



Committed

ANNUAL REPORT
2023-2024

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A WORD FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

Promoting a field-oriented approach and reducing bureaucracy to better meet the real needs of young people!

We aspire to dedicate more time to being present for disadvantaged and vulnerable people, in accordance with our mission and the resources allocated to us. We wish to promote a proactive and direct approach in our social work and, at the same time, to reduce the excess of administrative formalities which can obstruct our action.

Furthermore, we are looking to include more young people with atypical backgrounds or particular situations in our employability services. We are aware that these young people are often being excluded because of their status or their profile, which do not always match the criteria established by government authorities. We are seeking to broaden our perspective to include these young people in our employment assistance programs.

Despite the challenges we face, we continue to work with determination thanks to our ingenuity and collaborations with our financial partners. We explore new ways to efficiently meet the needs of employment of youth by using a range of varied services, beyond our traditional programs.

We are aware of the limits of our current approach. However, we are determined to overcome these challenges to offer a better service to our community.

We wish to emphasize the crucial role of community workers, who are on the front lines in addressing the evolving needs of our society. Their work, their commitment and their dedication are essential to maintain the social fabric of our community and to support individuals in their life journey.

We are confident that, despite current challenges, our commitment to guidance and support will continue to make a real difference in the lives of our participants.

Enjoy the reading

Annik Bissonnette

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The CJE St-Laurent has conducted various types of consultations to reach a majority of young people from the Saint-Laurent borough, reaching more than 1,000 individuals. This powerful way of youth participation, offering concrete proposals for social transformation, brought forth 17 recommendations, with two standing out in Saint-Laurent:

- Promoting sustainable development;
- Demonstrating openness towards diversity (to counter discrimination and systemic inequality).

This year, the team and the administrators of the CJE St-Laurent are prepared to meet concretely those recommendations. First, although our primary focus since our foundation has been universal inclusion, the board members deemed it necessary to adopt a resolution that reinforces this strong commitment to recognizing and including all current diversity, making it a key project for the coming years.

Simultaneously, the team has questioned and analyzed our practices, our means of communication, and our tools to ensure they reflect the 2.0 diversity of our clientele, enabling them to feel recognized, addressed, and invited in a safe and respectful manner. We also created an environmental committee which analyzed our practices, in order to promote sustainable development and to minimize our environmental footprint. Concrete gestures have been achieved, such as universal composting in the kitchen and in the bathroom, but also reducing resource use by modifying our practices.

Concerning these last two objectives, the CJE St-Laurent is aware that our efforts are far from being over. It's a work in progress and evolving. Through training, listening to our young participants, partners, the team, and experts, we aim to respond effectively to the needs expressed by OUR youth.

I invite each and every one of us to work towards meeting the current and future needs of young people, as the new challenges in society pose immense difficulties, including major economic, demographic and climate crises, global conflicts, social dysfunctions, and new issues affecting identity, ethnic, body and sexual diversity, among others.

In solidarity,

Marc Grignon

OUR MISSION

Our mission? To contribute to the development of full socio-professional potential by offering free support, in English and in French, mostly to teenagers and young adults aged between 15 and 35 years old, residing in Saint-Laurent.

Our primary mission is supported by the SACAIS and reinforced by numerous partners. It unfolds in 5 focuses:

- Universal welcome and access
- Socio-professional integration (Working)
- Educational success (Studying)
- Autonomy, access to health and to social services (Discovering)
- Ecocitizenship (Getting involved)

Here are our customer orientations:

- People with no income support
- Immigrants, accepted refugees, and asylum seekers
- Youth at risk of dropping out of school
- Young anglophones
- Young women from ethnocultural groups

