



2016 RECREATION, CULTURE AND
COMMUNITY LIVING POLICY
MUNICIPALITY OF LA PÊCHE

“Recreation is often seen as a municipal responsibility, with the Municipality establishing procedures and programs, and a municipal government that positions itself as the overseer. That type of approach puts citizens in the position of service consumers rather than players.

For several years, there has been a shift in this regard... municipalities can no longer and should no longer be the bearers of everything.

The Municipality’s role in this perspective and the strategy to be favoured for ensuring community development and enhancing quality of life involves promoting the feeling of belonging; supporting people, organizations and environments in what interests them; and acting as a multiplying agent.”

*Mr. Denis Bourque – December 15, 2015
Professor in the Department of Social Work at the
Université du Québec en Outaouais and holder of the
Canada Research Chair in Community Organization*

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1. A message from the Mayor



I am very pleased to submit to you the Recreation, Culture and Community Living Policy of the Municipality of La Pêche.

Our municipality has always been known for its great vitality. Our citizens exhibit a tremendous sense of initiative when it comes to recreation, culture and community living. They know how to recognize and identify the community's needs; they also know how to establish their priorities and take action for carrying them out. This is a great asset for the community, and we are very fortunate that the community is empowered in this way.

This is no surprise when you know that the Municipality has always been able to rely on a host of volunteers. At the time of preparing this policy, the Municipality had counted no less than 800 volunteers out of a total population of 8,000 across the entire territory. This means that 10% of the population freely donates its time to ensure that the offering in terms of recreation, culture and community living meets the community's needs and reflects its interests and values. This also means that over 40 organizations recognized by the Municipality receive essential services from those volunteers. That commitment to volunteering is definitely one of our greatest assets, and the Municipality would like to encourage and support it.

This is what led the Municipality to establish a customized approach that reflects what is unique to our community: a partnership approach whereby the Municipality works together with the organizations to support them in achieving the objectives that they themselves have identified, and whereby the Municipality gives special weight to what those organizations themselves consider important. In doing so, it wants to preserve that valuable commitment, facilitate, encourage and support the community's vitality, and strengthen that natural tendency in order to give it even greater momentum.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Bussière".

Robert Bussière
Mayor of La Pêche

2. A message from the elected officials responsible for matters involving recreation, culture and community living (RCC)



In La Pêche, the recreation, culture and community living sector is an ever-bustling sector that is experiencing high growth. The Municipality naturally wants to encourage and support that development, which is positive for the entire community and contributes to its reputation beyond its borders.

It is for the purpose of supporting that momentum and encouraging that vitality that, three years ago, the Municipality established a Recreation, Culture and Community Living Department and appointed as its head a person who is solely dedicated to it. The initiative has been successful because, due to that ongoing presence, the Municipality has been able to strengthen its ties with the community and considerably increase the number of recognized organizations, which rose from 18 to over 40.

In its actions, the Recreation, Culture and Community Living Department has been able to rely on the Recreation, Culture and Community Living Committee to support its work and keep its finger on the community's pulse. We would like to thank its members, namely Denise Patry, the Head of recreation, culture and community living in the Municipality, and the citizen members, namely Marie-Claude Gauthier, Manon Lafontaine, Myles Mahon, Linda Sabourin and Mélanie Robert. Their contribution will have considerably helped make this policy a success.

It is important to stay attuned to the community, support its development and encourage it in its initiatives, and that is what this policy will help achieve. We are pleased to have been involved in this initiative.

Mr. Christian Blais and Mr. Christopher Harris
Councillors responsible for RCC matters

3. A message from the Head of recreation, culture and community living



This policy is the outcome of a three-year process. Over those three years, to be able to identify the best approach to take, steps were taken to gain a better knowledge of the community, its characteristics and its needs, plus its history, habits and organization.

Right at the outset, it was noted that the La Pêche community is active and dynamic, and has the habit of being empowered. If we look further back in time, prior to the 1970s, the municipality's current territory encompassed seven villages located in five separate municipalities, each of which used to manage recreation on their own. Just like each community had its own history and culture, each of them also had its own recreation infrastructures and its own recreation, culture and community living organizations. Each of them especially also had considerable independence in this area and was in the habit of looking after its own needs, through its many volunteers and volunteer organizations.

