



CAMI

COUNCIL FOR ANGLOPHONE MAGDALEN ISLANDERS

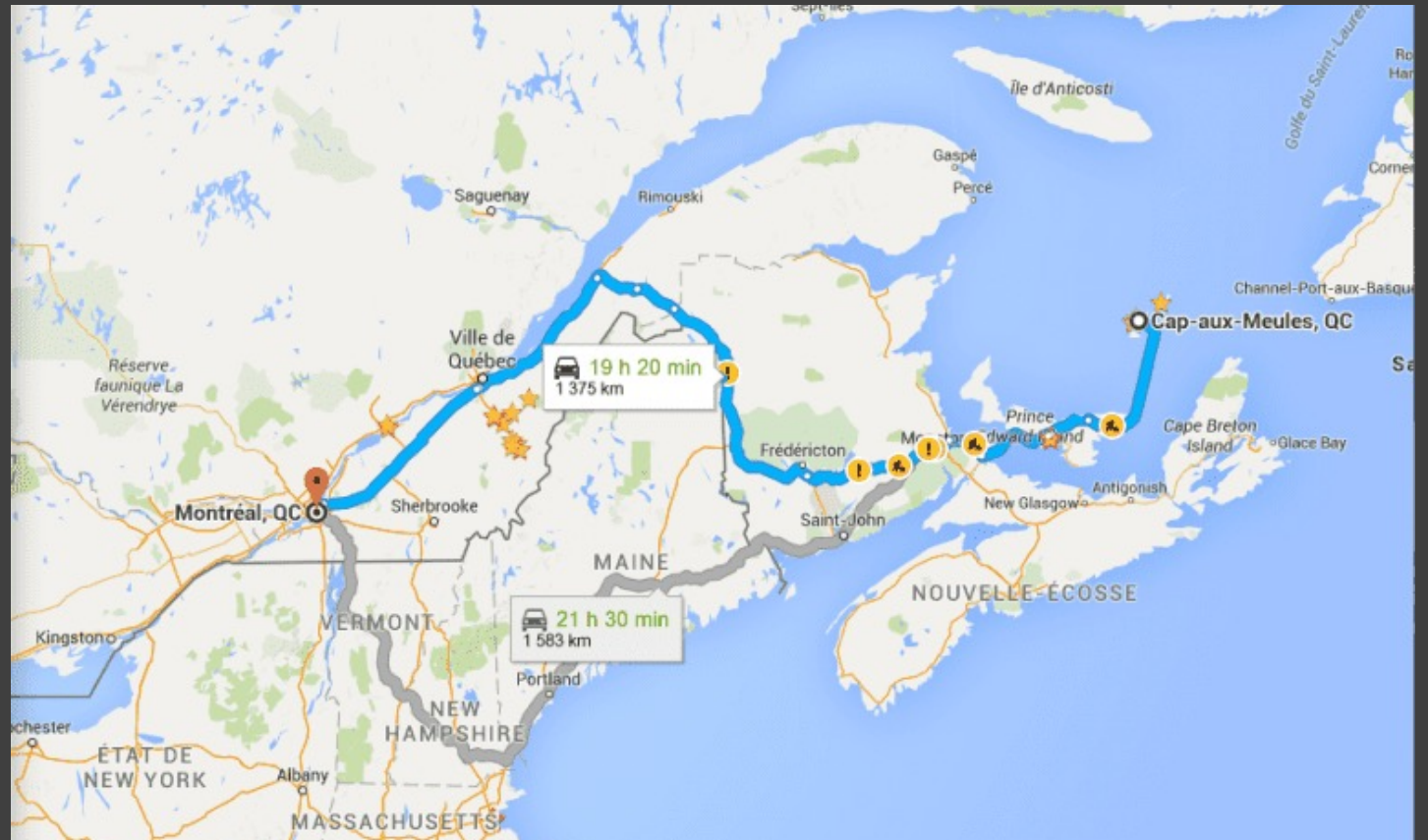
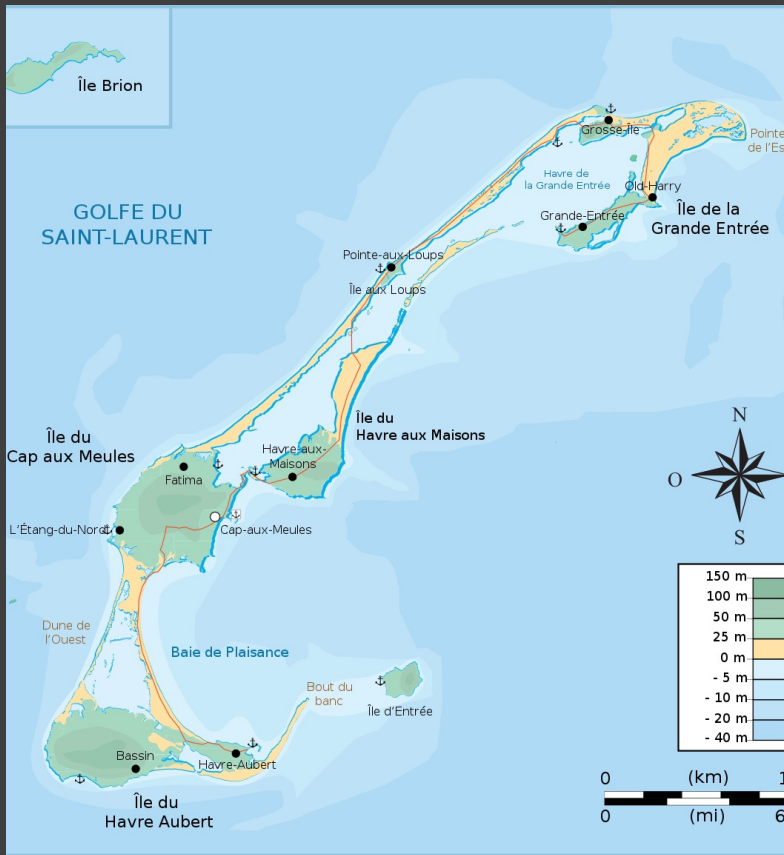
Partnering to Meet the Growing Needs of English-Speaking
Seniors During the Pandemic