ASSOCIATIVE AND COMMUNITY LIFE

The CJE Saint-Laurent is active and involved in its community by participating actively to a variety of committees, including the committee of youth and employability, but also works directly with the clientele of our partners such as *Ressources jeunesse Saint-Laurent (Auberge du cœur)*, the *Centre Communautaire Bon Courage de Place Benoît*, the students of the Saint-Laurent elementary school, Émile-Legault building, *École du SAS (Secondaire Adapté à ta Situation : DES et PFAE (régulier, langage et TSA))*, *École Pierre Laporte, Annexe Côte-Vertu pour les classes d'accueil* and *LaurenHill Academy Junior Campus*. In addition, the CJE organizes numerous outreaching activities, such as activities in parks (Vélogik) and neighbourhood parties.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The board of trustees, composed of members rooted in their community and accountable to the assembly, independently establishes the directives, priorities, goals, and annual program of the organization. As an innovation for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the team was enhanced during the year by the nomination of a freshly named administrator!

- **Annik Bissonnette**, President, Institutional Environment, École secondaire Saint-Laurent, CSSMB
- **Michel Richer**, Vice President, Business Environment, Giant Tiger, Saint-Laurent Branch
- **Élaine Labelle**, Treasurer, Business Environment, Caisse Desjardins Bordeaux-Cartierville-Saint-Laurent
- **Lorraine Omblime-Edmond**, Secretary, Institutional Environment, CIUSSS NIM
- **Danielle Villemaire**, Administrator, Citizen
- **Andy On**, Administrator, User
- **Madjou Diallo**, Administrator, User
- **Philippe Marchand**, Administrator, Community Environment, Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence
- **Alexis Légaré-Hamel**, Administrator, Community Environment, Vert Cité

The outcomes, in nine (9) meetings

- **Strengthening the Information System and Cybersecurity**
- **Compliance with Law 25**
- **Annual reevaluation of the salary scale**
- **Enhancing the universal and inclusive welcome message. Improving our interventions, processes, tools, and communication so that all individuals from diverse backgrounds feel concerned, fully welcomed, and confident.**

AGM 2023

This year, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) took on the colours of novelty. After the lifting of health restrictions, this meeting was held in person for the first time in a few years. In front of an audience of 35 people, reuniting members of the CJE St-Laurent, young participants, partners and employees, the achievements of the CJE St-Laurent for the year 2022-2023 were brilliantly highlighted. Additionally, the financial statement for 2022-2023 was presented and associative life was discussed with a focus on transparency and education, ensuring the understanding of the members of the assembly. Lively exchanges and delicious appetizers added to this memorable event!



“*Connexion Emploi and the CJE helped me a lot in taking charge of my career again. Before this program, I was lost and confused in my job search, but through the program, I regained my motivation and was provided all the necessary tools for my journey. My advisers really pushed me to step out of my comfort zone and to start pursuing my dreams again. My colleagues in the program also greatly inspired me. It really gave me the push that was missing to restart my career. I was unemployed, and then, finally, I got the job of my dreams as an engineer. Thank you CJE St-Laurent.*”

— Anonymous participant

CLIENTELE PROFILE

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION



NOT EMPLOYED,
NOT AT SCHOOL
54%



PART-TIME
STUDIES 5%

FULL-TIME
STUDIES 25%



FULL-TIME
JOB 9%

PART-TIME
JOB 5%



SELF-EMPLOYED
1%



OTHER 1%

LEVEL OF EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY
LEVEL
8%

NON-ESTABLISHED
IN QUEBEC
43%

OTHER
8%



SECONDARY
SCHOOL NOT
FINISHED
20%

COLLEGE
LEVEL
4%

SECONDARY V
12%

DIPLOMA OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
5%

MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME

LAST-RESORT
FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE
26%

EMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE
1%



OTHERS
7%

NO INCOME
52%

EMPLOYED
14%

LANGUAGE

(language in which the service has mainly been offered in)

