

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 + 2021



SAY ÇA!



Dear readers,

We hope you are finding ways to stay healthy and well, despite the continued challenges we are facing as a global community.

Since March 2020, Say Ça! – like many organisations across the globe – has seen significant change, innovation, growth and interruptions of in-person services. As a small team of dedicated volunteers, we remained committed to the youth we serve quickly, by pulling together to deliver our programming virtually. As we navigated the challenges of building rapport with newcomer youth through our screens, we found hope, joy and resilience in the moments of laughter, learning and connection that unfolded, despite the lack of physical connection.

While the year 2022 remains uncertain, and longer-term planning continues to be interrupted, we remain deeply convinced of the importance of building positive, safe spaces – whether online or in person – where newcomer youth can learn, explore, build friendships and feel at home in a place that celebrates diversity.

We are infinitely grateful to our volunteers, staff, partners and donors who support this vision.

Wishing you all a happy new year,

Rebecca Egan, Executive Director.



- Throughout 2020 and 2021, we provided over 1,000 experiences to newcomer youth, through French and English tutoring, group activities and cultural outings. Youth participants came from over 15 different countries
- Over 40 volunteers from a diverse array of cultural and professional background supported the planning and implementation of our programming
- We hired a new Executive Director (Rebecca Egan), added 2 new Board Members (Ana Sofia Hibon and Nour Mounajed).
- We developed a strong partnership with one of the largest French school boards in Montreal, the Centre de Services Scolaire de Montreal, providing us with a mechanism to reach more youth in Welcome Class, and support the Montreal school system.





WHO WE ARE

Vision

A just and inclusive society that celebrates diversity.

Mission

Say Ça! is a charity organization dedicated to helping refugee and newcomer youth during the transition to their new life in Canada. Our programs empowers youth to become engaged citizens in their communities.

Objectives

For refugee and newcomer youth:

- Encourage their use of French and English to contribute to their inclusion into the community.
- Increase knowledge of Quebec and Canadian cultures and heritage.
- Develop leadership skills and increase their sense of belonging through personal development, community activities, volunteering, and mentorship opportunities.
- Foster a sense of curiosity and love of learning.
- Promote school perseverance.



OUR VALUES

Inclusion

Learning

Respect

Collaboration

Community

Fun

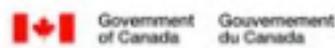


TO OUR COMMUNITY

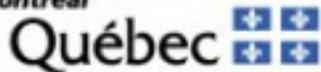
A note to our partners and supporters

If there is one thing we have continued to learn throughout 2020-2021, it is that we are stronger together. Say Ça! could not achieve its mission without the support of several key community organisations and institutions.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you for your collaboration and support over the past 2 years and look forward to continued partnership.



Centre
de services scolaire
de Montréal





PARTNER FEEDBACK

Letter of recommendation from Stéphane Richard, director of École Saint-Luc

“École Saint-Luc, a secondary school of the Centre de Services Scolaire de Montréal (CSSDM), welcomes every year a large number of newly arrived students in their reception classes and collaborates with Say Ça! since 2020.

Say Ça! provides a holistic and complementary service to the students who attend the reception classes. Tutors provide not only academic support, but also psychosocial support. They are ‘coaches’ for newcomers who are in transition to their new life in Canada.

Say Ça! is unique because it provides a holistic support to teenagers and similar services for this population don't currently exist.

Currently, Say Ça! serves students attending école Secondaire Saint-Luc - a high school of 2000 students from 102 countries speaking 64 languages.

We hope that Say Ça! will be able to expand its services to serve more students from Saint-Luc, as well as from other schools we work with.”

August 2021



PROGRAMMING SNAPSHOT

We facilitated an array of group activities and cultural outings, always designed and developed with youth feedback and input in mind. Two highlights are shared below.

Truth and Reconciliation

We had the privilege of discussing Innu language and culture with Marie-Aimée Labbé, member of the Innu First Nation of Pessamit. This was an opportunity to learn more about the importance of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (September 30th) and its goal of honouring missing children and residential school survivors, their families and their communities.

