

# RDN

Regional Development Network  
Réseau de Développement Régional

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



A year of achievements



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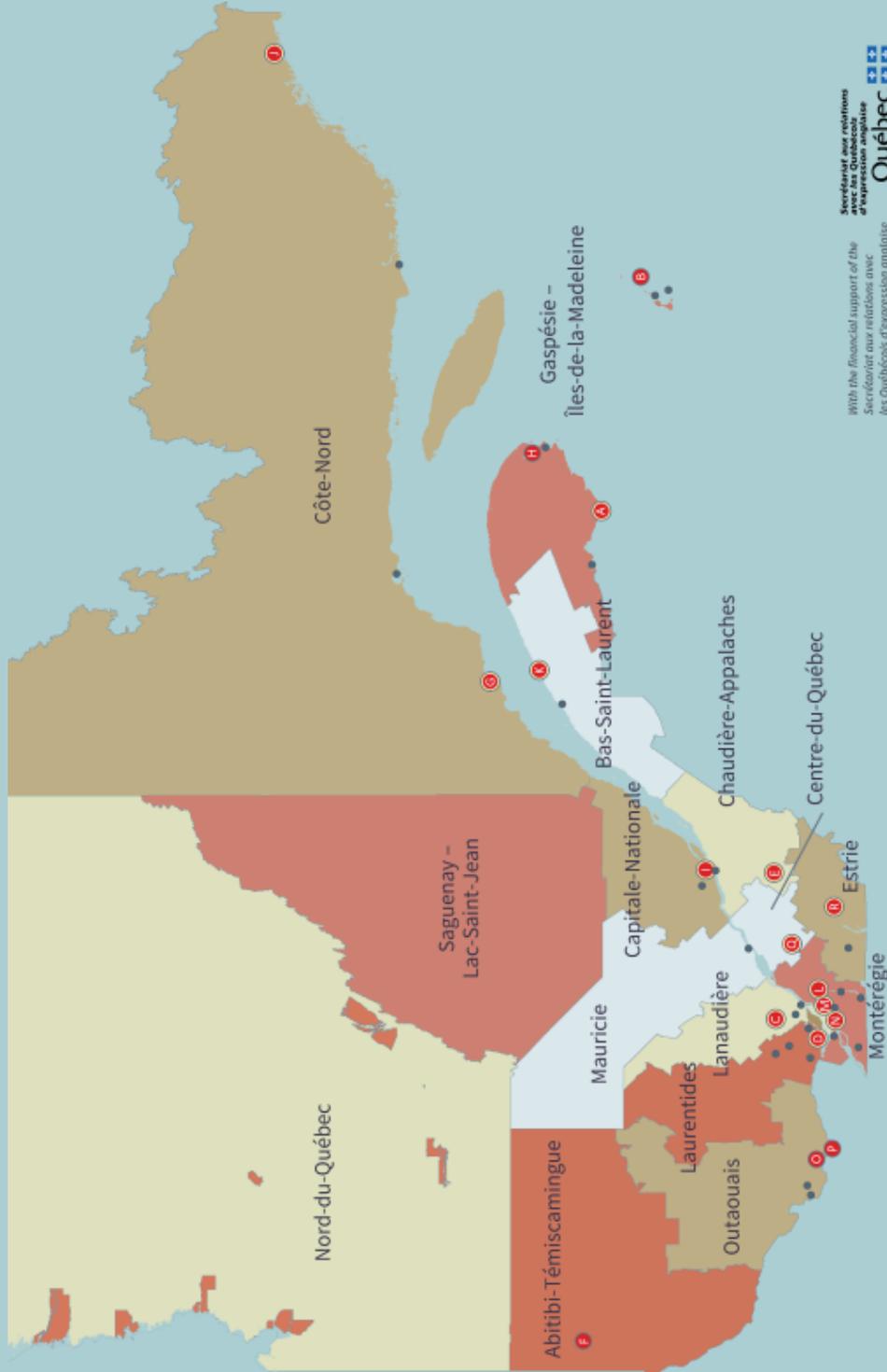
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Regional Development Network | Réseau de Développement Régional