WHO IS CAMI?

CAMI is a regional non-profit association that was created in 1987 to respond to the needs of the English linguistic minority community of the Magdalen Islands.

CAMI works across sectors using a community development approach to improve the overall vitality of the community. Our main sectors for intervention include:

- Improving Access to Health & Social Services
- Early Childhood Development
- Preservation & Promotion of Culture & Heritage
- Employability & Economic Development
- Education



WHERE ARE WE LOCATED?

1385 kilometers from downtown Montreal by road

Includes a 5-hour ferry ride

Accessible by airplane (2-4-hour trip pending the route taken)

OUR COMMUNITY

- The ESC makes up 5% of the Island's total population (635/11,495)
- 62% of ES Magdalen Islanders show low levels of educational attainment compared to 48% of their FS counterparts
- Despite high levels of seasonal unemployment, residents of the ESC have high average household numbers (\$66,921 vs \$61,622)
- The population is declining steadily over time, most strongly marked among younger generations, presenting some major challenges for community life, services, governance and more.

*** Information based on the 2016 Census of Canada



OUR SENIORS

- The proportion of citizens aged 55 to 64 years old represents 20% of the total ES population
- The proportion of citizens aged 65+ has increased from 130-175 from 2006-2016, representing 25% of the total population while all other age groups declined
- In 2016, there were 60 seniors aged 65 + living alone, representing 34% of ES seniors, vs 26% among FS seniors
- Almost 56% of ES seniors aged 75-84 reported living alone in 2016, which was much higher than the proportion among FS seniors (27%)
- In 2016, ES seniors aged 55 + reported a low level of educational attainment: 55-64 (57% vs 51%) 65+ (69% vs 64%) 65-74 (65% vs 57%) 75-84 (80% vs 75%), all higher than the proportion among FS seniors.
- In 2016, a higher proportion of ES seniors reported as being in the labour force when compared to FS seniors: 55-64 (75% vs 68%) 65-74 (45% vs 12%)
- In 2016, 46% of ES seniors were earning less than 20K, as were their FS counterparts.