Anti-bullying and discrimination

Aseel – former Say Ça! participant and current youth ambassador addressed the topic of bullying at school. Cindy Tsay, a therapist from the Montreal Therapy Centre, also came to share tips on how to live and thrive in a safe environment. The exchanges between the youth and Cindy were very interesting and resources on this subject are now available on our website.

We also benefited from an exchange and sharing meeting with GRIS, the Groupe de recherche et d'intervention sociale. This non-profit organization promotes a better knowledge of sexual and gender diversity and facilitates the integration of LGBT+ people in society. Through these workshops, the youth learned more about the importance of inclusion, respect and diversity.



Program Impact

A 2020 qualitative, participatory action research study* was conducted by McGill University and Say Ça! indicating the positive impact that virtual programming had on newcomer youth to break isolation and build a sense of community. The youth spoke about their growth and the development of their skills through their participation at Say Ça!. The study is available [here](#).

In-person Programming

Say Ça! is deeply committed to ensuring a physically and psychologically safe environment for all program participants, staff and volunteers. For this reason, we made the decision to remain online for the majority of 2020 and 2021. As indicated earlier, this online learning space proved to serve as a powerful means of staying connected and promoting learning during the global pandemic.

That said, during the Summer of 2021, guided by the Department of Health and best practices from other leading community organizations, we were able to bring small groups of youth together for in-person activities on 2 occasions. These gatherings also reminded us of the power of in-person community, and we hope to be able to bring people together again – safely – when the time is right.

*Gonzalez, E., & Ruiz-Casares, M. (2020). Migrant youth and wellbeing: Assessing young people's participation in a community-based welcome program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| RECEIPTS | | |
| Grants | \$2,000 | \$0 |
| Donations | \$2,508 | \$13,127 |
| Total | \$4,508 | \$13,127 |
| | | |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | |
| Advertising and Promotion | \$0 | \$640 |
| Bank Charges and Interest | \$77 | \$259 |
| Business Fees and Licenses | \$49 | \$54 |
| Donations | \$50 | \$0 |
| Events | \$1,757 | \$2,133 |
| Group Activities | \$4,198 | \$0 |
| Office Expenses | \$3,053 | \$292 |
| Professional Fees | \$460 | \$247 |
| Storage | \$80 | \$75 |
| Travel | \$0 | \$94 |
| Total | \$9,724 | \$3,794 |
| | | |
| Receipts over Disbursements for the Year | -\$5,216 | \$9,333 |
| Surplus of Receipts over Disbursements, Beginning of Year | \$9,333 | \$0 |
| Surplus of Receipts over Disbursements, End of Year | \$4,117 | \$9,333 |

YEAR END MARCH 31ST, 2020

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| RECEIPTS | | |
| Grants | \$11,222 | \$2,000 |
| Donations | \$2,670 | \$2,508 |
| Total | \$13,892 | \$4,508 |
| | | |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | |
| Payroll Expenses | \$6,384 | \$0 |
| Bank Charges and Interest | \$84 | \$77 |
| Business Fees and Licenses | \$120 | \$49 |
| Donations | \$0 | \$50 |
| Events | \$0 | \$1,757 |
| Group Activities | \$1,911 | \$4,198 |
| Office Expenses | \$1,214 | \$3,053 |
| Professional Fees | \$1,590 | \$460 |
| Storage | \$0 | \$80 |
| Total | \$11,303 | \$9,724 |
| | | |
| Receipts over Disbursements for the year | \$2,598 | -\$5,216 |
| Surplus of Receipts over Disbursements, Beginning of Year | \$4,117 | \$9,333 |
| Surplus of Receipts over Disbursements, End of Year | \$6,706 | \$4,117 |

YEAR END MARCH 31ST, 2020



**THANK YOU FOR
READING!**

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SAY ÇA!