- A** Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) Gaspésie
- B** Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI) Îles-de-la-Madeleine
- C** English Community Organization of Lanaudière (ECOL) Lanaudière
- D** 4Rivers Laurentides
- E** Magentic English-speaking Community Development Corporation (MECC) Chaudière-Appalaches
- F** Neighbours Regional Association of Rouyn-Noranda ABIS®-Rémiscamintique
- G** North Shore Community Association (NSCA) Côte-Nord
- H** Valon Gaspé-Percé Now Gaspésie
- I** Voce of English-speaking Québec (VEQ) Capitale-Nationale
- J** Coasters Association Gaspésie
- K** Heritage Lower Saint Lawrence (HLSL) Bas-Saint-Laurent
- L** Howlérijé East Partnership for the English-speaking Community (HEPEC) Montérégie-Est
- M** Assistance and Referral Centre (ARC) Montérégie-Ouest
- N** Howlérijé West Community Network (HWCN) Montérégie-Ouest
- O** Regional Association of West Québécois (RAWQ) Outaouais
- P** Connections Resource Centre Outaouais
- Q** Centre for Access to Services in English (CASE) Mauricie/Chaudière-Québec
- R** Townshipers' Association Estrie
- ERC**: Enhancing Regional Community Capacity
- ES**: Employment Strategy
- Satellite offices



With the financial support of the  
Secrétariat aux relations avec  
les Québécois d'expression anglaise

Spécialité des relations  
avec les Québécois  
d'expression anglaise

# ABOUT RDN

Founded in 2019, the Regional Development Network (RDN) is a provincial non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the socio-economic development of English-speaking communities across the province of Québec. Empowered by a network of 18 regional English-language organizations, RDN collaborates with governments and community stakeholders to support projects and partnerships that meet the needs of English speakers in regions across the province.



# MISSION

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 foster innovation, strengthen capabilities, and make positive contributions to

## Shared Identity

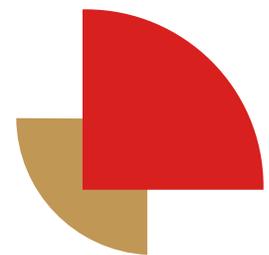
Strengthening and promoting characteristics and assets is an important aspect to ensuring a strong and vibrant community.

## Sustainability

Working with other stakeholders helps to ensure the long-term economic, social, and environmental viability of initiatives.

## Equity

A proactive role in representation, help partners develop policies and programs that ensure the community's equitable access to resources and opportunities.



# VISION

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

communities and stakeholders engage together in cities, and engage together in communities.

the community's unique important aspect to ensuring a

helps to ensure the long environmental viability of

awareness and advocacy will programs that ensure the resources and opportunities.

# HOW WE WORK

## CONSULTATION

Provide a forum for dialogue and discussion on issues related to the socio-economic development of the communities served by member organizations.

## SUPPORT

Provide support to member organizations in achieving their objectives related to development (capacity and community), including research, training, expertise and coordination.

## PLANNING

Foster and facilitate collaborative initiatives that will contribute to the socio-economic development of the communities served by member organizations.

## FUNDING

Act as fiduciary for 2022–2024 Employment Strategy program (Québec); support regional beneficiaries of the ERCC program; inform members of government and other funding opportunities.

## NETWORKING

Facilitate and support the sharing of best practices amongst members, provide pertinent updates, and share information on ‘big picture’ issues impacting regional organizations.

## REPRESENTATION

Act, on behalf of its member organizations, as a point of reference with the various actors involved in the field of community development, including government, institutions and other organizations.

