sources for RAWQ.



Celebration of Culture Fair



On Saturday, October 29th, the Regional Association of West Quebecers hosted their first Celebration of Culture Fair in Galeries Aylmer. RAWQ President Arthur Ayers officiated at the Official Opening Ceremonies. Sylvie Goneau, Gatineau City Councillor for District 14, and Donna Cushman, RAWQ Events Planning Chair cut the traditional cake as witnessed by James Shea, President of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) and Chair of the Western Quebec School Board. Joining the celebrations later in the day were Richard

M. Begin, Gatineau City Councillor for District 3, and Mike Duggan, Gatineau City Councillor for District 2.

The regional authors, artists, and crafts specialists welcomed young and old alike to their individual booths, and a good time was had by all especially evidenced by the smiling faces and laughter of the young children as they painted, created crafts, and listened to the readings of the children's book authors. Adults enjoyed the readings offered by the authors.



Remembrance Day Ceremonies

Traditionally organized by the Royal Canadian Legion, RAWQ laid a wreath commemorating Canadian soldiers on Friday morning, November 11th @ 11:00 a. m. in Parc des pionniers in Aylmer, Gatineau.

Consultation with the Minister of Canadian Heritage

On Thursday, December 8th in the Library of Parliament Building, RAWQ had the opportunity to participate in sessions given by the staff of the Honourable Mélanie Joly, M. P. for Ahuntsic-Cartierville and Minister of Canadian Heritage, and to meet with Ms. Joly and her chief of staff.

Charity Breakfast of the Mayor of Gatineau

RAWQ Directors participated in the Mayor's Breakfast for Charities on Sunday, December 11th at the Hotel Hilton Lac-Leamy and had the opportunity to converse with Mayor Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin and other Municipal Councillors in attendance.

Community Consultation Café of Aylmer

RAWQ participated in the founding meeting of the Community Consultation Café of Aylmer at Christ Church Hall on Tuesday morning, December 13th. This bilingual local forum was organized by the Reverend Eric Morin.



Meeting with Gatineau's Mayor



January 25th, 2017, the Regional Association of West Quebecers held a town hall with the Mayor of Gatineau, Mr. Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin. The evening was intended as an open forum through which members of the English-speaking community could voice their interests and concerns in an intimate and informal setting. All agreed that the evening was very successful and that meaningful discussion took place.

Mayor Pedneaud-Jobin opened the evening by speaking of the City's Cultural Policy and of Bill 122, *An Act mainly to recognize that municipalities are local governments and to increase their autonomy and powers*.

The Cultural Policy is a work in progress, designed to reflect what the City of Gatineau has now become, in the 21st century, an increasingly multicultural city with French as the common language. Some discussion was had on the mention of historical figures who often figure in place and street names. Many of them are the English-speaking founders of the City. Local historian Rick Henderson reminded us that to know what we are, it helps to know where we came from. Thanks to them and others, Gatineau is THE most bilingual city in Canada, says Mayor Pedneaud-Jobin.



Meeting with Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Honourable Catherine McKenna

On Wednesday evening, February 1st, the Administration and Communications Officer and I were invited by Will Amos to participate in an information session in Chelsea with the Honourable Catherine McKenna, MP for Ottawa Centre and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. The session began with an interesting presentation by Minister McKenna, and a question and answer forum followed with exchanges centering on the issues of the environment, climate change, and the economy.





Meeting with Minister of National Revenue Honourable Diane Lebouthillier

On Friday afternoon, February 3rd, the ACO and I were again invited by Will Amos to participate in an information session in La Pêche with the Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, MP for Gaspésie-Les-Iles-de-la-Madeleine (Gaspé-The-Magdalen- Islands) and the Minister of National Revenue. The session started with an informative presentation by Minister Lebouthillier, followed by a question and answer forum with exchanges centering on issues of taxes, revenue, the economy, and job creation with Minister Lebouthillier and Will Amos.



Meeting with Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Honourable Lawrence MacAulay



On Friday morning, February 10th, the ACO and I were again invited by Will Amos to participate in an information session in the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings with the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, MP for Cardigan, Prince Edward Island and Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. This was an opportunity for the ACO and I to network with the Executive Members, the Directors, and the Executive

Director of the Quebec Farmers' Association, the Presidents of the associations of local agricultural producers, the Chairman of the Board of Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), as well as AgriFood consultants.

Regional Youth Conference



RAWQ's Regional Youth Conference was held on Saturday, February 25th, 2017 at 10:00 a. m. at Cégep Heritage College. This Regional Youth Conference was meant for students in Secondary III, IV, V, and Cégep I, II, III. It was co-sponsored by

the Department of Canadian Heritage of the Government of Canada, Mr. André Fortin, Member of the National Assembly of Québec for the riding of Pontiac, Ms. Maryse Gaudreault, Member of the National Assembly of Québec for the riding of Hull, Mr. Mike Duggan Councillor for the City of Gatineau, and the Youth Committee of the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ).

At the conference, we had the participation of the following panelists:

- André Fortin, MNA for Pontiac



- Caryl Green, Mayor of Chelsea
- Sylvie Goneau, Councillor of Gatineau for the District de Bellevue
- Audrey Bureau, Senior advisor for MP William Amos
- Jim Shea, President of the West Quebec School Board and QCGN



The invited panelists spoke about the duties and responsibilities of the office they hold, the youth issues they deal with, and why they feel that it is so important for youth to become more involved in the political process, and to volunteer in their communities. This was followed by a question and answer

forum.

After the Q & A forum, RAWQ presented eleven Outstanding Youth Leadership Award Certificates and a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) cash bursary to each of the Award recipients to encourage them to stay active and participate in their communities.

