



2013 TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS

Centraide's Southern Region

THE TERRITORY AND ITS POPULATION

At first, Centraide's Southern Region mainly corresponded to the territory of the diocese of Saint-Jean and later extended to part of the Regional County Municipality (RCM) of Le Haut-Richelieu located south of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. The Southern Region now includes the urban agglomeration of Longueuil, which is made up of the Ville de Longueuil and the four reconstituted municipalities of Boucherville, Brossard, Saint-Bruno and Saint-Lambert. It also includes the RCMs of Le Haut-Richelieu, Roussillon, Marguerite-D'Youville and parts of La Vallée-du-Richelieu and Les Jardins-de-Napierville.

The Southern Region covers a vast territory that is five times larger than the Island of Montreal and that includes pockets of poverty along with well-off sectors. This territory's particular geographical character is defined by three areas with their own realities and dynamics. From the periphery to the centre, the landscape of the Southern Region is defined as follows: an outlying agricultural sector (particularly in Les Jardins-de-Napierville and Le Haut-Richelieu, excluding Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu), a middle periurban area of suburbs that covers part of the agglomeration of Longueuil, and a dense urban core made up of municipalities in the urban agglomeration of Longueuil.

The Southern Region is a territory of overlapping administrative entities that do not always share the same goals or priorities. Involving stakeholders on a territorial basis and implementing consultation mechanisms based on networks of belonging is difficult in this territory. Administrative restructuring represents a challenge when it comes to defining a shared vision in order to harmonize or coordinate local and regional social development plans.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL FABRIC

Despite the expanse of its territory, the Southern Region is home to rich and dynamic community life. Depending on the region, municipality or neighbourhood, the community network can be young or old, limited and dispersed, or even diverse and concentrated—all at the same time. Agencies and institutions work within multiple consultative bodies. The territory has about 60 of these entities, most of which are sectoral (based on clientele or theme) instead of territorial. These consultation platforms most often include stakeholders from different networks who work on the social problems they are familiar with: early childhood and families, youth, seniors, food security, etc.

In terms of territorial consultation, it should be noted that in the borough of Vieux-Longueuil, the Corporation de développement communautaire (CDC) de Longueuil includes seven neighbourhood round tables that work to improve quality of life. A few other municipalities have developed similar mechanisms. In each RCM, CDCs now play an increasingly prominent role.

SNAPSHOT of the territory

Nearly 800,000 people in private households

A vast territory of diverse realities: urban and rural; poor sectors and well-off ones

Population divided among the urban agglomeration of Longueuil (380,000 people, or 49% of the population) and five RCMs: Roussillon (148,000), Le Haut-Richelieu (107,000 people), Marguerite-D'Youville (69,000 people), La Vallée-du-Richelieu (45,000 people) and Les Jardins-de-Napierville (19,000 people)

The three most populated municipalities: Longueuil (226,000 people), Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu (86,000 people) and Châteauguay (42,000 people)

Major demographic growth in many RCMs
Major increases have been observed in the sector of La Vallée-du-Richelieu that is part of Centraide's territory (+18%) as well as in Marguerite-D'Youville (+9%) and Roussillon (+9%)

Nearly one out of three households are renters (31%)

One out of ten people lives alone (10%)

Socioeconomic contrasts
In the Southern Region, 10% of the population, or 74,000 people, live below the low-income cutoff

The urban agglomeration of Longueuil (13%), and even more in the boroughs of Greenfield Park (16%) and Vieux-Longueuil (19%), have the highest rates of people living below the low-income cutoff

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Sociodemographic and economic data – 2006 Census

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A number of institutional bodies are also leading stakeholders when it comes to social and community development in the Southern Region. These mainly include the three regional conferences of elected officers (CRÉ de Longueuil, CRÉ de la Montérégie-Est, and the CRÉ de La Vallée du Haut-Saint-Laurent), the health and social services agency and its four CSSSs, local development centres (CLDs), and the municipalities. There are also some community groups that act on a regional level, such as the Regroupement des organismes communautaires famille de la Montérégie, the Regroupement des CPE de la Montérégie, the Table de concertation des groupes de femmes de la Montérégie, the Table des organismes communautaires et bénévoles (TROC-Montérégie), agency associations that serve handicapped people, and more.

