

2016 Annual Report



Message from the President

It is out of concern for transparency and the desire to make more visible and accessible the work that is done within our walls and within the organizations that we support, that we will now adopt the habit of producing a brief annual report on our activities. At the FDG, we believe that it is up to each one of us, as citizens, to commit to ensuring that our society becomes more inclusive, more sympathetic and more concerned about our social policies and their impacts, especially among more vulnerable populations. We are expressing the hope that our actions will be able to promote commitment and foster the creation of a more inclusive, egalitarian society.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hélène Dufresne". The signature is stylized and includes a circular flourish.

Hélène Dufresne
President
Fondation Dufresne et Gauthier (FDG)

The FDG's activities in 2016

The FDG considers it important to be informed and to network based on its directions and its strategies with other partners.

Le Collectif des Fondations

An open place for work and vigilance, enabling foundations to form alliances among themselves to ensure that public policies promote the reduction of inequalities. The FDG is involved in it and is thrilled that such an alliance has come about.

www.collectifdesfondations.org

The FDG believes that it is important to increase the number of voices for a better democratic process.

Preparation and submission of briefs

In the context of the public consultations on the **3rd Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion**, the FDG signed the brief submitted by the Collectif des fondations. That brief essentially induces the Government of Quebec to develop a tool for measuring social inequalities so that the public policies voted on by the government do not contribute to increasing the inequalities in Quebec society.

In December 2016, the **Canada Revenue Agency** called upon the charitable organizations to find out their opinion regarding the directives pertaining to the political activities of those organizations. It should be pointed out that, in principle, the legislation provides that the organizations are required to devote almost all of their activities to charity. The case law then established that political activities were not to exceed 10% of an organization's overall activities. The FDG submitted a brief on that topic and, during a consultation session held in Montreal to which we had been invited, we were able to show, along with other foundations and organizations, that this practice not only hindered democratic expression, but was difficult for the organizations to administer. The organizations in attendance unanimously called for an in-depth review of the legislation.

The FDG promotes its approach and explains its philanthropy model

Research

The FDG, along with two other foundations, took part in a short *Small Foundations: Outsized Impact* research project that was presented at the Canada Philanthropic Foundations Symposium in Vancouver in October 2016. The purpose of the project, commissioned by Burns Memorial Fund, Mindset Social Innovation Foundation and Canada Philanthropic Foundations, was to find similarities in the practices and philosophies of small Canadian foundations that have a considerable impact, so that other philanthropic organizations looking to make changes to the system can learn from them.

The FDG also partners with the UQAM's PhilLab and other research labs in Canada, under the leadership of researcher Jean-Marc Fontan on a research project called: *Assessing the collective impact of Canadian grant-making foundations projects in response to socio-economic issues and environmental challenges*. If the researchers obtain their funding, we will be involved in it for the next six (6) years.

*The FDG draws inspiration from 3 key words for creating activities with its community partners: **networking, resourcing, enhancing** (NRE).*

Those activities become an opportunity for dialogue bringing individuals together through a structured program. As such, we provide opportunities for expanding knowledge and understanding and for becoming informed about emergency intervention trends. We also enable expertise developed in the field to be recognized because it is shared with peers experiencing similar realities.

"A glance at your financial statements"

For the benefit of the organizations that it supports, the FDG arranged workshops on financial statements in Montreal and the City of Québec, facilitated by Mr. Claude Choquette, a member of its Board of Directors. Secondly, the organizations that wished to, could speak confidentially with Mr. Choquette on the phone regarding more specific aspects of their respective financial situations. To facilitate accurate interpretation and understanding of its partners' financial situations, the FDG now requests an explanatory letter along with the financial statements when submitting the donation application. This practice, which started after our intervention, is repeated by the organizations every time they submit their funding applications.

NRE Days in the City of Québec and Montreal

A total of 117 people took part in these NRE Days: 48 for Montreal and 69 for the City of Québec. They were facilitated by Manuel Soto, a community intervention instructor at the Centre St-Pierre, a communication, creative leadership and event creation coach. The tools presented were: creative interviewing, the Kolb learning style and cycle, creation phases, worst-case scenario followed by a forum theatre and, lastly, the internal drivers of our motivations.

For the Montreal group, Sidney Ribaux, General Manager of Équiterre, presented to us the innovative project by the Centre for Sustainable Development, and the meeting was followed by a guided tour of the premises with Ricardo F. Léoto.

For the City of Québec group, the meeting was held at the Monastère des Augustines, and a guided tour of the premises also ended the day.

Articles on the website

For nearly a year, we have been attempting to highlight the more specific work of our partners. To do so, every month we post the profile of one organization or of one project as well as its impact on the clients served. Those articles, which are grouped under the “News” tab can be read on our site by everyone. They are translated into English so that they can also be read especially by our partners in Mongolia.

