

How does community development apply to minority communities?

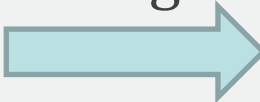
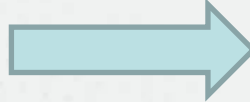

Some lessons from a project with English speakers in Quebec

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Context of the project

Three objectives:

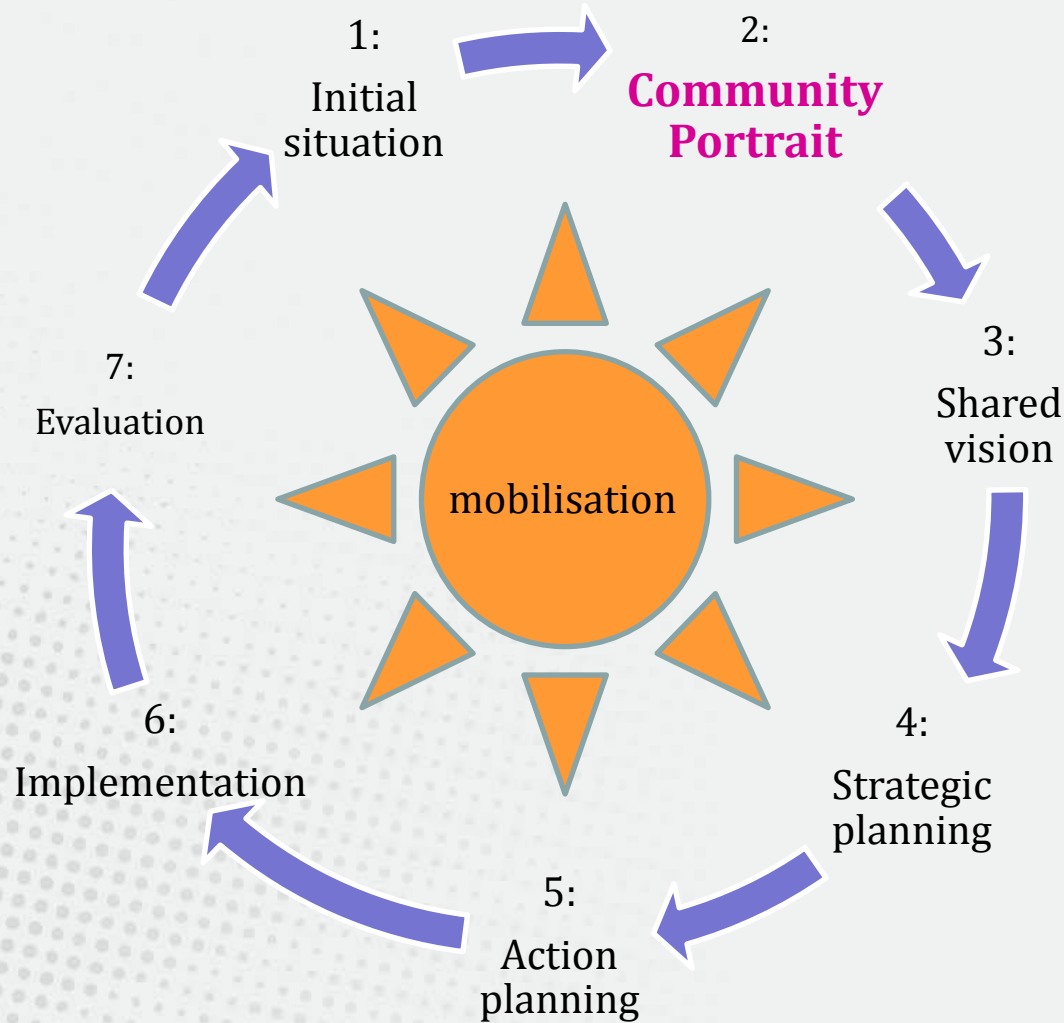
1. Develop a better understanding of English-speaking communities in Quebec  6 community portraits, PAR
2. Develop tools for engaging English-speaking communities  blog, “how to” documents, evaluation guide, etc.
3. Support English-speaking communities in applying community development initiatives  training and support

Community Development in Quebec

Why is the public health sector concerned with community development?

