

ABOUT RDN

Founded in 2019, the Regional Development Network (RDN) is a provincial nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing socio-economic development for English-speaking communities across the province of Québec. Supported by a network of regional English-language organizations, RDN collaborates with federal and provincial governments and municipalities as a way to represent its network's needs and challenges and to create projects and partnerships.

RDN's mission is to enhance and maintain the vitality of regional English-speaking communities in Québec by supporting network members and other entities to work collaboratively for their socio-economic development.

VIVIANA
FERNANDEZ
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
ADVISOR, CDRQ

“ I see RDN as a connector, an organization that knows and listens to people and communities within the social-economic space. As Malcolm Gladwell, author of *The Tipping Point* has put it, a “connector is someone who knows an impressive number of people,” more people than the average person knows. I see RDN as a positive leverage on sustainability, shared identity, equity, and collaboration for English-speaking communities in Québec. RDN connects people with people, financial resources, mentors, advisors, and government resources. ”

Vision

Thriving English-speaking communities are a vital part of the fabric of Québec's regions.

Mission Statement

RDN's mission is to enhance and maintain the vitality of regional English-speaking communities in Québec by supporting network members and other entities to work collaboratively for their socio-economic development.

Values

- **Collaboration:** By working together, diverse communities and stakeholders foster innovation, strengthen capacity, and engage together in making positive contributions to communities
- **Shared Identity:** Strengthening and promoting the communities' unique characteristics and assets is an important aspect of ensuring a strong and vibrant community of English speakers
- **Sustainability:** Working with other stakeholders helps to ensure the long term economic, social, and environmental viability of initiatives
- **Equity:** A proactive role in representation, awareness, and advocacy will help partners develop policies and programs that ensure the communities' equitable access to resources and opportunities

Roles

- To meet with government actors
- To raise awareness
- To develop shared strategies
- To improve members' knowledge of MRC, federal, and provincial funding
- To support capacity building of its members
- To help share learning among member organizations

HISTORY

RDN was founded in November 2019 to respond to the need for effective representation and engaged involvement in enhancing the vitality and supporting the development of English-speaking communities across Québec that work within a defined territory.

The organizations serving these communities face multiple socio-economic challenges in fulfilling their mandates. Often portrayed as generalist organizations, they face funding constraints while dealing with community needs and issues in multiple sectors, within numerous jurisdictions, and in a minority language setting that is often not recognized. In addition, many organizations must carry out their work over a large territory while serving isolated populations. In this context, it was determined that there is a need for a network of regional organizations serving the English-speaking communities of Québec for the purposes of networking, collaboration, and representation to support the individual organizations in the work they endeavour to carry out.

