Contact list Selected Quebec organizations October 2005

The Centre for Literacy has had a partnership for several years with the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) seeking to expand and normalize collaborations between museums, community arts and adult literacy groups as a way to reach new learners in non-traditional settings. From 1993, the CMA, funded by the National Literacy Secretariat, ran 34 "Reading the Museum" pilot projects over a decade. In 2002, a national symposium asked how the learning from these projects could be captured and sustained. Out of these consultations, The Centre and the CMA developed two new projects – in Montreal and in Vancouver – to test the potential of using community facilitators to help connect groups across these sectors and play a liaison role in creating new partnerships.

In 2004-05, The Centre received additional funding for the Quebec project from the Ministry of Education of Quebec (now known as MELS). The Ministry was interested in exploring the idea of independent community facilitation in adult education after having led a European study tour where this practice is well established in several countries.

We were surprised and excited by the level of engagement this project generated. Our facilitator contacted selected museums, arts and adult literacy groups to ask about their current use of community resources and interest in future collaborations. Some described projects already in place, but most expressed openness to new possibilities, noting that time and resources were barriers. A further hurdle was that literacy groups did not even know what museum/arts resources were available or whom to contact, and museum/arts groups did not know how to reach adult basic learners.

The list below is our first attempt to facilitate contact across these sectors. The list is not exhaustive or definitive. It does however include a substantial number of Montreal museums, heritage and community arts who work with or would like to work with adult basic learners. It also has other Quebec links for those who live beyond Montreal. We uncovered opportunities in almost every corner of the province, and many on the web. The list crosses language lines, as we hope will become the norm. The most innovative projects with adult literacy groups in this region have been done by francophone organizations. Three of them are included.

We sent the information back to each group for verification, noting that if we did not receive a response within a set deadline, we would assume the information is correct. Please notify us if you find errors and please add your own information if you want to be part of this growing network. We hope that colleagues in other provinces will create similar lists, and that museum/heritage/literacy collaborations will flourish.

The list is organized into four categories, alphabetically within each:

- Museums and Heritage Groups includes individual organizations visited or contacted.
- Museum and other Networks includes networks of related groups with common mandates
- Arts Organizations/Community Arts Programs includes community-based arts groups other than museums and artists collaboratives
- Adult Literacy Groups/Networks includes three francophone groups that have engaged in related projects, and networks of English-language literacy groups that involve most providers in the province.

Museums and Heritage Groups

• Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site of Canada, The

1255 St-Joseph Boulevard

Lachine, QC H8S 2M2 Cost: Free

Telephone: 514-637-7433 Web site: www.pc.gc.ca/fu

Contact: Daniel Benjamin, Acting Assistant, Visitor Services

Telephone: 514-283-6054

E-mail: Daniel.benjamin@pc.gc.ca

Description:

Small, single-themed, with many items to touch and manipulate, the Fur Trade Museum easily attracts those daunted by too much written information. It has relevance to both long-time Montrealers and newcomers alike, given that many of our city's institutions and streets are named after the fur barons whose lives are depicted in the museum.

Part of the Parcs Canada museums network, this museum has an educational mandate. The current director, who is interested in attracting more adult students, has recently developed a pilot project for this group entitled **Voyage to the Edge of the World**. This project invites each student to imagine themselves as voyageurs and describe their own travel experiences, whether the moment they arrived in Canada or their first time out of their neighbourhood, city, etc. "You are a part of history, you just don't know it," he tells students. Next year, they plan to have an exhibit where samples of the students' writing will be displayed alongside quotes from early explorers. This museum is a favourite with literacy and second-language students from James Lyng Adult Education Centre.

• Hudson Bay Company Museum

The Bay 585 Sainte-Catherine Street West, 5th Floor, Montreal, QC H3B 3Y5 Cost: Free

Web site: www.hbc.com/hbcheritage/galleries/montreal/nowshowing

Contact: Fanny Lobrot, Regional Manager, Galleries and Heritage, Eastern Canada

Telephone: 514-281-4777 E-mail: fanny.lobrot@hbc.com

Description:

This museum is an inner-city, little-known gem, free for the viewing. Opened just one year ago, it depicts in a most accessible way the history of the fur trade and of Morgan's, Canada's oldest department store, at the site where The Bay store is currently located.