- CD has become a public health strategy (since 1980s)
- Quebec's National public health plan (MSSS 2003; 2008) identifies CD as a strategy for implementing the population responsibility of CSSS
- CD is considered a means of reducing social health inequalities + acting on health determinants

Community development cycle



Choice of Communities

Principle of diversity

- Urban/rural/remote
- Higher/lower proportions of English speakers
- Older/more recent networks
- Varying dynamics



The Six Communities

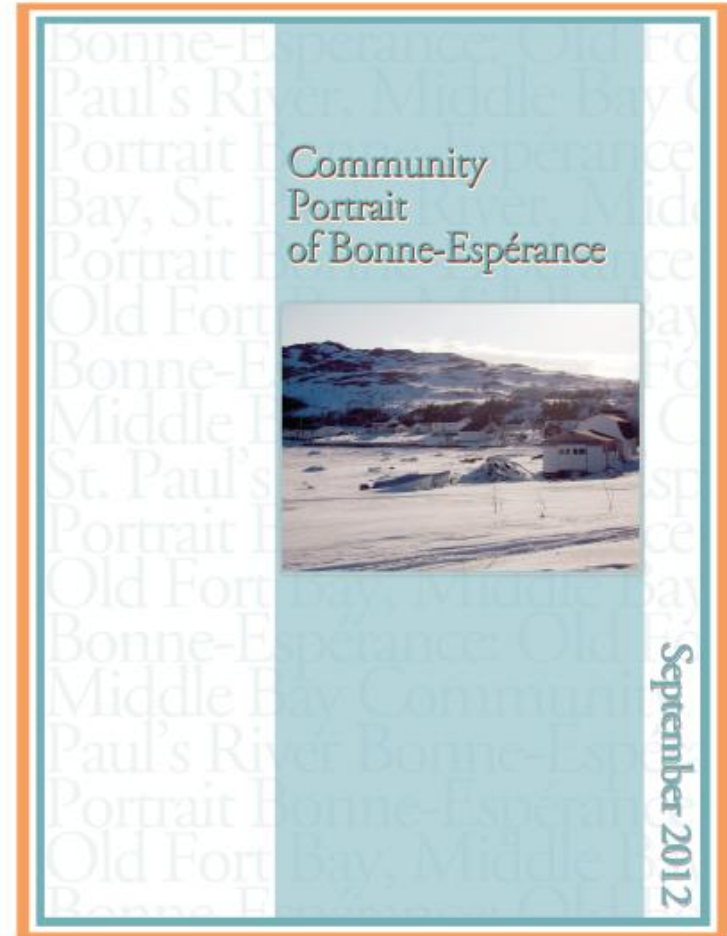
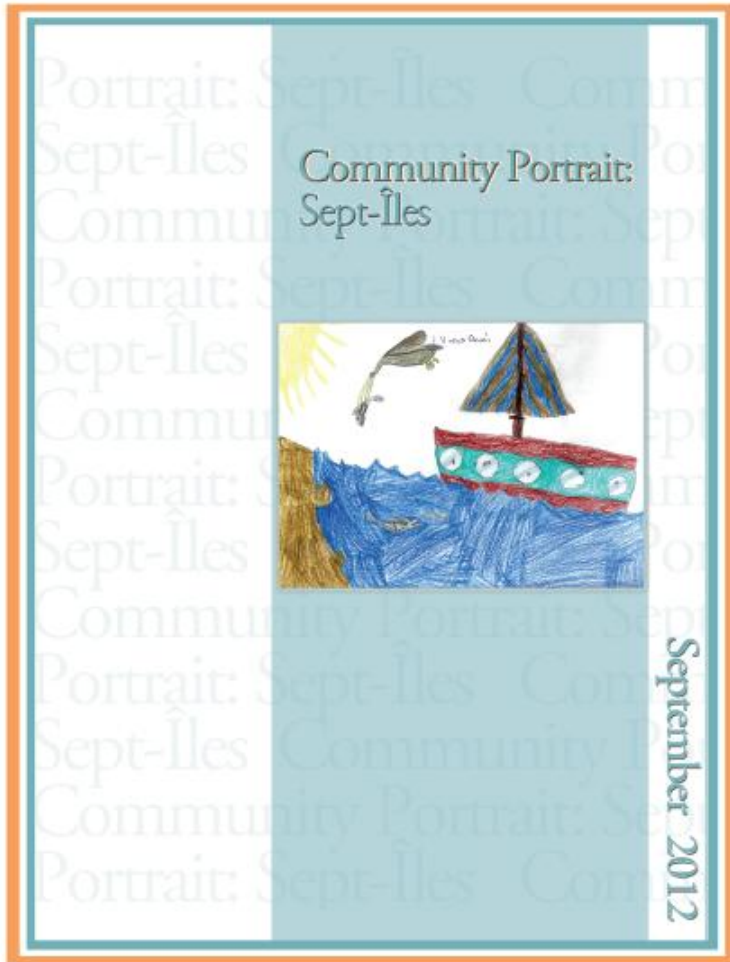
Community	Region	Association
Sutton	Montréal-Est	Townshippers Association
St-Leonard	Montréal-Est	Réseau de l'est de l'île pour les services en anglais (REISA)
Laval	Laval	Youth and Parents AGAPE Association Inc.
New Carlisle	Gaspésie	Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA)
Sept-Îles	Côte-Nord	North Shore Community Association (NSCA)
Bonne-Espérance	Basse-Côte-Nord	Coasters Association