In 2013-2014, investment from Centraide of Greater Montreal in the Southern Region will total more than \$6 million divided among 60 projects and agencies.

ISSUES THAT ENGAGE CENTRAIDE

Centraide's needs analysis for the territory is in keeping with its previous assessments. Some issues are applicable more or less throughout the territory but appear in different forms depending on the setting—urban, periurban or rural. On the other hand, needs—and strategies to meet these needs—are constantly evolving.

• Public transit

No matter whom you ask, public transit is always at the top of the list of major issues for this territory. All types of people are affected by this issue, particularly by the lack of integration with the public transit system on the South Shore. The cost of transportation has a real impact on vulnerable populations, who often lack motorized means of getting around. This situation further isolates individuals and hinders their accessibility to services offered by community agencies. Alternative solutions to public transit are often difficult and costly, but a few promising initiatives have nevertheless been attempted in certain areas.

• Youth and families

There has been staggering demographic growth in some RCMs, particularly Roussillon, La Vallée-du-Richelieu and Marguerite-D'Youville. The significant increase has made it more difficult to ensure that services are adequate for families' needs and has sometimes made accessibility a complex issue.

When it comes to youth throughout the territory, the phenomenon of street gangs has been emerging or growing, particularly in certain urban or periurban neighbourhoods. The territory also has to deal with youth problems tied to unemployment and school dropouts. The issue of academic perseverance is a priority for every community.

Although shared, these complex realities are not uniform for each area. It is therefore important to effectively adapt methods and strategies to each context and ensure that they are anchored in collective action instead of individual effort.

The Southern Region, a young territory

Demographic weight of youth much higher than that of seniors: 18% children under the age of 15 compared to 12% seniors aged 65 and older

More single-parent families in the urban agglomeration of Longueuil

One out of four families with children (26%) in the Southern Region is a single-parent family. Half of these families (53%) reside in the urban agglomeration of Longueuil

Low number of immigrants across the Southern Region, with a concentration in the urban agglomeration of Longueuil

One out of ten people (10%) in the Southern Region is an immigrant. For the entire urban agglomeration of Longueuil, the rate is one out of six (16%). In Brossard, one out of three people is an immigrant (33%)

For the entire Southern Region, nearly one out of ten people belongs to a visible minority (8%). 84% of them live in the urban agglomeration of Longueuil

For the entire Southern Region, one renter household out of three (33%) dedicates a high percentage of income to rent, or more than 30%. The urban agglomeration of Longueuil has the highest percentage (35%) and the highest number of households in this situation (21,205)

INVESTMENT

from Centraide of Greater Montreal

Volunteer action

- Centre d'action bénévole de Boucherville
- Centre d'action bénévole de Saint-Hubert
- Centre d'action bénévole de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu
- Centre d'action bénévole d'Iberville et de la région
- Centre d'action bénévole Interaction de Noyan et de Clarenceville
- Centre d'entraide régional d'Henryville (CERH)
- Centre de Bénévolat de la Rive-Sud (head office)

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• Housing

Housing-related problems, whether they stem from the diffuse poverty in the RCMs or concentrated poverty in the urban sector, pose similar challenges. Each sector is looking to attract a well-off population and, as a result, tends to hide the realities of poverty in its neighbourhood.