It is a hands-on museum where you can touch things, experience what it was like to carry a bale of furs, or to shop for material to sew or have made into a dress.

Because this is a new museum with a mandate to educate, there is plenty of scope to develop projects for adult students. The curator is open to ideas and is eager for visitors. For adults learning to read, this is potentially a great resource. It is a good complement to the Fur Trade Museum and the George Etienne Cartier museum.

• La Maison St-Gabriel

2146 Place Dublin Montreal, QC H3K 2A2

Cost: Can be adjusted to the means of the group Web site: www.mainsonsaint-gabriel.qc.ca

Contact: Soeur Madeleine Juneau, Executive Director

Telephone: 514-935-5692

E-mail: msgrcip@globetrotter.qc.ca

Description:

This museum has a long tradition of education and, as described on the web site, a well-developed program for school children on the early history of Montreal, particularly the history of education. Located in a 17th-century house in Pointe St-Charles, this compact museum focuses largely on the lives of "les Filles du Roy" and Marguerite Bourgeoys, a pioneer in literacy for girls and First Nations people.

The director has expressed interest in developing programs for adults, which makes this museum a possible site for a literacy partnership. It is well suited to literacy groups, provided the guide has been prepared to respond to their interests and language.

• L'Autre Montréal

2000 St-Joseph Boulevard East, bureau 36 Montreal, QC H2H 1E4

Cost: \$15 per person for tours open to the general public; group rates available

Tour duration: Three hours

Web site: http://www.autremontreal.com/

Contact: Catherine Browne, guide and researcher

Telephone: 514-521-7802

E-mail: info@autremontreal.com

Description:

This 20-year-old organization offers tours of Montreal – and one on the South Shore – along numerous historical themes and themes of urban development. Many of these are available in English. See the web site for details.

While the group offers no particular service for literacy or second language students, they are able to adapt their tours to the audience. This is a potential resource for literacy groups interested in getting to know their city better, although cost could be a barrier.

• Marguerite-Bourgeoys Museum

400 St-Paul Street East Montreal, QC H2Y 1H4

Cost: \$6 for adults (\$5.00 with group rate); \$4 for students

Web site: www.marguerite-bourgeoys.com

Contact: Genevieve Laurendeau, Coordinator of Special Projects and Media Relations, or

Valerie Lafleur

Telephone: 514-282-8670 x 223

E-mail: vlafleur@marguerite-bourgeoys.com

Description:

This museum tells the story of Marguerite Bourgeoys and her legacy of public education, as the mother of Quebec adult educators, and the first to push for education for girls, women and First Nations people. The museum welcomes adult students; it has a well-developed program for elementary school and is willing to adapt this for adults. This museum would fit well into a project or presentation on the history of literacy and adult education in Quebec.

• McCord Museum of Canadian History

690 Sherbrooke Street West Montreal, QC H3A 1E9

Cost: \$10.00 for adults; \$5.50 for students Web site: www.musee-mccord.qc.ca

Contact: Annabelle Laliberté, Head of Programs and Visitor Services

Telephone: 514-398-7100 x 250

E-mail: annabelle.laliberte@mccord.mcgill.ca

Description

This museum is a public and research museum dedicated to the preservation, diffusion and appreciation of Canadian history. It offers exhibitions, cultural activities, guided tours, school tours and publications. Because of its size and largely text-based exhibits, the McCord is not an ideal museum for literacy students; nevertheless, it is developing a program for second-language and literacy students. At present, the museum offers a program for French second language students; in September 2006, it plans a literacy program, in French, to be followed by one in English.

The McCord web site, on the other hand, offers literacy instructors and students many possibilities for research subjects and for getting to know the museum before a visit. It also has some history games.

• Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre

5151 Cote Ste-Catherine Road. (1, Carré Cummings Square)

Montreal, QC H3W 1M6

Cost: \$8/adult; \$5/student, but "won't ever turn anyone away"

Web site: www.mhmc.ca

Contact: Sophie Katz-Milo, Museum Coordinator

Telephone: 514-345-2605

E-mail: sophie.katz-milo@mhmc.ca

Description:

This museum's mandate is to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust, the attempted destruction of the Jewish people by Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945. Its mission is to alert the public to the destructive powers of anti-semitism, racism, bigotry and hate, while promoting pluralism and respect for diversity. Tours are adapted to the particulars of the group: Because of the sensitivity shown to each visiting group – the centre receives hearing-impaired people, disabled children, etc. – this museum is potentially a valuable resource to literacy groups.

The Director of Education, Sonia Zylberberg, a former literacy tutor, is interested in welcoming literacy students. One adult student, who visited last year, wrote up an account for the museum's newsletter.

• Montreal Museum of Fine Arts: Sharing the Museum

1380 Sherbrooke Street West Montreal, Quebec H3G 2T9

Telephone: 514-285-2000 Web site: www.mmfa.qc.ca

Contact: Marilyn Lajeunesse, Educational Programmes Officer - adults

Telephone: 514-285-1600- x 231 E-mail: mlajeunesse@mbamtl.org

Description:

This program, begun in 2004, is the second phase of a successful community/museum program called "Bridging Art and the Community". Prior to these two programs, the museum had participated in a literacy project through the Canadian Museums Association's "Reading the Museum" program. "Sharing the Museum" allows community groups, in collaboration with the museum, to design their own educational program. To demystify and decrease the potential intimidation factor of coming to a large downtown museum, a museum educator will meet with the group on their territory, if deemed necessary; the work may be divided between the museum and the locale of the community association.

There is no cost and no limit to the duration of the program; groups may design a project that takes place over several months. The only condition is that the project must relate in some way to the museum's collection and exhibitions. Community groups are encouraged to visit the galleries and use the studio facilities at the museum.

This could be a valuable resource for literacy organizations.

• Musée des maîtres et artisans du Québec

615 Ste-Croix Avenue Ville St-Laurent, QC H4L 3X6 (Metro Du College, close to CEGEP St-Laurent)

Cost: \$5 adults, \$3 students Web site: www.mmag.gc.ca

Contact: Lisa Miniaci, Supervisor of Educational Services

Telephone: 514-747-7367 x 7203 E-mail: l.miniaci@mmag.qc.ca

Description

This Museum focuses on everyday objects from the past, and visitors get hands-on experience making things such as lanterns, wooden mosaics, pottery, etc. See the web site for more detail.

The museum has worked with adults in ESL or FSL programs: Supervisor of Educational Services, Lisa Miniaci, first meets the teacher to identify the interests and aptitudes of the group and then develops her program. They are always looking for new adult students and are interested in working with literacy groups.

• Redpath Museum

859 Sherbrooke Street West Montreal, QC H3A 2K6

Cost: Free for visit, \$2 if guided Web site: www.mcgill.ca/redpath

Contact: Ingrid Birker, Science Educator

Telephone: 514-398-4086 x 4092 E-mail: ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca

Description:

This museum specializes in natural history and ethnology. Its small size and limited number of objects make it very accessible, whether through its delightful shell collection or impressive Egyptian mummy, gorilla and dinosaur and whale skeletons. The museum also lends itself well to treasure hunts. A tour can be arranged with a volunteer student guide.

Its programs are aimed largely at the elementary school population. While the museum has no programs adapted to the adult learner, it is open to the public six days a week, and its size and contents make it a potential attraction for adult literacy groups. The Atelier des lettres makes excursions to this museum which their students have enjoyed.

Because it is very low-tech -- a true 19th century museum -- it could also give ideas to literacy organizations that want to create their own museums, a suggestion made by an adult student who attended a recent workshop.