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**01**

Connect members to governments and networks

**03**

Continue to grow and develop RDN

**02**

Support the development of regional capacity through the strengthening of regional organizations

# MEET THE TEAM



**CATHY BROWN**  
Executive Director



**JANO STEFFEN**  
Executive Assistant



**RACHEL HUNTING**  
Manager of Regional  
Development



**HOFFMAN WOLFF**  
Social Economy  
Officer



**JENNY MONTGOMERY**  
Network Communications  
Officer



**HELENA BURKE**  
Manager of Regional  
Development

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As RDN's President, I've been fortunate to witness the challenges, growth, and many successes our young network has achieved since it was founded in November 2019. In just over three years RDN has really come into its own and proven its ability to represent network member needs and interests at the highest level both provincially and federally.

I am proud of RDN's accomplishments over the last year and have great confidence that under the executive director's leadership and with the knowledge and experience of RDN's team, the best is yet to come!



**BRIGITTE WELLENS**

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2022-2023 saw RDN continue to take its place and build important relationships with peers at the provincial level. I am proud, as executive director of this network, of the incredible work that was accomplished over the last twelve months, not only by members of the RDN team but also by the network's member organizations in regions all over the province.



**CATHY BROWN**

To have the opportunity to lead such a capable and strong network is truly a pleasure and I'm excited to share the year's achievements with you in this annual report.

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

RDN gratefully acknowledges the financial support  
of:

*Secrétariat aux relations  
avec les Québécois  
d'expression anglaise*

Québec 

Canada 



# PROVINCIAL PARTNERS

RDN gratefully acknowledges the collaborative support of:



Coopérative  
de développement régional  
**du Québec**



Employment  
+ Entrepreneurship



# CORE PROGRAM

Funded by the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise (SRQEA), RDN's Core Program anchors the activities related to accomplishing its mission within the objectives of the network's 2022-2025 strategic plan and further orients them according to the priorities of its 18 member organizations.

Renewed in January 2023, RDN's Core Program is focused on ensuring that network members:

- Benefit from a network actively connected to government entities and organizations offering services in the regions of Quebec outside of Montreal and Laval;
- Benefit from a network that can facilitate links with the main provincial stakeholders and government actors in the sectors essential to the vitality of the English-speaking community (ESC) in the regions of Québec outside of Montreal and Laval;
- Are supported in their efforts to provide their staff, Board of Directors and members of their community with opportunities to develop essential skills in their region (French as a second language, local development, governance, human resources, etc.);
- Are supported in their efforts to develop good relations with provincial entities and funding bodies;
- Benefit from a network that has a strong knowledge base that supports their organizational and regional needs and priorities;
- Are supported by a credible network that is active and considered an important partner of government and other stakeholders.

# EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

Guided by three clear objectives, the 2022-2024 Employment Strategy is continuing the momentum of earlier phases while expanding the initiative to include new organizations, as well as new areas to reach a larger percentage of the English-speaking population in the regions outside of Montreal and Laval.

The overriding goal of the initiative remains increasing access to employment services and employability resources for English-speaking Québécois with an emphasis on the youth population. The initiative currently supports 12 organizations that are active in 48 MRCs across the province. It is funded by the SRQEA.

2022-2024 objectives:

- Improve access to employability services for English-speaking youth by developing, maintaining, and evolving the capacity of Carrefour jeunesse emploi (CJE) organizations to offer employability services to English speakers.
- Improved access to employability services for English speakers outside the youth sector by providing support for designated organizations currently involved in employment activities to evolve and update their existing level of service.
- Explore opportunities to support the expansion of employability services to English speakers in designated MRCs where they face employability challenges by participating with the majority-language community on local and regional tables pertaining to employability.

# ENHANCING REGIONAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY (ERCC)

Since 2018, the ERCC initiative has improved the social context of English-speaking Québécois by supporting the growth of regional organizations dedicated to English-speaking communities by providing them with resources.

RDN will work in partnership with the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise (SRQEA) to implement and monitor the renewal of the agreements that are part of the ERCC initiative.