FR => 84% **EN** => 16%

GENDER

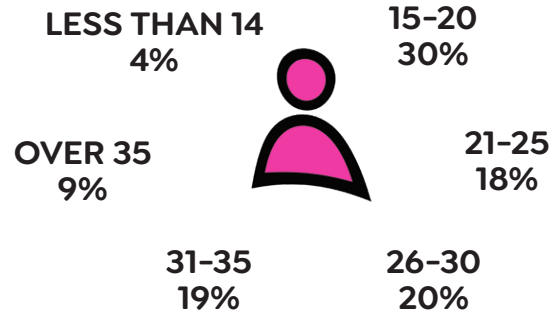
Women => 46% **Men** => 54%

-8%, Vs
2022-2023

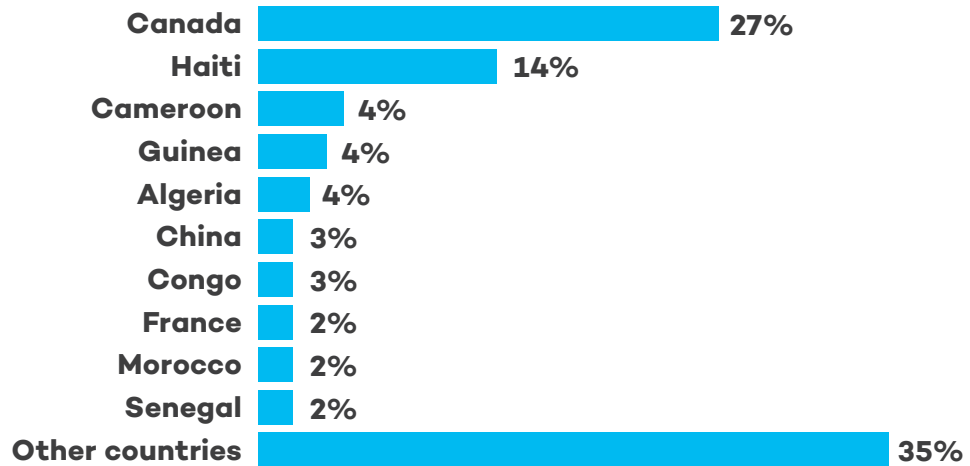
+9%, Vs
2022-2023

Other => 0%

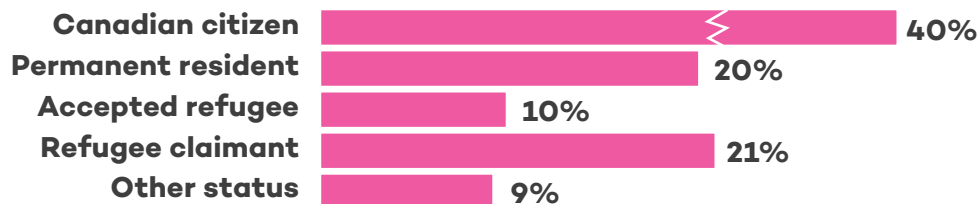
AGE



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



STATUS IN CANADA AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION



HIGHLIGHTS 2023-2024

Hooked on School Days

Between February 12th and 16th 2024, we celebrated and took part in the *Hooked on School Days #JPS2024*, a week during which the efforts of young students are highlighted and success strategies are promoted. To this end, we hosted a booth at three (3) different secondary schools with the aim of gathering information on the meaning of perseverance for secondary school students according to their age. Designed primarily to enhance young people's understanding of the factors contributing to school perseverance, the booth also aimed to provide them with resources and tools to help them achieve their academic goals.

In the end, we collected **251 votes** distributed as follows:

What does school perseverance mean to you?

- **Bouncing back after failure: 59%**
- **Finding success strategies: 18%**
- **Seeking help when I need it: 14%**
- **Engaging in activities that motivate me: 9%**

This activity not only allowed us to engage in discussions with young people of all ages about their success strategies but also to draw interesting conclusions that will enable us to adapt our interventions in the future:

- **Students know they want to bounce back after failure, but do not always know how;**
- **Students in reception classes are more likely to affirm that they will seek help when they need it;**
- **Many of them are unaware of the benefits of involvement in academic motivation;**
- **Young people have a hard time understanding what perseverance really represents.**

Breaking the isolation



For the holiday season and Valentine's Day, Saint-Laurent residents, along with a reception class from the Saint-Laurent secondary school, Émile-Legault building, were encouraged to create greeting cards and add a few warm words for the beneficiaries of the *Saint-Laurent CHSLD*. In total, a hundred cards were made to bring some joy to those who may feel isolated during these special times, strengthening intergenerational bonds.

