

Community Project: Francophones and SMEs

Who is the community partner?

The **Fédération des centres d'action bénévole du Québec (FCABQ)** represents a network of 114 Volunteer Centres (Centres d'Action Bénévole – CAB) across Québec. The Federation serves its member organizations through its mission to “mobilize, support and represent” the local centres in order to promote volunteer action in communities. The Federation is actively involved with the local Volunteer Centres by coordinating and promoting activities aiming to respond to information and training needs, as well as yearly documentation of volunteering through profiles of its members and providing an overall picture of volunteering in Quebec.

Why are the partners working on this project?

Two areas of common interests led to this collaboration. First, national CSGVP survey results report generally lower volunteering and giving rates in Quebec compared with other provinces. This raises the question of whether the vocabulary used in national surveys allows us to capture Quebec conceptualizations of giving, volunteering, community and civic engagement accurately. The first goal of the project is to understand factors explaining the differences found in national surveys. Furthermore, the issue of developing synergies between the voluntary and business sectors within the context of employer-supported volunteering is of interest to the FCABQ, one of their committees having started to conduct some work on the topic. One of the volunteer centres of the FCABQ, the Centre d'action bénévole d'Autray (CABA), located in the region of Lanaudière, is a fitting case study due to the various local collaborations developed with small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The second goal of this collaboration is to support the FCABQ in their objective to document promising practices within their members by examining employer-supported volunteering initiatives in Autray county.

What are the project's main activities?

Activities related to data collection and analysis are underway in relation to the two areas of collaboration. The meaning and definition of volunteering in Quebec, as well as opportunities and challenges related to employer-supported volunteering in the SME context are being documented. A quantitative component of analyses is based on CSGVP data on volunteering and employer-supported volunteering in Quebec, while a qualitative component comprises literature reviews on these two topics as well as interviews with employers, employees, volunteers and community representatives. This case study examines the collaborations forged between the businesses and voluntary sector. Interviews with volunteers in Autray and elsewhere in Quebec also allow us to characterize the ways in which community engagement is experienced and defined by Quebecers. Results of the case study will be disseminated to members of the FCABQ and contribute to the development of tools to help Volunteer Centres wishing to strengthen ties with businesses in their community.

What are the anticipated results or outcomes from this project?

Activities related to data collection and analysis are underway in relation to the two areas of collaboration. The meaning and definition of volunteering in Quebec, as well as opportunities and challenges related to employer-supported volunteering in the SME context are being documented. A quantitative component of analyses is based on CSGVP data on volunteering and employer-supported volunteering in Quebec, while a qualitative component comprises literature reviews on these two topics as well as interviews with employers, employees, volunteers and community representatives. This case study examines the collaborations forged between the businesses and voluntary sector. Interviews with volunteers in Autray and elsewhere in Quebec also allow us to characterize the ways in which community engagement is experienced and defined by Quebecers. Results of the case study will be disseminated to members of the FCABQ and contribute to the development of tools to help Volunteer Centres wishing to strengthen ties with businesses in their community.



uOttawa

E=MC²

Mobilisation communautaire et collaboration
Mobilizing Communities and Collaboration