• Sir George Etienne Cartier National Historic Site of Canada

458 Notre-Dame Street East Montreal, QC H2Y 1C8

Cost: \$4.00 for adults; \$3.00 for seniors; \$2.00 for youth Web site: www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/qc/etiennecartier/index e.asp

Contact: David Ledoyen, Assistant, Visitor Services

Telephone: 514-283-2282

Description:

At this house museum depicting the life of both the bourgeois and the servant in Montreal, the museum workers put the visitor in the place of one or the other. This cozy, welcoming house makes visitors feel at ease. During the summer, plays are performed on the theme of life in the 19th century. For a literacy organization, it could be part of a circuit of historical museums tours and might be included in a historical project.

Museum contact David Ledoyon notes that the museum's program is easily adapted to various groups, and that groups of adult students are asked to participate as the historical characters who might have lived in such a house. He says, "We've done lots to develop oral skills with immigrants...."

Museum & Other Networks

• ÉCONOMUSÉE® (le réseau) du Québec Société ÉCONOMUSÉE® du Québec

Société ÉCONOMUSÉE[®] du Québec Louis S. St-Laurent House 203, East Grande-Allée Québec, QC G1R 2H8

Web site: www.economusees.com

Contact: Lucie Marcoux, Coordinator of ECONOMUSEUM® Services for Quebec

Telephone: 418-694-4466

Description:

This is a network of museums/active studios or workshops of artisans found throughout Quebec. The ECONOMUSEUM® concept, which was set up in part to help regional artisans survive through the combination of production and tourism, lends itself well to learning through doing as workshops are part of their activities.

Because this is a network, it could be a valuable resource to English-language literacy groups outside the Montreal area if a particular museum is geographically close enough to the literacy group. Details are on the web site.

• Parks Canada

Centre de services de Québec

Web site: www.pc.gc.ca

Contact: Jacqueline Bélanger or Lise Cyr, Project Managers, Heritage Preservation

Telephone: 1-866-734-4441

Parks Canada's national historic sites are found throughout Quebec, have an educational mandate and offer their services in both English and French. This network could be a valuable resource for both urban and rural Quebec English-language literacy groups.

• Natural History Installations

Montreal and the Greater Montreal area is well served by numerous installations covering nature, ecology, botany and agriculture, many of which are easily reached by public transportation and most of which offer interpretation services in English as well as French. They include:

The Botanical Gardens

Web site: www2.ville.montreal.gc.ca/jardin/en/act_educ/act_educ.htm

See links via "educational activities"

The Biodome

Web site: www2.ville.montreal.gc.ca/biodome/site/site.php?langue=en

The Biosphere

Web site: www.biosphere.ec.gc.ca/site.asp?l=en

Parc des îles (on Ile Ste-Helene),

Insectarium

On the grounds of the Botanical Gardens (see their website)

Angrignon Park Farm

Web site: www.montreal.com/parks/angrignon.html

On the West Island:

The farm and nature trails **at Cap St-Jacques**, in Pierrefonds, or the **Ecomuseum** (www.ecomuseum.ca), in Ste-Anne-de-Belleville.

To the north:

Parc de la Visitation, on Rivière des Prairies, just north of Gouin boul.

To the east:

Parc nature de la Pointe La Prairie.

Information on the **Nature Parks** network on the island of Montreal may be found at: http://services.ville.montreal.qc.ca/parcs-nature/an/coorpara.htm.

On the island of Laval:

Parc de la rivière des Mille-Iles (<u>www.parc-mille-iles.qc.ca</u>) has a well developed educational program, available only in French.

These nature interpretation sites can offer many students pleasant alternative learning opportunities - the chance to be outdoors, learn the social and natural history of a site, as well, perhaps, as a new skill, such as canoeing.

Arts Organizations/Community Arts Programs

• Centre des arts actuels Skol

372 St. Catherine Street West, Room 314 Montreal, QC H3B 1A2

Telephone: 514-398-9322 Web site: www.skol.qc.ca

Contact: Anne Bertrand, Artistic Coordinator or Adriana de Oliveira, Art Educator

E-mail skol@skol.qc.ca

Description:

This gallery offers a free visit/discussion/introduction to contemporary art adapted to the visiting group. The art educator is a professional who is adept at listening to the viewers and posing questions (in English of French) to elicit thought and feeling regarding the particular art installation. Skol reaches out to community groups. It invites and encourages groups to come back to as many of the 5-6 annual exhibitions as they like. Skol is a member of RCAAQ (Regroupement des centres d'artistes autogérés du Québec).