HIGHLIGHTS 2023-2024

Scholarships Hang On! 2024 – 16th edition



The 2023-2024 year was brightened by the return of the “Hang On!” Scholarship event in person, following the lifting of health restrictions. Presented by the *Caisse Desjardins de Bordeaux-Cartierville-Saint-Laurent*, this 16th edition allowed twelve winners to receive in person scholarships totalling \$5200. Thanks to generous donators, it was possible to celebrate the efforts of young people from the Laurentian community under the themes of perseverance, return to school and academic success.

A Generous Donation for School Perseverance



For the third consecutive year, we renewed our partnership with the ALDO Group to offer to special needs students and students in reception classes a donation, in order to support them in their school perseverance.

In collaboration with Aldo's partners, including the Montreal Canadiens and DavidsTea, selected students from Saint-Laurent secondary school, Émile-Legault building, and Pierre-Laporte secondary school, Côte-Vertu campus, received a backpack filled with surprises.

In total, over 100 backpacks were given to students, containing gift cards, school supplies accessories, and much more!

HIGHLIGHTS 2023-2024

Two Generations, One Mike



This year, the podcast “Two Generations, One Mike” was broadcast for its second season! From November 2023 to February 2024, students from Saint-Laurent secondary school, Émile-Legault building, created four episodes about subjects they were passionate about, and they wished to explore with people from different generations. They discussed themes such as immigration, passions, censorship and career. Under the guidance of counsellors from the CJE St-Laurent and the Mixlab of the *Bibliothèque du Boisé*, the young participants assumed various roles: animation, creating chronicles, editing, and creative direction. This experience fostered enriching intergenerational encounters and benevolent exchanges on diverse topics, creating a space where the voices of the future met those of wisdom.

Free Tax Clinic

Thanks to Ms. Marwah Rizqy, Member of Parliament for Saint-Laurent and trained tax expert, along with her team of two (2) volunteers, the CJE St-Laurent held, for a third year, a free tax clinic. Held on April 13, 2023, this clinic was exclusively offered to young participants of the CJE St-Laurent with low income. Volunteers provided their help to 23 individuals for filling tax returns for the current year and for previous years.

Let's Celebrate Halloween!



The Halloween activity for Saint-Laurent families was a themed festivities event for both kids and adults. Coordinated and prepared by young students from Laurentian schools, this October afternoon was filled with riddles, games, handicrafts, activities and surprises for the whole family. By providing this gathering opportunity, the activity aimed to create a welcoming intergenerational space, fostering a sense of belonging to the neighbourhood and building camaraderie among neighbours while celebrating Halloween.

HIGHLIGHTS 2023-2024

Beautification of Passage Boa 2023-2024

The landscape beautification project of Passage Boa in collaboration with *Vert-Cité* is a project during which the participants from the Green Brigade got involved to maintain the work started last year. Young people have actively participated in various tasks such as weeding, planting, watering, and seeding to create a true urban paradise for pollinating insects. This activity was also interspersed with participatory workshops on neighbourhood biodiversity, heat islands, and the role of urban gardens in environmental well-being.

Summer Neighborhood Parties



During each summer neighbourhood party, the CJE held an interactive promotional booth. Much more than a simple information point, the booth turned into a veritable crossroads for meetings, exchanges and the celebration of community life. Promoting both our services and programs, neighbourhood parties enabled us to connect with over a hundred Laurentians, creating strong bonds with our local community and reinforcing our commitment to its outreach.