Right after the Awards the students participated in a Boot Camp on How to participate in Meetings, where they learned about recording Minutes, following and drafting an Agenda and Robert's Rules of Order.

All guests were invited to a complimentary lunch then the students participated in the afternoon workshop of Young Quebecers Leading the Way 2017, sponsored by the Québec Community Groups Network (QCGN).



RAWQ & WQSB welcomed the regional representatives of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada to Outaouais



On Wednesday, March 1st, RAWQ in collaboration with the Western Québec School Board, co-hosted a meeting with the five Regional Representatives of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada in the

WQSB Board Room in Aylmer. Moderating the gathering was Jim Shea, the Chairman of the



Western Québec School Board and Brian Rock, the RAWQ Executive Director. Jim Shea is also the President of the Québec Community Groups Net-work (QCGN) and Immediate Past President of RAWQ. Brian Rock also serves as the President of the Québec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) and writes a monthly political commentary column entitled *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* for the West Québec Post, the Aylmer Bulletin, and the Pontiac Journal. Greetings were brought by Arthur Ayers, the President of RAWQ.

The special invited guests were the Commissioner's Representatives for the five Regional Offices accompanied by staff members. RAWQ & WQSB were so pleased to welcome for this important encounter: Mr. David O. Johnston of Montréal for the Québec Region, Madame Sylvie Paradis of Toronto for the Ontario Region, Madame Mylène Thériault of Moncton for the Atlantic Region, Mr. Guy Jourdain of Winnipeg for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Region, and Madame Chantal Alarie of Edmonton for the Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut Region. Special thanks go out to Mr. Charles Taker, the Liaison Officer of the Québec Region Office in Montréal for his exceptional organizing skills for making this meeting such a success.

Participating in this meeting were representatives from the Québec Community Newspapers' Association (QCNA), the Western Québec Literacy Council (WQLC), the Québec Farmers' Association (QFA), the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), the Québec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA), the Community Consultation Café of Aylmer, the Aylmer Bulletin, the Anglican Church, the Western Québec School Board (WQSB), the Québec Community Groups Network (QCGN), the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ), as well as community activists.

Many regional concerns were raised – both urban and rural – concerning official languages issues. A presentation on the role of the media was delivered. Interesting debates continued through the adjournment of the meeting. Thank you to all participants.



RAWQ Community Consultation Meeting in Shawville



On Saturday, March 4th, the Association held its first of two community consultations in the northern reaches of the English-speaking community, in Shawville, regrouping the communities and organizations of Shawville and Campbell's Bay.

On Saturday, March 4th, the Pontiac Region Community Consultation Meeting was held at



Atkinson`s on Highway 148 in Shawville. At the head table representing the Regional Association of West Quebecers were Jim Shea, Pat Cassidy, Brian Rock, and Aldo Jauregui.

Jim Shea, the Immediate Past President of RAWQ, did an excellent job of chairing this opportunity for consulting the Pontiac region communities. Jim is also the President of the Québec Community Groups Network (QCGN) of which RAWQ is a member group, and Chairman of the Western Québec School Board. Brian Rock, is the Executive Director of RAWQ, Pat Cassidy is the Vice-President of RAWQ and the “guru” of events planning for the association. Aldo Jauregui is the Administration and Communications Officer of RAWQ.

Participants in the audience included representatives of the Québec Farmers’ Association (QFA), the West Québec Literacy Council (WQLC), the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), the ad hoc Fifties Plus Committee of West Québec, the Pontiac Journal, the Equity, the Mayor of the Town of Shawville, and several community activists. Many community concerns were raised and rural issues discussed. Interesting debates continued through the complimentary lunch served. Several individuals mentioned interest in joining the RAWQ Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 7th, 2017 at 6:30 p. m. at the Western Québec Career Centre in Aylmer.



Quiz Night



Volunteers, donors and participants contributed to the success of the 6th Annual West Quebecers Quiz Night and Silent Auction. All of the Auction items were sold, there were lots of happy prize-winners and Quiz participants enjoyed the challenging questions.





RAWQ Networking Roundtable Meeting of English Organizations

On Saturday morning, March 25th, RAWQ organized a Community Organizations Networking Roundtable at CEGEP Heritage College bringing together representatives of organizations from Shawville, Wakefield, Gatineau, Hull, and Aylmer.



Nominations Committee Report

To the Board of Directors and Members of the Regional Association of West Quebecers.

As required by Article 3.7 of the Constitution of the Association, the Board of Directors appointed a Nominations Committee to seek potential candidates for election to the Board at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

The Nominations Committee consists of the following persons:

James Shea (Chairman), Brian Rock (ex- Executive Director), Judith O'Rourke, Lily Ryan and Linton Garner (Executive Director)

The Committee reports as follows:

1. The following members of the Regional Association of West Quebecers, who were elected to the Board for two-year terms of office at the Annual General Meeting of 2016:
 - Arthur Ayers and Bryan Daly are standing for re-election for second-year terms.
 - James Shea has agreed to return in the ex officio capacity of Immediate Past President.
2. The following members of the Regional Association of West Quebecers, who were elected to the Board for two-year terms of office at the Annual General Meeting of 2016:
 - Alain Guy, Citlalli Elizalde Zepeda, Judith O'Rourke will be completing the second year of two-year terms.
3. The following members of the Association who were elected to the Board during 2016-2017 by the Board of Directors to fill vacancies:
 - Patricia Cassidy has completed her term and will not be standing for re-election.
 - Wayne Daly will not be returning to the board.
4. The following members of the Association are candidates for two-year terms of office at the Annual General Meeting of 2017:
 - Ken Bernard, Stephanie Crowley, Chris Judd, Sam Lebrecque, Donna Cushman, Joe Mackevic.