



2013 TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS

RCMs in the Southern Region

THE TERRITORY AND ITS REGIONS

The Southern Region of Centraide's territory includes five Regional County Municipalities (RCMs): Le Haut-Richelieu (fourteen municipalities, including the city of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu), Les Jardins-de-Napierville, Roussillon (eleven municipalities), Marguerite-D'Youville (six municipalities) and La Vallée-du-Richelieu, part of which is served by Centraide of Greater Montreal (three out of thirteen municipalities). The territory has a combination of periurban and rural areas.

Since the 2000's, the RCMs that form the periurban extremity (Roussillon, Marguerite-D'Youville and La Vallée-du-Richelieu) have all experienced significant demographic growth, and some municipalities (e.g., Saint-Amable) have almost doubled in size. This population growth has been constant and ongoing. We must therefore pay attention to the major consequences that this growth will have on the services available to these populations, particularly in terms of health care and social and community services.

Other rural areas, particularly in Le Haut-Richelieu and Les Jardins-de-Napierville, are nevertheless going through a population decline, as residents are migrating toward urban and periurban areas. This is why many services that are considered a priority may disappear in rural communities. Rural areas are at a disadvantage compared to urban zones, particularly when it comes to public transportation and access to nearby services.

In the coming years, the completion of Autoroute 30, which now connects Sorel-Tracy to Vaudreuil-Dorion, may gradually change things, particularly by opening up some rural areas in the west part of the territory. In addition to serving as a detour around Montreal, this new artery is seen by many stakeholders in the Montérégie as a major development route that will foster growth for the entire region. The residential, commercial and industrial faces of some municipalities therefore risk undergoing profound change. The resulting social changes must therefore be monitored.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL FABRIC

There is an active community network among the many existing local and regional round tables in the RCMs. The RCM territory is characterized by well-anchored sectoral consultation. Although many RCMs have more homogenous populations, community roots as well as the feeling of belonging vary from territory to territory. It should be noted that in terms of sectoral consultation, the two health and social services centres (CSSSs) in this region have a strong presence throughout the territory and have a notable influence.

It is important to stress that agencies and round tables often carry out initiatives and develop coordinated projects against the backdrop of a highly complex territorial context in which CSSS territories overlap with the regional conferences of elected officers (CRÉs), municipalities, and school boards, whose goals and priorities are not always the same.

SNAPSHOT of the territory

Le Haut-Richelieu, Les Jardins-de-Napierville, Marguerite-D'Youville, Roussillon and La Vallée-du-Richelieu

Centraide does not serve the RCMs in their entirety

It serves some municipalities in Les Jardins-de-Napierville and La Vallée-du-Richelieu but serves all municipalities in Le Haut-Richelieu, Marguerite-D'Youville and Roussillon

Territories with very different population sizes

The largest: Roussillon (148,000 in private households); second largest, Le Haut-Richelieu (107,000); farther down in third place: Marguerite-D'Youville (69,000). Population significantly smaller in the part of La Vallée-du-Richelieu (45,000) and Les Jardins-de-Napierville (19,000) served by Centraide

Population growth in the five territories larger than that of the urban agglomeration of Longueuil

+ 18% in part of La Vallée-du-Richelieu, + 9% in Marguerite-D'Youville and Roussillon, + 8% in Le Haut-Richelieu, + 6% in part of Les Jardins-de-Napierville, compared to + 4% for the urban agglomeration of Longueuil

Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Châteauguay are by far the most populated cities in all five territories

In Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, 86,000 people in private households; 42,000 in Châteauguay. In third place, Sainte-Julie is much lower down with 29,000 people

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Sociodemographic and economic data – 2006 Census

RCMs in the Southern Region

Four community development corporations (CDCs), some of which are still in the start-up phase, are present in the RCM territories and play the role of community and social development stakeholders in their regions. Their members include community agencies, but they also forge ties with diverse institutions in the territory.

The CRÉs in the Montérégie-Est and La Vallée-du-Haut-Saint-Laurent play an important role in their territory in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. They work to get regional, institutional, community and public partners more involved as a way to ensure consistency in their initiatives and to find solutions to the complex problems related to poverty and social exclusion.

The different RCMs that make up Centraide's Southern Region therefore have many faces and needs that are specific to each area. As mentioned, although the periurban or rural character of some municipalities can make accessing resources a challenge, the region's demographics also point to a sizeable presence of young people and families, along with vulnerable people who are living in major isolation.