In rural and semiurban environments, the construction sector is building opulent single-family homes. In urban settings, housing units have been converted into condominiums at a high pace (with one of the highest rates in Quebec, according to data from the FRAPRU). In the majority of municipalities, there has been a low number, if not a total lack, of social housing units, particularly for families. Finally, a number of stakeholders have stressed how difficult it is to get funding, and they have pointed to the complexity of social housing projects that are subject to interminable delays. These combined factors mean that housing has become a major concern and a cause of impoverishment for a growing segment of the population. This makes it all the more meaningful that different stakeholders have joined forces in recent years to tackle this issue.

• Social problems

While urban territories are home to major areas of poverty with concentrated problems related to single parenthood, immigration, and the aging of the population, rural areas must cope with issues such as a loss of vitality due to population exodus, a lack of services, isolation, psychological distress, and more. This mosaic of problems makes it very difficult to gain more in-depth knowledge of the community life, internal dynamics and resources in each sector. A close-up analysis would allow Centraide to get a more accurate picture of the poverty and social exclusion that prevail in the Southern Region.

- Centre de Bénévolat de la Rive-Sud – Candiac (point of service)
- Centre de Bénévolat de la Rive-Sud – Chambly (point of service)
- Centre de Bénévolat de la Rive-Sud – Longueuil (point of service)
- Centre de Bénévolat de la Rive-Sud – Saint-Lambert (point of service)
- Citizen Advocacy Haut-Richelieu
- Parrainage Civique de la Vallée du Richelieu
- Service d'action bénévole "Au cœur du jardin" (Saint-Rémi/Napierville)

Living conditions

- ACEF de la Rive-Sud (regional agency)
- Carrefour le Moutier (regional agency)
- Comité logement Rive-Sud (head office)
- Complexe Le Partage
- Corne d'abondance – Entraide alimentaire et solidarité (La)
- Entraide chez nous (L')
- Moisson Rive-Sud (regional agency)
- Rencontre Châteauguoise (La)
- The Good Food Box – Roussillon/Rive-Sud

Community development

- Corporation de développement communautaire de Longueuil – Vie de quartier
- Corporation de développement communautaire de Marguerite-D'Youville

Development of community action

- Corporation de développement communautaire de Longueuil – Formation

Inclusion, youth

- Auberge du cœur l'Antre-temps Longueuil
- Hébergement La Casa Bernard-Hubert

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Inclusion, handicapped people

- Association de parents de l'enfance en difficulté (APED) (regional agency)
- Association des personnes handicapées de la Rive-Sud Ouest
- Association sclérose en plaques Rive-Sud (regional agency)*
- Mouvement action-découverte pour personnes handicapées de la région de Châteauguay

Inclusion, refugees and immigrants

- Chinese Family Service of Greater Montreal – Sino-Quebec Centre of South Shore

Inclusion, mental health

- Alternative-Centregens (head office, Vieux-Longueuil)
- Alternative-Centregens – Saint-Hubert (point of service)
- Au Second Lieu

Youth and families

- BÉNADO
- Boîte à lettres de Longueuil (La), programme Tremplin vers l'autonomie
- Bureau de consultation jeunesse (Le) (BCJ) – Rive-Sud
- Carrefour familial du Richelieu
- Colonie des Grèves de Contrecoeur (regional agency)
- Colonie de vacances Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc (regional agency)
- Famille à Cœur
- L'Envol Programme d'aide aux jeunes mères
- Macadam Sud
- Maison de Jonathan (La)
- Maison de la famille La Parentr'aide
- Maison de la Famille LeMoynes
- Maison La Virevolte (La)
- Maison Tremplin de Longueuil
- Mouvement S.E.M. (sensibilisation pour une enfance meilleure)
- Sourire sans Fin
- Table de concertation jeunesse MRC Jardins-de-Napierville

Neighbourhood life

- Centre Communautaire des Aînées et des Aînés de Longueuil
- Centre de femmes de Longueuil
- Centre de femmes du Haut-Richelieu
- Centre de femmes l'Éclaircie
- Croisée de Longueuil (La)
- Maison des Tournesols*
- Re-Nou-Vie

*Funding for these agencies will end in March 2014.