The agents of change involved in the FDG agree to be a member of a Board of Directors when an organization makes a difference, out of personal conviction and for the strategic role that they are called upon to play.

Le Massif de Charlevoix

Daniel Gauthier is the promoter and principal shareholder of this recreational tourism infrastructure that is one of the region's primary economic drivers.

<http://www.lemassif.com/en>

Bénévoles d'Expertise

Johanne Beauvilliers works as a member of the Board of Directors of the organization Bénévoles d'Expertise after actively helping to get this NPO established. Note that a number of organizations funded by the FDG turned to Bénévoles d'Expertise over the past year.

www.benevoles-expertise.com

Équiterre

Since summer 2015, Hélène Dufresne has been acting as Chair of the Board of this organization that provides concrete solutions for expediting the transition to a society where citizens, organizations and governments make environmentally friendly choices that are also healthy and fair. Équiterre has over 20,000 members and 130,000 sympathizers.

<http://www.equiterre.org/en>

Forces Avenir

This organization aims to recognize, honour and promote the involvement of students (high school, college, university) in projects that contribute to the development of socially conscious, active, responsible and persevering citizens. Johanne Beauvilliers and Hélène Dufresne take part in juries that determine, from among the successful candidates, those who particularly distinguish themselves regionally and provincially.

<http://www.forcesavenir.qc.ca/en>

Fondation Imaginer un monde meilleur (FIMM)

Henrick Simard is Chairman of the Board for this foundation, which has the mission to help end the cycle of poverty and social exclusion by financially supporting organizations that work with young adults dealing with problems including drug dependency, mental illness, prostitution or homelessness.

<http://mondemeilleur.qc.ca/la-fondation/>

Fondation des Musées de la Civilisation

This foundation's mission is to support the development of the Museums so they can continue to be a place for thought and meetings among individuals, society and human beings through theme-based, multi-disciplinary programming. Claude Choquette is Chairman of the Board of Directors.

<https://www.mcq.org/en>

Horizon Charlevoix

This non-profit organization aims to support, promote and fund the playing of outdoor sports for the young people in the Charlevoix region and the City of Québec. Hélène Dufresne chairs the Board of Directors. The fund-raising activities are intended to fund Charlevoix's sports clubs, outdoor school activities, and athletes who make a name for themselves regionally.

www.horizoncharlevoix.org

Distribution in 2016

The list of organizations supported by the FDG is available on the foundation's website (<http://www.fdg.ca/en>) under the *partners* tab. In connection with our mission, we support organizations that come to the assistance of pregnant women and young families, organizations that provide homework help and/or run recreation activities for young people in highly underprivileged neighbourhoods, youth centres, collective kitchen workshops, collective gardens, refuges or shelters for young runaways or marginalized young people, programs that target youth at risk, etc. All our partner organizations work at developing their users' ability to take control of their lives by recognizing the value of their role within their family, their presence in the organization and, ultimately, their role as citizens in society.

In the Greater Montreal Area, 21 organizations received financial support from the FDG. Given the city's demographic weight and the larger concentration of poverty it contains, the FDG will give priority to that region in 2017/2018 by allocating grants to **new** organizations, including one project targeting young people from two Indigenous communities of the Montreal region.

In the Greater National Capital Region, including part of Portneuf and Charlevoix, 39 partners received FDG assistance in 2016.

In Mongolia, through the work of Dulmaa Luvsansharav, we partner with 12 organizations that provide support to young people living in particularly difficult circumstances. Those young people are often victims of violence, abandoned or work near dump sites. Some young girls are at risk of being recruited for prostitution or simply become pregnant at a very young age. Disabled children are also among our care recipients through a mentoring program for parents dealing with that type of problem.

The FDG distributed **\$1.3 million in 2016**, and nearly \$13 million since being established in 2001.

Conclusion

Children, their families and the communities they live in are central to our concerns.

The strength of what we have built in 15 years of existence as a philanthropic foundation is an amalgamation of specific expertise in each partner's community and the connections that we have been able to form with them based on trust, dialogue, dignity and respect.

Our philanthropy model has been shaped through our experience in drawing on the knowledge developed by other players that are firmly rooted in the community and that generously agreed to share with us their practices and their understanding of the issues.

We humbly believe that we, in turn, are helping raise awareness of the sometimes complex realities of the issues in our society and the best way to factor in the needs expressed by the populations that we want to help.

To all stakeholders, organizers, administrators, agents of change, as well as young and not-so-young people who believe that it is through mutual assistance and solidarity that we will manage to make our society more fair, open and tolerant, we would like to extend our warmest greetings and sincere thanks.

It's a pleasure working with you.