The great distances between each municipality, the sometimes diffuse concentration of poverty, as well as the significant presence of smaller municipalities mean that work between partners in these communities is essential. Because of this context, Centraide has focused its investment over the past few years in areas that combine consultation on social development issues with collective action as well as in projects or agencies with the potential to provide support and assistance on a regional basis.

In 2013-2014, Centraide is supporting 28 projects, agencies and points of service in this area, for a total investment of nearly \$2.4 million.

ISSUES THAT ENGAGE CENTRAIDE

Some of the issues or characteristics found throughout the territory have already been described in the territorial profile for Centraide's Southern Region (see *Centraide's Southern Region*) and may apply to the territory of the different RCMs. However, more specific issues or challenges within each RCM must be highlighted so that support or assistance strategies can meet the particular needs of each area.

- **Marguerite-D'Youville**

Aside from the CDC—which recently received financial support from Centraide—, two holiday camps, and agencies that provide services in Greater Montreal and even beyond, Centraide does not support resources that directly serve the population of Marguerite-D'Youville. Issues related to families, food security or youth intervention have nevertheless been identified as potential areas of support, to the extent that a collective action or project could rally different partners in the community and serve the most vulnerable populations.

- **Le Haut-Richelieu**

This RCM serves a vast territory that has both an urban hub (Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu) and sectors that are predominantly agricultural. Although the flooding in 2011 revealed residents' resilient nature and their ability to help each other, collaboration between different stakeholders in this area is nevertheless difficult and has been for many years. The articulation of a global vision and the pooling of energy and resources have hit stumbling blocks on more than one occasion, making it more and more difficult to get partners

Percentage of low-income population slightly under the average for the Southern Region, for each of the five territories

8% for Le Haut-Richelieu, 6% for Roussillon and for part of La Vallée-du-Richelieu, 5% for Marguerite-D'Youville and for part of Les Jardins-de-Napierville, compared to 10% for the Southern Region

Number of low-income individuals in the territories: 9,000 in Roussillon (including 3,000 in Châteauguay), 8,000 in Le Haut-Richelieu (including 7,000 in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu), 4,000 in Marguerite-D'Youville, 3,000 in part of La Vallée-du-Richelieu and 1,000 in Les Jardins-de-Napierville

Half as many low-income individuals in all five territories compared to the urban agglomeration of Longueuil (25,000 compared to 49,000)

In Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, percentage of people living alone slightly above the average for the Southern Region

13% compared to 10% for the Southern Region. Châteauguay: 9%

High presence of renters in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

39% compared to 31% for the Southern Region

In Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, 33% of renter households, or 14,000 households, dedicate a high percentage of income to rent (30% or more)

Demographic weight of youth higher than that of seniors in all five territories

Especially in Marguerite-D'Youville and in the part of La Vallée-du-Richelieu served by Centraide: a gap of 14 percentage points in both cases

More single-parent families in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Châteauguay

4,000 and 2,000 single-parent families, respectively

Small immigrant presence in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

3% immigrants compared to 10% for the Southern Region. In Châteauguay: 10%

More new immigrants in Roussillon

1,000 new immigrants compared to 400 or fewer in the four other territories

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RCMs in the Southern Region

involved. We are greatly concerned with this situation, which leads us to hope for a reflection process on the desire and ability of these partners to implement conditions that will promote consultation on social development throughout the territory.

As mentioned, this rural area outside Montreal is home to a high number of very vulnerable people who live in isolation and who experience significant psychological distress. Particular attention will therefore be paid to how the community can reach out to these people and provide them with adapted services to promote their empowerment and improve their living conditions.

• Roussillon

Over the past two years, this territory has seen the emergence of new consultation mechanisms in social development. We salute this turn of events and will monitor progress in this area while hoping that these processes will forge a consensus among all partners from Châteauguay to Kateri.

Roussillon has created a solid network of agencies that can provide strong leadership in a number of intervention sectors. We will therefore pay close attention to the development of new initiatives or collective actions as well as those aiming to defend the rights of the underprivileged—rights that we believe are precarious at the moment.

• Les Jardins-de-Napierville

The least populous area of the territory, this RCM has a low population density, with residents spread out among a number of small municipalities. In 2011, it created a social development policy under the aegis of the Centre local de développement (CLD) and various stakeholders in the territory. We will closely assess how this process will highlight the need for complementary resources in the area and, like in Le Haut-Richelieu, help the community build an ability to reach out to the most vulnerable populations in these rural communities.

• La Vallée-du-Richelieu

Since Centraide only serves a part of this RCM, we will naturally focus on the part of the Chambly basin that is part of our territory. If demographic trends continue, issues related to youth and families will continue to draw our attention. However, in this specific area, the administrative restructuring of various entities has raised concerns about the community's ability to mobilize resources and coordinate them from the standpoint of social development.