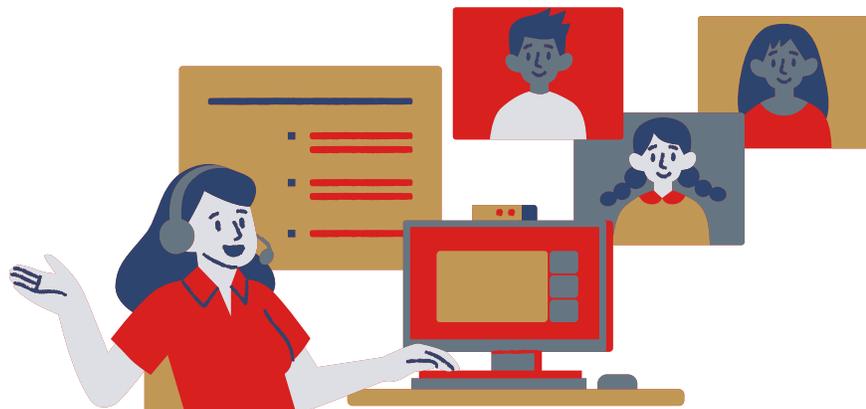
2022-2025 objectives:

- Consolidate the achievements of the ERCC initiative in Québec's English-speaking communities.
- Support regional community organizations in developing their service offerings.
- Mobilize and coordinate the regional community organizations that receive funding for global mission support via the initiative.
- Promote good practices and enhance the community action of regional community organizations in Québec's English-speaking communities.

# FRENCH FOR THE WORKFORCE (F2L)

With funding from the SRQEA and in collaboration with project fiduciary the Provincial Employment Roundtable (PERT) and service delivery partner YES Montreal (YES), RDN works to promote and support workshops aimed to better integrate English-speaking participants into the labour market by offering them practical language training and support that can improve their employment prospects.

RDN's participation in this research-action project facilitates access to FSL support for unemployed or underemployed English speakers searching for work in regions outside of Montreal and Laval and who are looking to improve upon basic French skills.



# SOCIAL ECONOMY INITIATIVE

In 2019, the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation (MEI) launched a call for projects to implement a *Government Action Plan on the Social Economy* (PAGES) between 2020-2025. In 2021, RDN was approved to carry out the first phase of a four-year initiative to promote the social economy and social enterprise amongst the English-speaking communities of Quebec.

With funding renewed by the SRQEA through 2025, this is the second phase of the overall initiative which plans to continue with the core activities of promotion, support to emerging social enterprises, engagement with the social economy ecosystem, and advancement of knowledge, along with additional objectives to:

- Improve the understanding of the social economy among English speakers, especially through educational programs.
- Formalize an English-speaking organizational presence in the social economy ecosystem.
- Spearhead initiatives to mobilize participation of English-speaking organizations and businesses in the social economy, in particular collective services (health co-ops, office administration and small business succession).



WHO WE ARE,  
WHAT WE DO:

# REGIONAL ORGANIZATION VIDEO CAPSULES

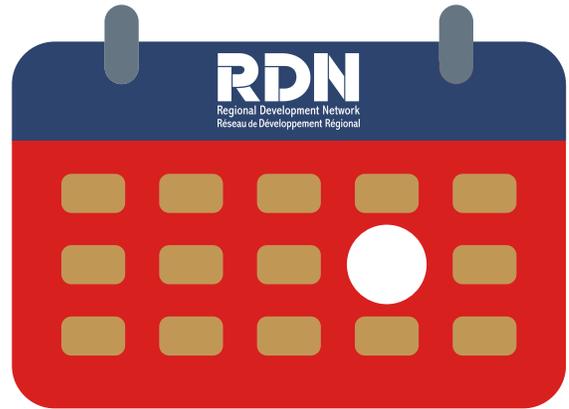
RDN is mid-way through a two-year project entitled, “Who We Are, What We Do: Regional Organization Video Capsules” that is funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH).

