

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.

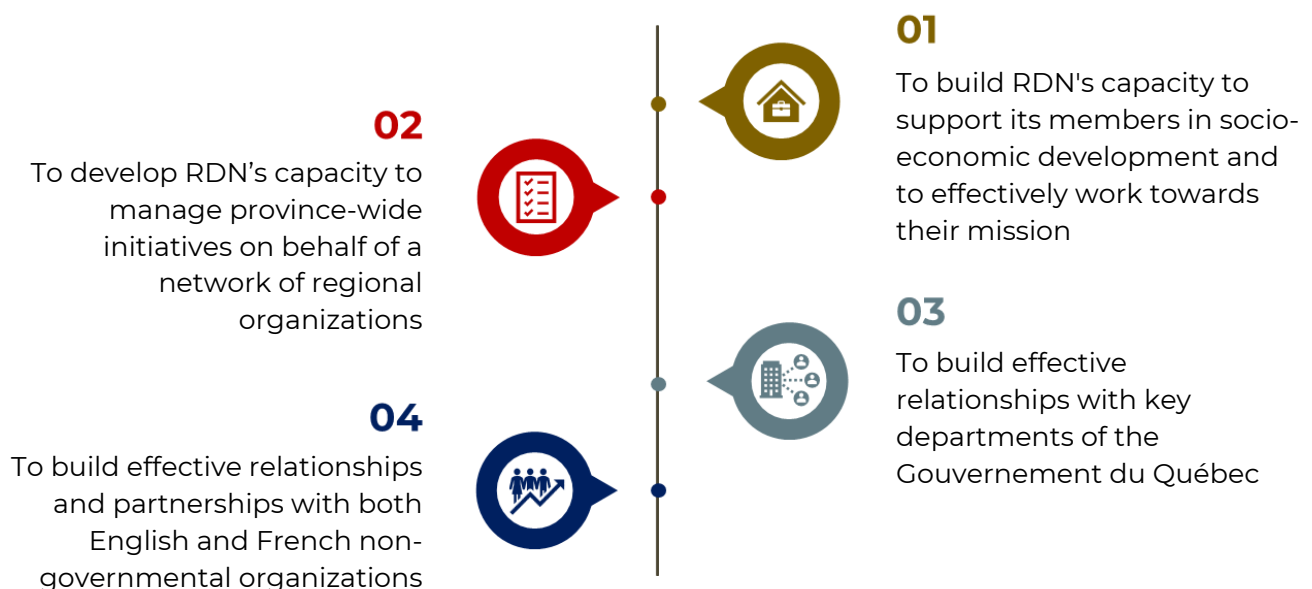
Since 2019, we've done the following:

- Grown from 9 founding member organizations to a group of 18, now covering 12 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; SEIZE; Y4Y; and YES.
- Consulted with membership to set priorities for 2022 to 2025.
- Added to our team to now have 7 full-time employees.
- 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.

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 Solidarity 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 solidarity 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.



Employment Strategy 2022–2024

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.

- 01**  Act as fiduciary to regional organizations of English-speaking communities in Québec; ensure the management and evaluation of regional projects 2022–2024
- 02**  Improve access to employment assistance services for English-speaking Québécois, especially for young people 2022–2024
- 03**  Develop partnerships with government and provincial organizations in the employability sector 2022–2024

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 Québécois about legal topics in daily life, to enhance the ability of English-speaking Québécois 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.




French for the Workforce

Open to English speakers from all over Québec, French for the Workforce focuses on helping participants improve their French in order to advance their careers. Participants work on their CVs, cover letters, job interview skills, and ability to use industry terminology. Participants will practice verb conjugations, have group discussions, and receive personalized feedback to track their progress. A collaboration with PERT and YES, French for the Workforce is funded by the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise.

LEARN HOW TO BOOST YOUR CONFIDENCE WHILE SPEAKING FRENCH

Go beyond the basics of French grammar. Engage in small talk, stand out in your job interviews & participate in workplace chit chat!



With funding from:  Québec

In partnership with:  PERT  RDN
Regional Development Network
Réseau de Développement Régional

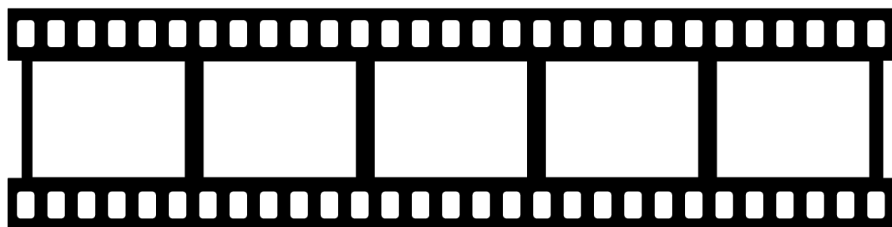
Who We Are, What We Do Video Capsule Project

Who We Are, What We Do is a two-year project to design and produce two-and-a-half-minute bilingual corporate video capsules for RDN's eighteen regional member organizations serving the English-speaking minority community of Québec.

The video capsules will help the organizations leverage funding, expand their partnerships, and reach new communities. By presenting key facts about each region, foregrounding positive and distinct aspects of each community, and offering a succinct but impressive overview of each regional organization's activities, the videos will inform or remind viewers of the presence and vitality of the English-speaking minority community of Québec.

This project has been funded by the Government of Canada and the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise.

Who We Are



What We Do

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

JANO STEFFEN Executive Assistant

Jano Steffen is the executive assistant for the Regional Development Network and joined the RDN team in December 2020. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree with concentrations in marketing and international business from McGill University, as well as a Human Resources Certificate from the University of Toronto. Originally from Toronto, she has lived in Québec on and off for more than a decade. Prior to working at RDN, Jano worked in the travel industry, which allowed her to discover her love for travelling. During her free time, she enjoys crafting, watching movies, and practicing yoga. jano@regdevnet.ca · 418-255-0299

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 Officer

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

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*Secrétariat aux relations
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Regional Development Network
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