Therefore, it is by observing and respecting the uniqueness of each sector in the territory that the current approach was developed. Taking into account the fact that La Pêche stands out through its particular reality, i.e. being a community made up of villages that are unique and different and have a long history of volunteer involvement. In that context, the only possible approach involved respecting the community's vitality and developing a customized approach to reflect it.

From that perspective, the Municipality's role – and the basis for its approach – is to support and preserve that vital momentum and to equip itself with methods and tools for supporting it. This policy will help ensure that the development framework for recreation, culture and community living in La Pêche continues to be a framework that reflects what the municipality has always been: a community of communities that value their uniqueness. I am very proud and pleased to have been able to contribute to that process.

Denise Patry
Head of Recreation, Culture
and Community Living

4. Rationale for the policy

Why a Recreation, Culture and Community Living Policy in La Pêche?

This policy is a tool for achieving the following objectives:

- To formalize the Municipality of La Pêche's approach to recreation, culture and community living (RCC)*, which was developed specifically by factoring in the recreational history in La Pêche, the empowerment, and the vitality of its community life;
- To ensure a consistent, fair approach to RCC;
- To govern and guide the Municipality's positioning towards RCC with the various stakeholders, i.e. organizations, partners, the community, the Recreation, Culture and Community Living (RCC) Department, the municipal government and the Municipal Council in the evolution of recreation, culture and community living;
- To specify the action areas that were prioritized by the Municipality further to the public consultations, i.e. to specify the areas where and the way in which the Municipality takes action in terms of RCC.
- To formalize the mandate of the Recreation, Culture and Community Living Department.

*The acronym RCC standing for Recreation, Culture and Community Living will be used for the purpose of brevity. The term "recreation" includes the sports, recreational and outdoor components.

5. The Municipality of La Pêche

Today, the Municipality of La Pêche, located in the Outaouais administrative region, northwest of the city of Gatineau, combines nine village cores, namely Alcove, Duclos, East-Aldfield, Farrellton, Lac-des-Loups, Lascelles, Rupert, Sainte-Cécile-de-Masham and Wakefield. It covers an area of roughly 600 km², which gives it the status of being the largest municipality in the RCM of Les Collines-de-l'Outaouais and makes it one of the most expansive in Quebec. Its population was 7,976 on January 1, 2014.¹ The population density is roughly 13 people per km².²

The Municipality of La Pêche is known for the vitality of its community life. Its recreation, culture and community living infrastructures and activities are many, and the citizens are very much involved in the various initiatives. La Pêche is a rural municipality with a pastoral character, which draws a great many tourists every year and a large number of summer residents. The closeness of Gatineau Park enables access to a variety of outdoor activities.

In 2011, the working-age population (people aged 15 to 64) made up 70% of the population, while the proportion of children aged 0 to 14 was 16.1% and the proportion of people aged 65 or older was 14%.³ The median age of the population was 44.5 (for comparison, the median age in Quebec was 41.9). Family size was 2.4 people per household,⁴ and the number of private dwellings occupied by usual residents was 3,121.⁵

¹RCM of Les Collines-de-l'Outaouais, demographic data.

²Statistics Canada (2012). *La Pêche, Quebec, and the Collines-de-l'Outaouais, Quebec. Census Profile, 2011 Census*, product no. 98-316-XWE in the Statistics Canada catalogue. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012.