• ELAN (English-Language Arts Network)

120 Atwater Avenue, Suite 3 Montréal, QC H3Z 1X4

Web site: www.quebec-elan.org Telephone: 514-933-0878

Contact: Guy Rodgers, Director Telephone: 450-441-5178 E-mail: info@quebec-elan.org

Description:

ELAN, founded in November 2004 out of the Quebec Arts Summit, is a nascent organization whose mandate is to foster the development of the arts in English in Quebec. Given that English-speaking artists are all over the province, long term, ELAN would seem like a natural for partnerships with English-language literacy groups, provided outside funding, such as through Engrenage Noir (see below), can be found. For the moment, ELAN has no plans for community outreach.

• ENGRENAGE NOIR

5131 Fabre Street Montreal, QC H2J 3W6

Telephone: 514-523-5700

Mail should be sent to:

C.P. 223, Succ. DeLormier

Montréal, QC H2H 2N6

Web site: www.engrenagenoir.ca/index.php?lang=2

Contact: Devora Neumark, Coordinator: devora@engrenagenoir.ca or Johanne Chagnon, Coordinator: levier@engrenagenoir.ca

Description:

This foundation, dedicated to helping Quebec artists who want to work with community organizations, is a little-known resource. A single artist can receive \$10,000 (which may be renewed) to work with a community group, while two or more artists may receive \$16,000. There is also funding available for resources and for putting together a proposal. All proposals must emphasize partnership between the two parties.

Groups or artists who want to take advantage of Engrenage noir should plan at least a year ahead as there is a rigorous application process that includes a mandatory workshop lasting two consecutive weekends.

• Quebec Writers' Federation

1200 Atwater Avenue, Suite 3 Montreal, QC H3Z 1X4

Web site: www.qwf.org

Contact: Lori Schubert, Executive Director

Telephone: 514-933-0878 E-mail: <u>admin@qwf.org</u>

Description:

The Quebec Writers' Federation (QWF) aims to promote and encourage English-language writing and writers in Quebec. To achieve this, they are playing an increasingly prominent role in the community as an arts presenter and professional and community educator, as well as the representative of Quebec's English-language writers. QWF members include not only professional and emerging writers, but also those interested in high quality literary events, activities and programs. Therefore, QWF ought to be a most natural fit with many Quebec literacy organizations, and does indeed have a writer-in-the-community program, which is currently being evaluated and made more formal.

The QWF has a directory of numerous Quebec writers and poets and could be a valuable resource in terms of matching a particular writer with a literacy group, either by region or by type of writer.

Literacy Groups

Atelier des lettres

1710 Beaudry Street Montreal, QC H2L 3E7

Telephone: 514-524-0507

Contact: Martine Fillion, responsable de la formation

E-mail: latelier@gc.aira.com

This is one of the few Quebec literacy organizations that has had an enduring relationship with a museum. In 1999, the community-based literacy organization developed its first project with the Economusée du Fiers Monde, through the Reading the Museums program. Since then, Atelier des letters has continued its partnership with the community-based social history museum, creating three exhibits developed and written by the participants: *ABC et travail*, 1999, depicting the work experience of four participants; *Journée de fête*, 2002, depicting what the idea of celebrations meant to five of the participants; and *Histoire d'alpha*, 2005, telling of the history of the Atelier des letters by nine participants.

Another element that sets this group apart is their use of a museum exhibition "as a tool for popular education". "We believe that museums are an accessible medium even if one is illiterate," says coordinator Martine Fillion.

Fillion attributes the success of this partnership to 1) the mandate of the particular museum which is to reflect the history of the neighbourhood and involve the citizens of the Centre-Sud area of Montreal; 2) the commitment of the teacher-responsable to this type of project; 3) the physical and psychic accessibility of the museum to the literacy group; 4) the chemistry between the director of the museum, its community outreach person, and the literacy teacher; 5) the fact that the project is undertaken in a professional manner and the students must leave the comfort of their familiar environment to enter a mainstream environment and take their place within it.