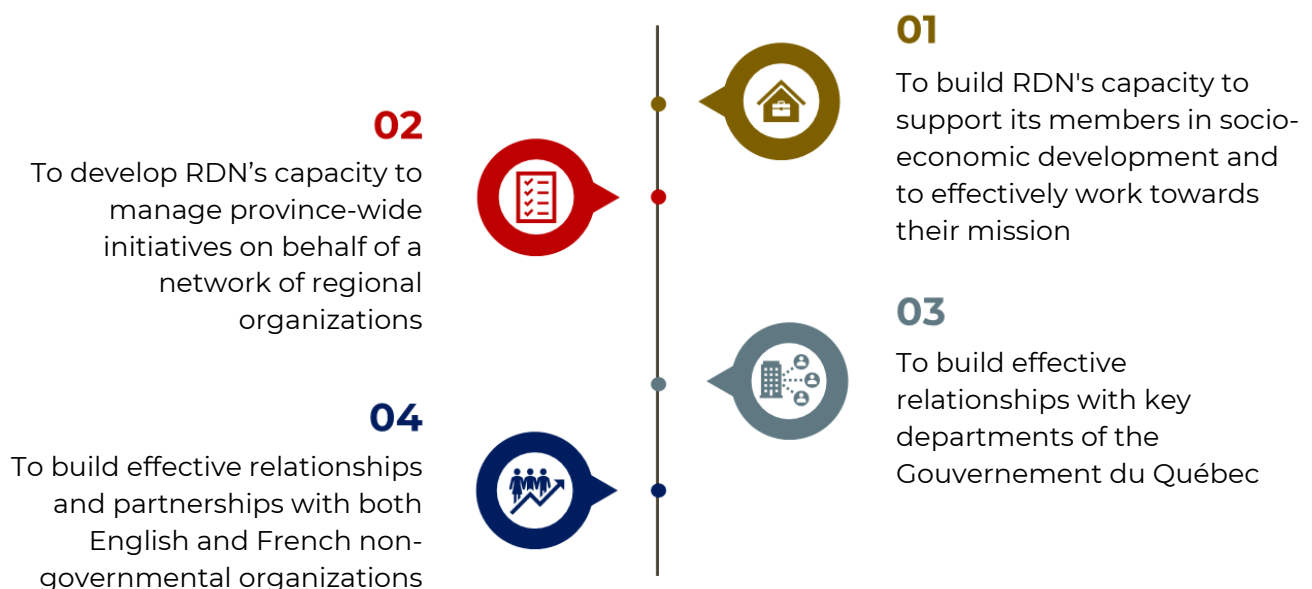
Since 2019, we've done the following:

- Grown from 9 founding member organizations to a group of 19, now covering 14 out of Québec's 17 administrative regions.
- Established collaborative relationships with CDRQ; CHSSN; the Consortium of English-language CEGEPs, Colleges and Universities of Quebec; Éducaloi; ELAN; Literacy Quebec; PERT; Place aux jeunes en région; QUESCREN; Y4Y; YES; the Pôle d'économie sociale en Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine; Le Consortium; and more.
- Consulted with membership to set priorities for 2022 to 2025.
- Launched SEEnet, an initiative to promote the social economy among the English-speaking community of the province of Québec.
- Renewed SRQEA funding for Core, Employability, the social economy initiative, and ERCC.
- Received funding from Canadian Heritage and the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund.
- Added to our team to now have 9 full-time employees.

RDN PROGRAMS

Core

The RDN Core program provides members with a strong, informed, and well-structured backbone organization engaged in increasing the recognition of regional English-speaking community needs within programs offered by governments and other sources. Network members receive support for their development of organizational capacity and stakeholder relations and the creation of strategic partnerships. To accomplish this, RDN engages in a variety of consultative processes to capture the needs and priorities of members and to communicate them to the appropriate funding body or government. This program has been made possible with the financial support of the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise.



Enhancing Regional Community Capacity (ERCC) Phase 2

Funded by the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise, RDN is participating in the implementation of Phase 2 of the Enhancing Regional Community Capacity (ERCC) initiative. The program aims to extend the mandates of English-speaking community regional organizations, cover more territory through the creation of satellite offices, strengthen capacity, and develop relationships with government entities and actors within the Francophone community. RDN supports beneficiary organizations through project management assistance, organizational development, training, and networking. RDN works collaboratively with the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise to establish strategic relationships between beneficiary organizations and government actors.

01 Contribute to the development and implementation of Phase II of the ERCC initiative

02 Support the development of ERCC organizations, including their capacity to maintain and develop satellite offices



Support the capacity of **03** ERCC organizations to work in key sectors in their region

Support the capacity for **04** ERCC organizations to interact with Québec government entities and organizations of the Francophone majority

SEEnet

SEEnet—the Social Economy English-Speaking Network—is RDN’s social economy initiative. Funded by the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d’expression anglaise, SEEnet was started to increase the participation of Québec’s English speakers in the social economy.

SEEnet strategically mobilizes community knowledge, leverages available resources, and builds capacity for English-speaking communities to implement innovative projects. We offer workshops, consultations, internships, and mentoring to both cooperatives and not-for-profit organizations for long-term growth. By building strong connections and province-wide partnerships, SEEnet helps advance innovative projects that increase economic and social opportunities within English-speaking communities.