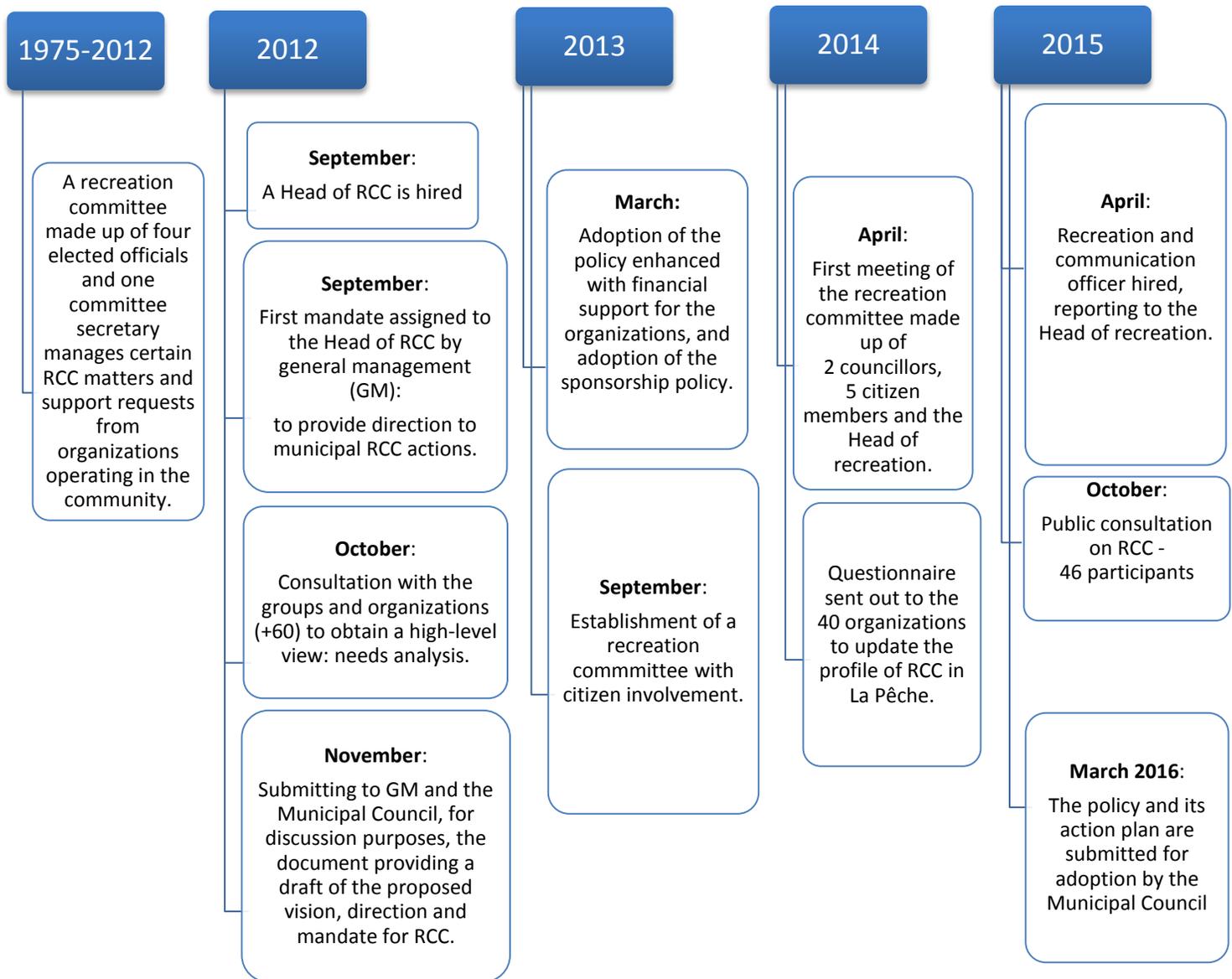
<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>
(site consulted October 1, 2015).

³ Statistics Canada. 2012. *"Focus on Geography" Series, 2011 Census*. Product no. 98-310-XWE2011004 in the Statistics Canada catalogue. Ottawa, Ontario. Analytical products, 2011 Census. Version updated on October 24, 2012.

⁴ Source: Ibid.

⁵Private dwellings occupied by usual residents: A separate set of living quarters that has a private entrance either directly from outside or from a common hall, lobby, vestibule or stairway leading to the outside, and in which a person or group of persons live permanently.

6. Background



7. Customized approach

Because of the existing vitality of its community life and of its citizens who are involved and active in the territory, the Municipality of La Pêche decided to take a **customized approach** that complements and encourages that strength.

What is that customized approach?

The community initiates, provides direction and a unique colour to recreation, culture and community living in La Pêche, in keeping with its needs and motives.

The Municipality takes a role as coordinator of and proud partner with its community. It is attuned to its community; it supports, encourages and sustains its vitality while maintaining a high-level view and encouraging accessible* initiatives, prevents duplication, maximizes resource use and promotes the groups' independence.

The Municipality advocates a seamless, flexible approach that evolves at the community's request, in keeping with its capacity in terms of human, financial and material resources.

*Accessible: physical accessibility, accessibility in terms of cost and advertising.