Funding for the projects has come from various sources: The first exhibition was funded by Reading the Museum, the second by the Atelier and the Economusée, and the third by federal-provincial project funding (IFPCA).

Next year, Fillion will produce a document on the history and development of the Atelier-Economusée partnership.

• Carrefour d'Education Populaire de Pointe St-Charles

2356 Centre Street Montreal, Quebec H3K 1J7

Web site: www.communautique.gc.ca/carrefour

Contact: Elyse De Coster, Coordinator

Telephone: 514-596-4444

E-mail: carrefour.anim@csdm.qc.ca

This French-language community education centre has offered literacy instruction for the past 30 years. It was involved in the Reading the Museum program with the McCord Museum and featured in the *Reading the Museum* video. The program has strong links to their community and operates in a democratic manner so that any decisions taken regarding a new project must be agreed to by all the participants. In 2005, they chose health as the subject around which to build a literacy project.

• CEDA (Centre d'éducation des adultes)

2515 Delisle Street Montreal, QC H3J 1K8

Web site: www.ceda22.com

Contact: Danielle Arcand, Teacher

Telephone: 514-596-4428 E-mail: <u>alpha@ceda22.com</u>

When our facilitator first contacted CEDA, members of the intermediate level literacy class were preparing a presentation on Marguerite Bourgeoys for the class. Their teacher was glad to have the name of the director of La Maison St-Gabriel, and eventually arranged a visit for the students that proved beneficial to their presentation.

This group also attends the free discussion groups/meet the artist offered by the artist-run gallery, SKOL (see Galerie Skol under Arts). They learned about SKOL through a mailing. This was the first year CEDA participated and the group attended two shows. The students are open about expressing their thoughts and feelings on unusual material and to learning about the history of art. The teacher appreciated the reception given her group by the art educator at SKOL. "The participants felt warmly received and well-respected," she says.

• LLC-Q/LVQ

Laubach Literacy of Canada – Quebec/Literacy Volunteers of Quebec

153 Sugar Hill Road Lac-Brome, QC J0E 1V0

Web Site: http://www.nald.ca/lvq.htm

Coordinator: Joanni Tannebaum Telephone: 450-243-5346 E-mail: <u>llcqlvq@sympatico.ca</u>

Laubach Literacy of Canada-Quebec/Literacy Volunteers of Quebec (LLC-Q/LVQ) is a volunteer, non-profit organization affiliated with Laubach Literacy Canada, dedicated to training tutors to help adults and youth acquire or improve reading, writing, numeracy and life skills. They work through a one-on-one or group tutoring approach in the English language. Member groups sensitize the public to the need for literacy through the media and public outreach. LLC-Q/LVQ supports programs that focus on meeting the literacy needs of families.

• QELA

Quebec English Literacy Alliance

P.O. Box 401 Lachute, QC J8H 3X9

Website: http://www.qela.qc.ca/

Contact: Danielle Hay Telephone: 450-562-3719

The Quebec English Literacy Alliance (QELA), a partnership of English literacy providers, is dedicated to networking, training and information sharing activities, advocating for the enhancement of literacy activities in the province. They are particularly interested in providing a mechanism through which the activities of Quebec anglophone literacy groups may be coordinated, and to open QELA activities to other literacy providers in the province.

QLWG

Quebec Literacy Working Group 3005 William Stuart Sainte-Foy, QC

G1V 1V4

Website: http://www.qela.qc.ca/QLWG.htm

Telephone: 418-651-3022

Coordinator: Patti L. Moore E-mail: moorep@cqsb.qc.ca

The Quebec Literacy Working Group (QLWG) is a provincial committee of school board representatives committed to the promotion, advancement and support of adult, youth and family literacy within the provincial English sector. Through the adult education services of their eleven partner boards, QLWG has the expertise to assist in the development of lifelong learning initiatives. They have a large number of community partners and contacts to help fulfill this mandate.

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