Community Development Strategies

- ❖ Community engagement (participation)
- ❖ Intersectoral collaboration and partnership
- ❖ Political commitment leading to healthy public policy
- ❖ Capacity building

Principle: *Empowerment*

LESSONS LEARNED



1. English-speaking communities in Québec are diverse

In their origins

- Channel Islanders, Loyalists, Italians, Jews, Greeks, etc.
- Mother tongue, sense of belonging and identity

In their geographic realities

- Remote/isolated/small villages
- Rural-small town
- Remote larger town
- Urban neighbourhood
- Suburban city

Examples of diversity

	Bonne-Espérance	New Carlisle	Sept-Îles	Sutton	Laval	St-Léonard
Total population 2006	834	1,370	25,514	3,805	368,709	71,730
% English mother tongue	95%	63%	3%	31%	7%	7%
Pop. knows both Fr+ En	14%	40%	25%	69%	55%	56%
Demographics	Out-migration ageing population	Out-migration, ageing population	In-flux for employment	In-flux but % of local ES in decline	Increasing ESP, young population, very ethnically diverse	Italians moving away + influx of Arab-speaking francophones

2. but community hubs are often similar

- Schools
- Churches
- Community organizations (regional and local)
- Community learning centres (CLC)
- Clubs (Legion, Lion's Club, Women's institute, etc.)



3. So community organizations are central in community development

- Local community organizations that represent English speakers are the first contact point for community development initiatives
- Municipalities and CSSS need to build connections to these organizations in working with the ES community; they sometimes do not have those connections at the outset
- ... then partnerships and connections must be built with municipalities, CLD, CRÉ, and others...

4. The notion of territory must be nuanced

- ES do not always reside in relatively homogeneous territorial communities
- They may be a small % of the population, spread across a larger region, or identify with a historic neighbourhood...
- So their social, cultural, ethnic and linguistic identities, and their social networks and dynamics must be taken into consideration in community development actions
- (CLSC territories do not mean much to ESC)

5. Socio-economic disparities are greater among English than French speakers

- In general, across the province, the income gap among ES is greater than among FS. The gap is widest among men in Montreal.
- ES have higher average incomes than FS, *but* wealth is not equitably distributed. In fact, a greater proportion of ES than FS lives under the low-income cut-off, and the gap is widening.
- ES outside of major urban centres have poor socio-economic conditions, but the gap between the rich and the poor is smaller than in cities.

6. Community development strategies must be adapted to these realities

Community engagement and participation

- challenge because of ageing population, youth out-migration, lack of volunteers...

Intersectoral collaboration

- collaboration is good between ES organizations (Cedec, schools, etc.) and between sectors *but* the challenge is connecting ES to majority FS institutions and organizations

6. continued...

Public policy

- difficult when ESC is not well-connected to government structures (municipal, regional, provincial), but easy when that connection is there and the community is small