8. Profile of recreation, culture and community living in La Pêche

****The following profile is an outline of the RCC offering in La Pêche based on the 40 recognized organizations that filled out a questionnaire. This profile does not include the private sector and a number of other existing initiatives in the territory. The profile is a glimpse at the existing vitality.***

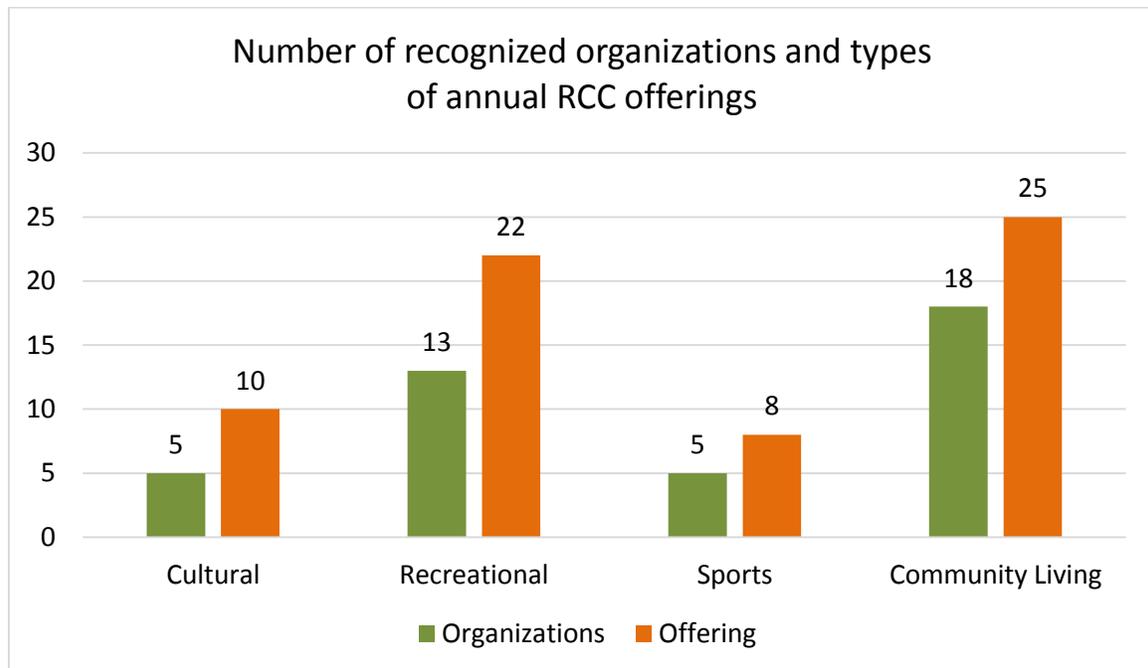
The offering in recreation, culture and community living covers all age groups and is a reflection of the La Pêche community. In 2016, there are over 40 non-profit organizations recognized by the Municipality, and they provide services and activities in four areas:

Community component: 18 organizations (4 seniors' clubs, 4 libraries, 2 youth centres, 1 family centre, 2 mental health organizations, food banks, day camps). Offering: over 25 activities per year.