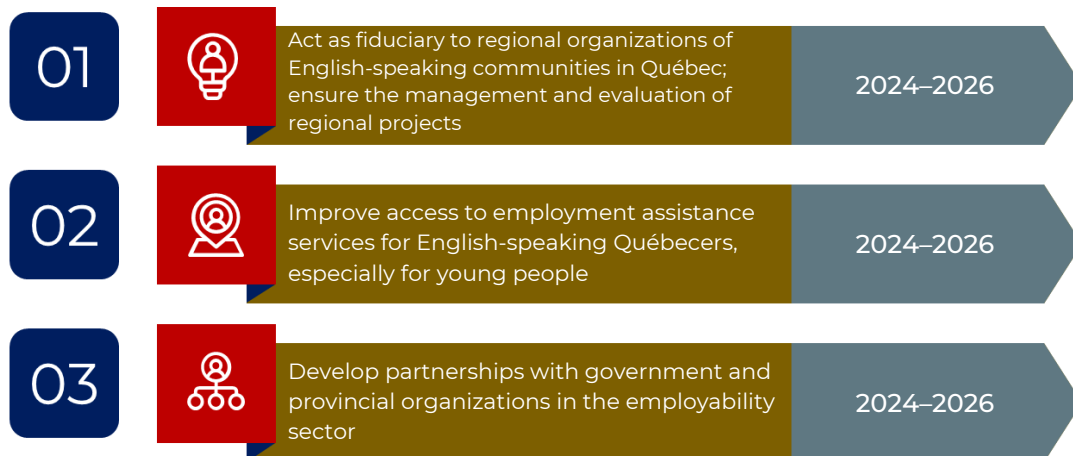
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Employment Strategy 2024–2026

The Employment Strategy program strives to address the issue of English speakers, especially youth, struggling to integrate into Québec's labour force despite having adequate levels of education and vocational training. This is partly because members of these communities don't take full advantage of the employment services available to them and, conversely, organizations providing these employment services aren't always able to serve an English-speaking clientele.

RDN acts as fiduciary to 12 English-language regional organizations in Québec; it manages, monitors, and evaluates the regional projects and communicates their results. The Employment Strategy program has been made possible with the financial support of the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise.



Community Mobilization Project 2023–2025

The Community Mobilization Project provides legal information to RDN's member organizations, their communities, and the public. A collaboration with Éducaloi, the Community Mobilization Project has been funded by the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise.

The project goals are to enhance the knowledge of English-speaking Quebecers about legal topics in daily life, to enhance the ability of English-speaking Quebecers to take action regarding legal issues in daily life, to enhance the organizations' capacity to provide legal information and referrals to appropriate legal resources, and to promote Éducaloi's online and print resources. RDN and Éducaloi offer six legal information legal workshops a year on topics requested by RDN member organizations.



THE TEAM

CATHY BROWN Executive Director

Cathy became the executive director of RDN in August 2020. A graduate of CÉGEP de la Gaspésie et des Îles, she began working at Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) in 2001. She served in various positions before stepping into the role of executive director from 2008 until 2020. During her tenure, she led a significant expansion of program activities and service delivery for the benefit of the English-speaking communities along the Gaspé coast, particularly in the areas of health and social services, employment, and economic development (tourism). She has also served on various provincial boards and committees, including the Provincial Access to Health and Social Services committee, and she is a founding board member of the Provincial Employment Roundtable (PERT). ed@regdevnet.ca · 581-398-4098

RACHEL HUNTING Manager of Regional Development

A graduate of Bishop's University in the field of sociology, Rachel has been working in community development since 2008 with a particular focus on the vitality of Québec's English-speaking minority language community, health and social services, and youth. Prior to beginning her role with RDN in 2021, Rachel was the executive director of Townshippers' Association for just shy of a decade. In 2015, she was appointed to the board of directors of the CIUSSS de l'Estrie-CHUS, where she continues to represent community organization expertise as an independent director, is president of its governance and ethics committee, and is an active member of its human resources and communications committee. Rachel is also an active member of the Provincial Employment Roundtable (PERT) board of directors. rachel@regdevnet.ca · 819-574-7025