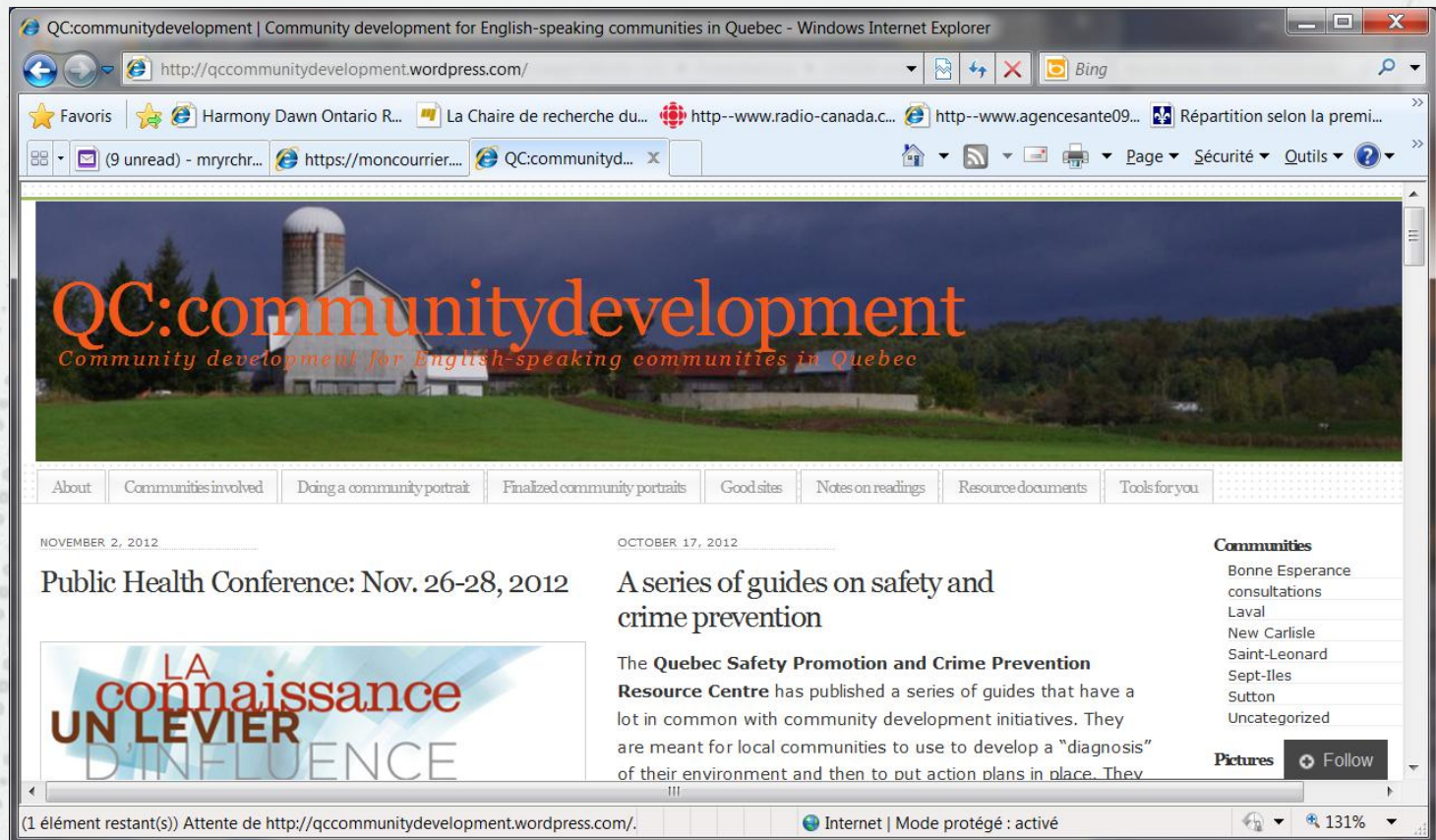
Capacity building

- the portrait process was a good opportunity for groups to get to know a community better, and for the community to identify issues of concern and plan for future actions.

7. Capacity building must benefit a broader community of practice

Knowledge shared through a blog

<http://qccommunitydevelopment.wordpress.com/>



The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the homepage of the QC:communitydevelopment WordPress blog. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://qccommunitydevelopment.wordpress.com/>. The page features a large header image of a farm with a white barn and a silo, overlaid with the text "QC:communitydevelopment" in orange and "Community development for English-speaking communities in Quebec" in a smaller font below it. A navigation menu below the header includes links for "About", "Communities involved", "Doing a community portrait", "Finalized community portraits", "Good sites", "Notes on readings", "Resource documents", and "Tools for you". The main content area displays two posts. The first post, dated "NOVEMBER 2, 2012", is titled "Public Health Conference: Nov. 26-28, 2012" and includes a graphic with the text "LA connaissance UN LEVIER D'INFLUENCE". The second post, dated "OCTOBER 17, 2012", is titled "A series of guides on safety and crime prevention" and describes a resource center's guides for community development. On the right side, there is a "Communities" sidebar listing various locations like Bonne Esperance, Laval, and Saint-Leonard, and a "Pictures" section with a "Follow" button. The browser's status bar at the bottom indicates "1 élément restant(s) Attente de http://qccommunitydevelopment.wordpress.com/." and "Internet | Mode protégé : activé".

WORK UNDERWAY

How will the information be used?

- Mobilize the English-speaking population and recruit volunteers
- Develop new projects
- Work with institutional partners on policy and program development, participate in cross-sector issue tables
- Apply for project funding
- The portrait = Tool to provide information and raise awareness with the public
- Continue to gather information on the community, particularly specific issues or sub-populations

In conclusion

- Communities do not exist in isolation from broader social, political and economic influences that shape current conditions.
- Communities are all too often conceptualized as homogeneous units that are not stratified by gender, class or ethnicity.
- CD can be more sensitive to these realities and adapt strategies to better meet needs.



Thank you!