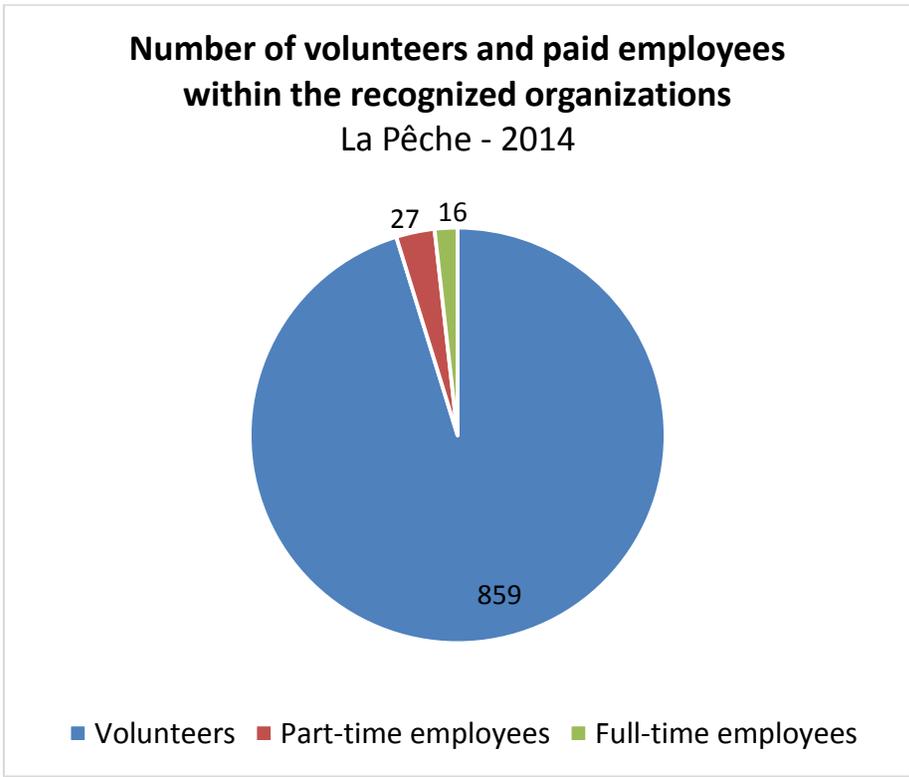
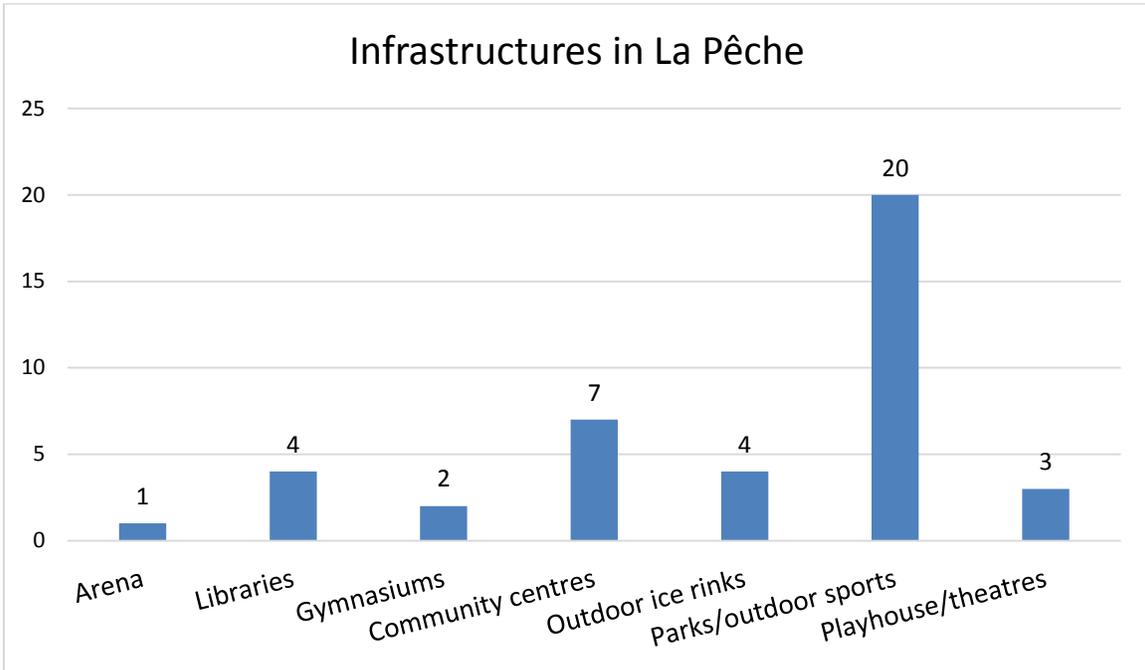
Recreational component: 13 organizations (carnivals, festivals, celebrations, fairs and activity programming provided by the community centres). Offering: over 22 activities per year.

Sports components: 5 organizations (soccer, baseball, figure skating, jogging, curling league). Offering: over 8 events per year.

Cultural component: 5 organizations (cultural shows and festivals, the Writers Festival, the International Film Festival, drama camp, annual cultural programming, the heritage centre, vernissages, artist studios and open houses). Offering: over 10 cultural offering options per year.