Low presence of visible minorities in all municipalities, except in Châteauguay
In Châteauguay, the rate is equal to the average in the Southern Region, or 8%

INVESTMENT from Centraide of Greater Montreal

LA VALLÉE-DU-RICHELIEU

Volunteer action

- Centre de Bénévolat de la Rive-Sud – Chambly (point of service)
- Parrainage Civique de la Vallée du Richelieu

Living conditions

- Corne d'abondance – Entraide alimentaire et solidarité (La)

Youth and families

- Carrefour Familial du Richelieu

MARGUERITE-D'YOUVILLE

Youth and families

- Colonie des Grèves de Contrecoeur (regional agency)
- Colonie de vacances Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc (regional agency)

Community development

- Corporation de développement communautaire de Marguerite-D'Youville

ROUSSILLON

Volunteer action

- Centre de Bénévolat de la Rive-Sud – Candiac (point of service)

Living conditions

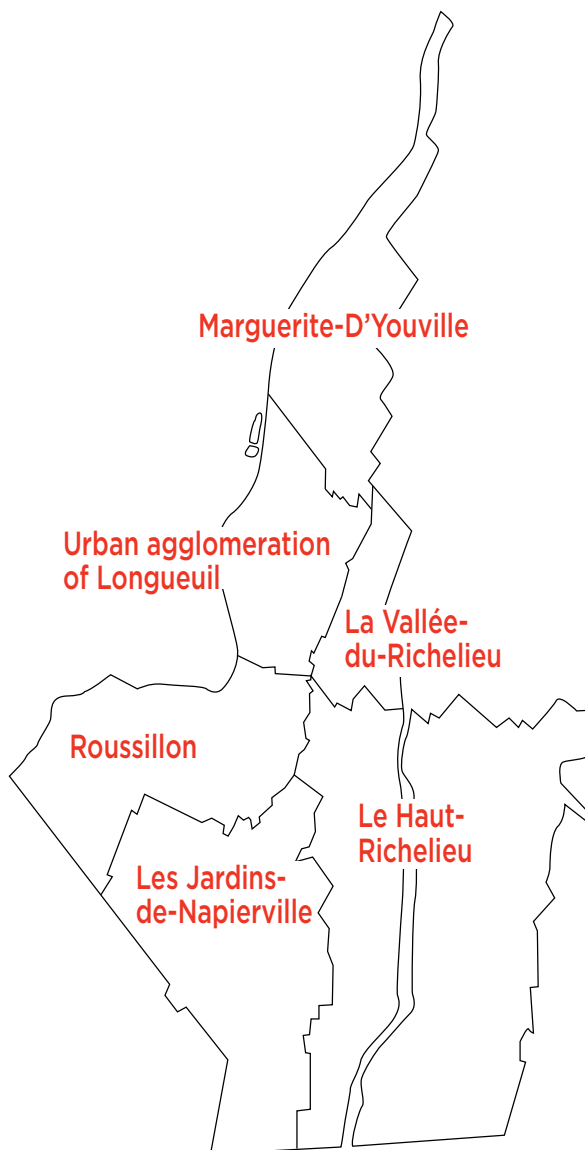
- The Good Food Box – Roussillon/Rive-Sud
- Comité logement Rive-Sud
- Complexe Le Partage
- Rencontre Châteauguoise (La)

Youth and families

- BÉNADO

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RCMs in the Southern Region



Inclusion, handicapped people

- Association des personnes handicapées de la Rive-Sud Ouest
- Mouvement action-découverte pour personnes handicapées de la région de Châteauguay

Neighbourhood life

- Centre de femmes l'Éclaircie
- Re-Nou-Vie

LES JARDINS-DE-NAPIERVILLE

Volunteer action

- Service d'action bénévole "Au cœur du jardin" (Saint-Rémi/Napierville)

Youth and families

- Sourire sans Fin
- Table de concertation jeunesse MRC Jardins-de-Napierville

LE HAUT-RICHELIEU

Volunteer action

- Centre d'action bénévole d'Iberville et de la région
- Centre d'action bénévole de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu
- Centre d'action bénévole Interaction de Noyan et de Clarenceville
- Centre d'entraide régional d'Henryville (CERH)
- Citizen Advocacy Haut-Richelieu

Youth and families

- Famille à Cœur
- Mouvement S.E.M. (sensibilisation pour une enfance meilleure)

Neighbourhood life

- Centre de femmes du Haut-Richelieu