Collective Cooking

Two (2) community cooking workshops were held on July 4 and August 9, 2023, at the *Centre des loisirs de Saint-Laurent*, led by CJE St-Laurent employment counsellors. The purpose of these workshops was to develop skills such as collaboration, mutual aid, sharing, self-esteem, following a methodology and cultural integration, all while breaking isolation. Participants were brought to follow recipes and to share their cooking experience. These workshops allowed some participants to enrich their culinary vocabulary in French. Additionally, a historical and cultural presentation of the dishes was offered to the attendees. Participants had the opportunity to cook colourful vegetarian poké bowls and delicious Greek orzo salads as main dishes. For dessert, they cooked crispy fried bananas with a touch of honey, followed by our famous Québécois classic, *pouding chômeur*, in a mug. We had a total of 14 participants.

HIGHLIGHTS 2023-2024

A Good Start for Winter!



A huge thank you to our valued partner, GLOBO Shoes, for their invaluable support towards the 2023-2024 Snow Brigade. Thanks to their generosity and donation of boots, our young volunteers were well equipped to face the winter challenges while offering their help to the community. These quality boots were an essential element for our young participants as they traversed snow-covered streets to ensure the safety of the elderly and mobility-impaired during the coldest months of the year. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to GLOBO Shoes for their dedication to youth and their ongoing support for our initiative. Their contribution brought a real added value to the lives of our volunteers and the entire community.

CJE Environmental Committee

In order to take concrete steps to reduce its ecological footprint and promote environmentally friendly practices, the CJE St-Laurent established its own environmental committee in 2023. Comprised of committed and motivated individuals, the environmental committee aims to identify improvements that can be made in terms of sustainable development and to raise awareness about environmental issues. This year, the committee introduced composting at the CJE St-Laurent, offered awareness workshops to both employees and participants, and began transitioning to digital platforms to reduce paper use. All while engaging in several projects for next year!

HIGHLIGHTS 2023-2024

A Fabulous Partnership with the Saint-Laurent District!

In March 2023, the Day Camp Committee, in collaboration with the Saint-Laurent district, was formed. This project, which was renewed in March 2024, aims to enable the CJE St-Laurent to act as an external consultant in the selection process of day camp leaders as well as to support and refer young people whose applications were not successful to employability services. This initiative has allowed to create a wonderful partnership with the Day Camp of the Saint-Laurent district, and to offer support in job search processes to young people from Saint-Laurent for the summer period.

Let's Celebrate Stability!



This year, we had the privilege of celebrating 22 years of exceptional service from our Executive Director, Marc Grignon, and our Assistant Director, Marisa De Castro. Due to the constraints imposed by health restrictions, it had not been possible to properly celebrate their 20 years of service. However, this year, we finally had the chance to organize a celebration to honour these years of exemplary dedication since the opening of the CJE, in the presence of the entire team. The event included small symbolic gifts in recognition of their exceptional work, as well as a delicious cake to mark this wonderful achievement.

HIGHLIGHTS 2023-2024

Aire ouverte – Lieu satellite

To inform, equip, and support young adults in dealing with their obstacles, the CJE St-Laurent and the CIUSSS NIM collaborated to provide services to isolated and vulnerable young people in Saint-Laurent, aged 12 to 25. As part of a community initiative strengthening movement, the *Aire ouverte – Lieu satellite* project was established to maintain and reinforce trust bonds with the healthcare and social services system. To address transportation and accessibility challenges, a healthcare and social services professional was regularly present at the CJE St-Laurent premises to meet with young people seeking support in various areas of their lives, particularly those related to their physical and mental health.

Collaborative Mural



The collaborative mural project of *Ressources Jeunesse de Saint-Laurent (RJSL)* is an initiative resulting from a collaboration between RJSL, the CJE St-Laurent and graffiti artists from the Café Graffiti. This project aimed to involve about thirty young people in the decision-making process by consulting them on the creative choice of the mural to beautify and represent their environment in their own image. Furthermore, participants were encouraged to voice their opinions while benefiting from a workshop focusing on perspectives, colour choices, and the various techniques used by graffiti artists.