*** Information based on the 2016 Census of Canada



Additional challenges as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Higher levels of isolation
- Low level of digital literacy among seniors
- Provincial restrictions that did not correlate with the sanitary situation on the islands
- Increased cost of living (food security issues)
- Cognitive stimulation of seniors was lacking

Our Partnership Approach

CAMI uses a collaborative approach that encourages organizations and institutions to fulfill their mandates by supporting them to adapt and offer services in English in lieu of providing parallel services. Sometimes our support can be limited to translation of documents, mobilization of the community or it may include the investment of resources from our health programs, require us to sensitize government partners or to seek out alternate funding sources. The level of support varies by situation.

We're All in This Together!

The COVID-19 pandemic proved more than ever the importance of reaching out and leaning on partners for support! Without collaboration, innovation and resource sharing, we would not have been able to provide the support necessary to see our community through

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much” - Helen Keller

Partnership Initiatives

- ITMAV Outreach Program
- COVID-19 Partner Committee
- Production of a bilingual service pamphlet
- Grocery delivery via CAB volunteers
- Increased access to Meals on Wheels program
- Production of a bi-weekly newsletter specifically targeting seniors
- Ipad lending program with 3G internet access
- Virtual programs and activities (Yoga adapted for seniors, BINGO, etc...)
- Wellness Kits
- Christmas Hampers
- Wellness Centre activities (walking club, book club, card nights, scrapbooking, etc...)
- Vaccination promotion and passport support
- Committee established to respond to specific needs of ES seniors – on-going
- Food security video capsule and recipe book project) – on-going
- Application to NHSP in collaboration with the 50 Plus Club



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Preserving our past, building our future



Partners

Institutional:

- CISSS des Îles
- Communauté Maritime (Agglomération Council)
- Municipality of Grosse Île
- Grosse Île High School / CLC

Community:

- Social Development Committee
- Centre d'action Benevole (CAB)
- C.A.D Essentiel (social economy for senior's services)
- 50 Plus Club of Grosse Île
- Anglican Church

Provincial:

- Seniors Action Quebec
- CHSSN



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Preserving our past, building our future

Funders

Local:

- Social Development Committee

Provincial:

- SRQEA via ERCC
- Marguerite Blais – discretionary funds
- ITMAV
- PAAQ
- QADA
- ESPACE MUNI – in collaboration with the Municipality of Grosse Ile
- Local MNA

Federal:

- CHSSN (NPI, HelpAge Canada)

Positive Impacts on Seniors

- Reduced feelings of isolation
- Maintained connections with community resources
- Encouraged links with francophone community organizations
- Maintained cognitive stimulation
- Improved digital literacy
- Ensured access to vital health services
- Seniors felt valued and cared for
- Mobilized new seniors to participate in our programs

Positive Impacts on the Organization

- Time to step back and do some planning
- More time at the office – less time travelling resulted in more applications for funding (PAAQ, QADA, NHSP)
- Greater support/collaboration between CAMI and the CISSS, resulting in longer-term planning for services for seniors
- Access to increased funding specific to COVID (CAB, CHSSN, MNA, DS des Iles)
- Greater appreciation and visibility for CAMI, as well as increased credibility both among partners and constituents

What's the Takeaway?

- Partnerships allowed us to not only maintain services for seniors, but to increase and expand them during a crisis
- By already having strong partnerships in place, it was easy to collaborate to ensure that community needs were being met rapidly
- The level of trust and respect among partners allowed for frank conversations and for the sharing of resources, both human and financial
- Collaboration and working to together allowed us to be increasingly effective on the ground, responding to a multitude of needs simultaneously, despite the challenges related to HR shortages and sanitary restrictions

**Thank
You**