RDN is spearheading the production of short, promotional videos for its 18 member organizations. These 2 1/2 minute videos will include:

- Key facts about the English-speaking communities of each geographic region of Québec and what makes them unique;
- A profile of the English-speaking communities living there;
- An overview of the generalist organization addressing their needs and issues.

The videos produced will have a shared look and feel and will enable the participating English-speaking organizations to increase their visibility and reach new audiences and stakeholders, resulting in greater visibility and knowledge of English-speaking regional organizations as well as their diverse needs.

# KEY EVENTS



April 2022

Social Economy  
Mentorship-  
Internship (SEMI)  
program launched

May 2022

Two-day  
networking event  
co-hosted with the  
SRQEA

June 2022

PCH regional  
organization video  
capsule project is  
launched

August 2022

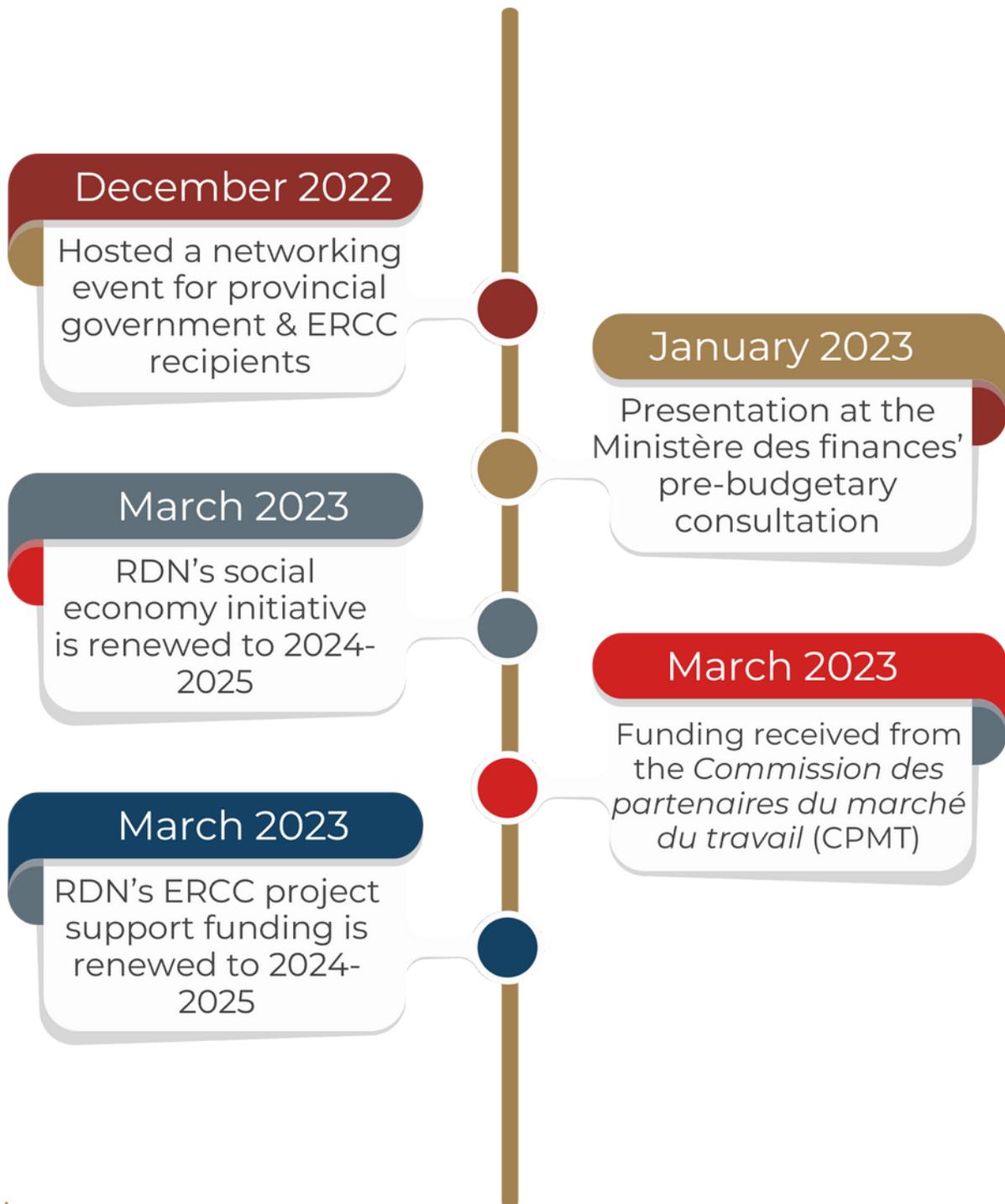
ERCC Leadership  
retreat and RDN's  
3rd annual general  
meeting held