INTERVENTION FOCUSES

Universal Access

This intervention focus is divided into three (3) main categories under the theme of **Universal Access** for all residents of Saint-Laurent:

First, the CJE St-Laurent provides a **multi-service room** for its visitors. This multi-service room includes computers, a variety of resources in the form of brochures and a bulletin board of job offers.

In addition, anyone who comes to our offices or calls us receives **a listening ear, support, and guidance** from the reception staff. Whether internally within our organization or externally, each person seeking help is referred to a resource tailored to their expressed needs. During our opening hours, a multidisciplinary team is present to address various inquiries.

Moreover, the CJE St-Laurent attracts a large number of residents from the Saint-Laurent neighbourhood to participate in its **various activities**. Accessible to all residents of the neighbourhood, these activities offer support, entertainment, and moments of enjoyment. They cover a variety of topics aimed at raising awareness and informing the Laurentian community.



WHAT'S YOUR PROJECT?

Working

The *Working* element of the CJE St-Laurent helps to enhance the level of engagement and autonomy of the participants benefiting from our services in their employability journey. Among other things, through a reappropriation of their skills, young people regain the necessary enthusiasm to face their personal challenges regarding employability. The support offered by professionals and the strategies shared with them can enable them to develop their professional pride, either individually or as part of a project encouraging group participation. In other words, it's easier for these people to plan the next steps in their job search, as they feel more confident and in control of their abilities.

The group project in place within the CJE also allows for an awareness of this progression, by observing the fruit of the efforts of the members of each cohort. Therefore, over the course of the eight (8) weeks of participation, during networking activities for example, participants have the opportunity to demonstrate, through effective professional presentation, all the skills that the project allows them to develop.

As a new addition this year, as part of the *PSCJE — IS COMPÉTENCES* project, workshops related to employability were offered to meet the high demand for services from users. In total, 15 workshops were offered focusing on CV preparation, as part of the PSCJE project, with some of them being offered at partner organizations.



“Amazing collaboration with the CJE St-Laurent. Everyone is very pleasant and welcoming. Thank you for your kind attention, we love working with you!”

— Darrella, *Bonhomme à lunettes*

WHAT'S YOUR PROJECT?

Studying

The *Studying* element of the CJE St-Laurent enables to further explore a potential return to studies, as well as to promote school perseverance. As a result of their individual and group meetings, participants are equipped to deal with academic difficulties, as well as receiving support throughout their journey. These services provide them with the tools they need to persevere in school, or the support they need to learn about various programs of study. The CJE team considers it essential to inform participants about options for financial aid for studies, including loans and scholarships, as well as providing them with essential school and career information to support their academic progress. When necessary, an orientation service is available. Meetings with a school guidance counsellor, psychometric tests, a skills assessment and confirmation of career choice encourage personal exploration and help determine the most relevant field of study for the young participant.



13
SCOLARSHIPS
AWARDED



23
GROUP WORKSHOPS



171
CONSULTATIONS

“The professionalism, humanism and great wisdom demonstrated by the CJE facilitators and members during this training course leave me speechless. I was particularly impressed by the quality of the workshops and especially the approach related to this training. It's very ingenious. I highly recommend this training and this organization to everyone.”

— Youssouf Abdouraman

WHAT'S YOUR PROJECT?

Discovering

The *Discovering* element of the CJE St-Laurent allows for developing and acquiring new professional, social and personal skills. Whether it's to receive support with social or professional integration difficulties, or to help acquire a healthy lifestyle or healthy financial habits, the team is available to welcome and support participants in their various endeavours. There are many different services and projects allowing to address various issues.

Personal and Social Autonomy Project – Secrétariat à la jeunesse

This project aims to develop and acquire professional, social, and personal skills while providing an intervention tailored to the needs of young people. This psychosocial support and accompaniment service offers listening, referral, information and support in certain administrative procedures. Additionally, by aligning realistic and needs-oriented goals, an action plan is established. In this project, it is also possible to discuss various topics and break isolation during different workshops and activities.