JENNY MONTGOMERY Network Communications Officer

Jenny joined the RDN team in February 2022. Before that, she was the deputy editor of *Photo Life* and *Photo Solution* magazines, where she worked for almost a decade. Originally from the United States, she has lived in Québec since 2009. When she's not at RDN, you'll probably find her working on a theatre project. She's also a director and playwright, and she serves on the board of the Théâtre Le Trident. A member of the Literary Translators Association of Canada, she has more than ten years of experience as a professional translator. jenny@regdevnet.ca · 418-684-8810

HOFFMAN WOLFF Social Economy Manager

Hoffman joined RDN with years of experience working with Québec City's English-speaking community, having served as the assistant executive director of the Morrin Centre and the president of Voice of English-speaking Québec. He's also worked as a project coordination consultant with several branches of the provincial government including the SAAQ, the RAMQ, and the CNESST. A native of North Carolina, he received his Global Business MBA from Laval University and his undergraduate degree from Roanoke College. hoffman@regdevnet.ca · 418-684-8810

HELENA BURKE Manager of Regional Development

Helena Burke joined the RDN team in January 2023. She began her career in community development in 2006 as a coordinator at the Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI) and then became the executive director in 2007. During her tenure at CAMI, Helena led community strategic planning and visioning exercises, built and nurtured vital relationships (both government and non-government), and leveraged significant financial and human resources needed to implement key programs and services for the English-speaking community (ESC) across sectors. Helena was a leader in implementing the social economy concept in the Islands' ESC and was successful in developing community businesses including culinary services, respite daycare services, and a social housing initiative. helena@regdevnet.ca · 418-937-6085

VICTORIA ROCKE Research Officer

Victoria Rocke joined RDN after working on freelance action research contracts for Québec's English-speaking community. Mentored by Mary Richardson, she completed Mary's training program on action research and community development work. Originally from a small village in the Eastern Townships, she now lives on the South Shore of Montreal with her young family. Victoria holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology from McGill University where she also studied languages. After dedicating a few years travelling and working abroad in China, Colombia, and Germany, Victoria spent 12 years in customer service in travel health insurance, the moving industry, and management consulting. victoria@regdevnet.ca · 418-684-8810

KIM HARRISON Programs Manager

Kim Harrison joined the RDN team in September 2023 and has been involved in community development for over two decades. She began her career as a coordinator for the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) and shortly thereafter moved into the role of executive director where she provided effective leadership and ensured the growth of the organization. Departing CASA in 2008, she continued to work in the sector with organizations such as the Quebec Community Groups Network and the Gaspesian British Heritage Centre. Returning to CASA in 2017, Kim worked as development officer and interim executive director. kim@regdevnet.ca · 581-886-6663

YASSINE BASIDI Administrative Assistant

Born and raised in Morocco, Yassine Basidi left his home country after finishing high school with a diploma in economics. In 2019, Yassine came to Canada and completed a vocational studies diploma in office administration. Yassine previously worked as an executive secretary for the Central Québec School Board and as a legal assistant for Mallette SENCRL. Yassine is a huge fan of soccer and has been watching and playing it since he was a kid. admin@regdevnet.ca · 418-684-8810

NOURA DIABY Accounting Clerk

Noura Diaby was born and raised in Ivory Coast. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in business administration-accounting, she left her country to continue her studies in Québec in 2022 and obtained a master's degree in business management. Being a long-time member of a service club, Noura is very involved in volunteering.

Passionate about personal development, she dedicates her spare time to working on her podcast, hosting debates, and writing. She also practices theater, expressing her creativity and personal growth. finance@regdevnet.ca · 418-684-8810

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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