November 2022

Core Program  
funding is renewed  
to 2024-2025

November 2022

Employment  
Strategy *Community  
of Practice* is  
launched



# 2022-2023 ACTIVITY REPORT

**18**

Members

Regions

**12**



**6**

Employees

**32**



operational support tools added to the

**ERCC Shared Resource Library**

## 6 PROGRAMS

EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY



VIDEO CAPSULES



F2L COURSES



SOCIAL ECONOMY



CORE

ERCC

Leadership retreat held jointly with the CHSSN



- 2 days
- 4 training workshops
- 18 participating organizations

**3 knowledge bases**

GENERAL

EMPLOYMENT

SOCIAL ECONOMY



\$433,500 invested in 12 regional organizations via the **Employment Strategy**



Registry of social economy funding sources created



Networking evening with the CHSSN, ERCC organizations and the ministre déléguée aux Relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise

Co-organized an **exchange session for 11 provincial ERCC organizations & the SRQEA**



Co-hosted an **exchange session for 17 regional ERCC organizations & the SRQEA**

Co-hosted **3 social economy events in 3 regions** with the **Pôle d'économie sociale**



Made connections with **11 Pôle d'économie sociale** across the province

**113**



**active collaborations** with provincial employment service providers supported in **10 regions**



**20**

**social economy profiles** produced for organizations

# 2022-2023 ACTIVITY REPORT

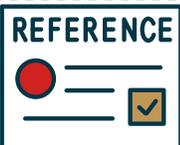


**MEMBER NETWORK MODEL CREATED & MEMBER PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED**

**79** meetings to support grant applications, reporting, legislation news, consultations, programs, knowledge sharing, and operations



Toolkit for using the RDN and SRQEA logos created



12 projects referred to the *Coopérative de développement régional du Québec (CDRQ)*

Active on:

- LinkedIn
- Facebook



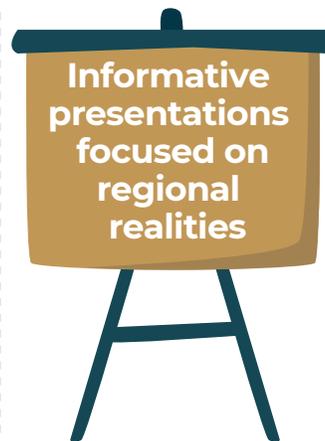
Communications plan created



**4680 caffeinated beverages** consumed by the RDN team

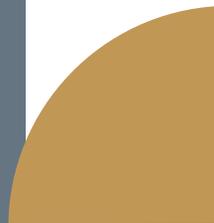


Regional Development Network  
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- ✓ Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
- ✓ Ministre déléguée aux Relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise
- ✓ Collectif autonome des Carrefour jeunesse emploi du Québec (CACJEQ)
- ✓ Congrès sur l'accès des jeunes adultes aux services d'employabilité et d'orientation
- ✓ Réseau des carrefours jeunesse-emploi du Québec (RCJEQ)
- ✓ The Bishop's Forum: A Civic Leadership Institute for English-Speaking Youth
- ✓ Secrétariat à la jeunesse (SAJ)

WE THANK  
YOU FOR  
YOUR  
ONGOING  
SUPPORT  
OF  
**RDN**



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