My Finances, My Choices ©

This project, funded by Desjardins, aims to educate young people on good financial practices, help them acquire healthy consumption habits, and guide them in their financial choices. The proposed lessons include creating a balanced budget, discussing the importance of saving, preventing over-indebtedness, and developing financial autonomy.



Autonomy – PSCJE/SACAIS

The objective of this project is to enable young people to achieve, with the necessary help and appropriate support, a balance between their physical health and their mental health. On one hand, group workshops addressing various topics related to healthy lifestyles allow young people to share and discuss different subjects. On the other hand, through personalized individual support from a healthcare and social services professional, these young people can achieve the various established objectives with the help of different tools. Finally, young people can also be referred to partner organizations in case of specific needs.



WHAT'S YOUR PROJECT?

Getting Involved

Through many activities, young people participating in the *Getting Involved* element can acquire valuable professional experience while giving back to their community. Whether it's for the short or medium term, the CJE St-Laurent offers many great opportunities to get involved.

Vélogik (community bicycle mechanics workshop)

Thanks to Vélogik, young people participating in this project benefit from a unique opportunity to acquire valuable professional skills within a structured environment. In addition to receiving essential support for their socio-professional reintegration, they have the opportunity to enrich their community engagement by contributing to the well-being of the Laurentian community, while also discovering the ins and outs of bicycle mechanics. Furthermore, they have access to a range of diverse workshops focused on best practices for job searching and the development of essential skills in the workplace, both behavioural and technical.



**520
REPARATIONS**

Snow Brigade

The Snow Brigade is a snow-clearing initiative aimed at supporting vulnerable residents of Saint-Laurent during heavy snowfalls. Throughout the winter, in addition to clearing a safe passageway for the beneficiaries, participants are sensitized to the challenges of the aging population while actively engaging in their community, strengthening intergenerational and community bonds. Throughout the program, young people participate in workshops on various topics such as mental health and employability, in order to be adequately equipped for their future job search.



**260
SNOW REMOVAL**

“ I found Vélogik to be an incredible experience! We had the opportunity to interact with people from various backgrounds. This program allowed me to acquire new skills and also to put into practice skills that I already possessed. ”

— Athoy

Green Brigade

The Green Brigade is a volunteer initiative that invites participants to lend their support to the *Serres du Dos Blancs* by participating in various urban horticulture tasks, such as watering, seeding, harvesting, and sorting. Under the supervision of specialists, volunteers are allowed to gain not only their first work experience but also to meet new people, learn about environmental issues, discover new interests, spend time outdoors, and develop new knowledge and skills in horticulture and urban gardening.

Entrepreneurship and Volunteering Component

Through the various volunteer activities available, young people can develop many professional skills while providing valuable help to different vulnerable communities. During these activities, they can explore their interests in areas and subjects such as art, the environment, well-being, healthy lifestyles, and communication. These areas and subjects foster their engagement and skill development, allowing them to gain meaningful volunteering or entrepreneurial experiences, while giving back to the Laurentian community.



5
ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTIVITIES



140
VOLUNTEERS



“The visits we conducted at the Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi Saint-Laurent allowed us to meet young people and promote our jobs and professions. It’s a great privilege to engage with dynamic young people who have a genuine interest in careers at Hydro-Québec. During each visit, we are always accompanied by at least one field employee who brings a lot of credibility and visibility to participants. We are particularly interested in meeting young persons from diverse backgrounds. The visits also allow us to create wonderful collaborations with several employment counselors, as well as to establish contacts with school guidance counselors.

Our collaboration is very valuable, as it is very important to promote our jobs, especially in the context of labor shortages.”

— Hydro-Québec

ACTION PLAN 2024-2025



Thank you to our donors!

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OUR FUNDERS