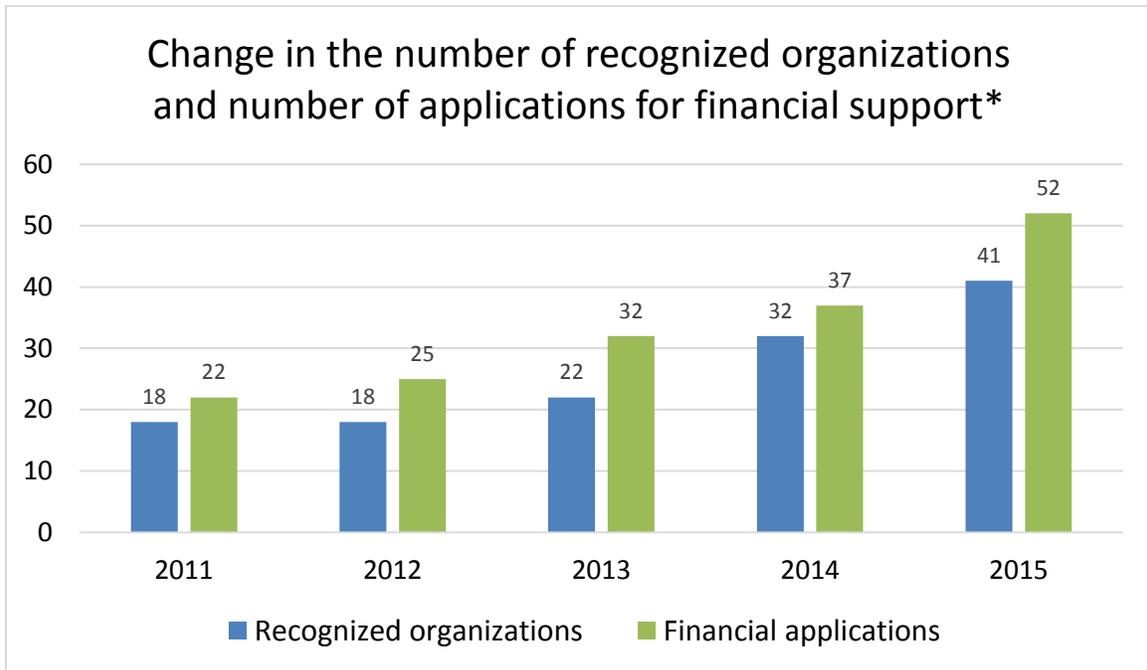


*Offering: does not represent the total number of events, shows and activities offered, but rather a profile of the various types of offering per area.

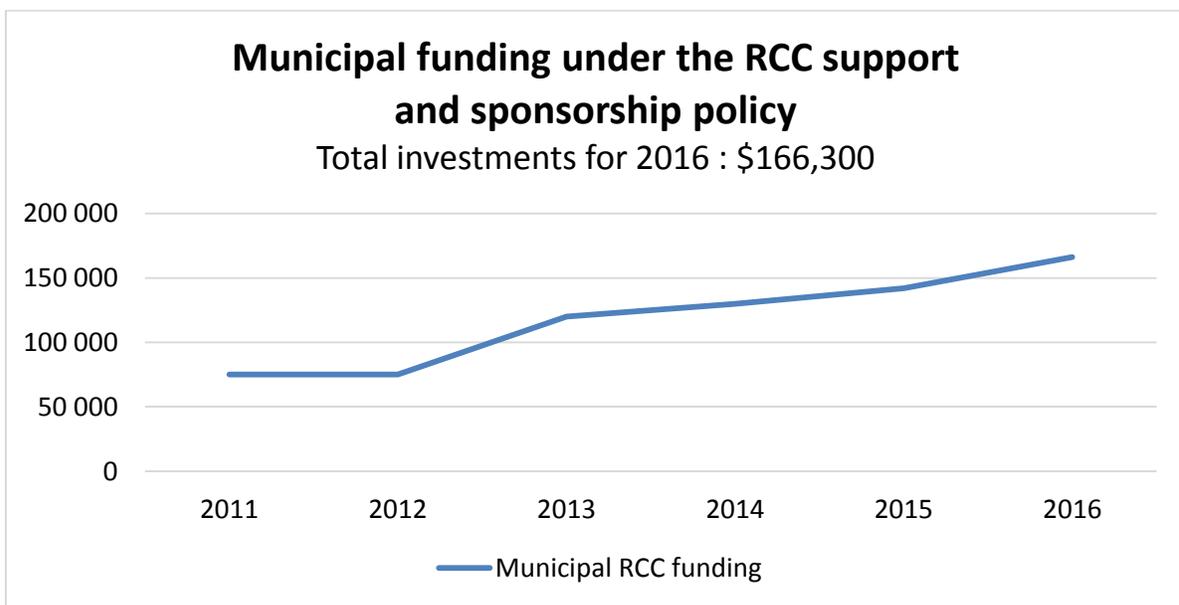


This time in terms of volunteer and paid resources represents over half a million dollars.

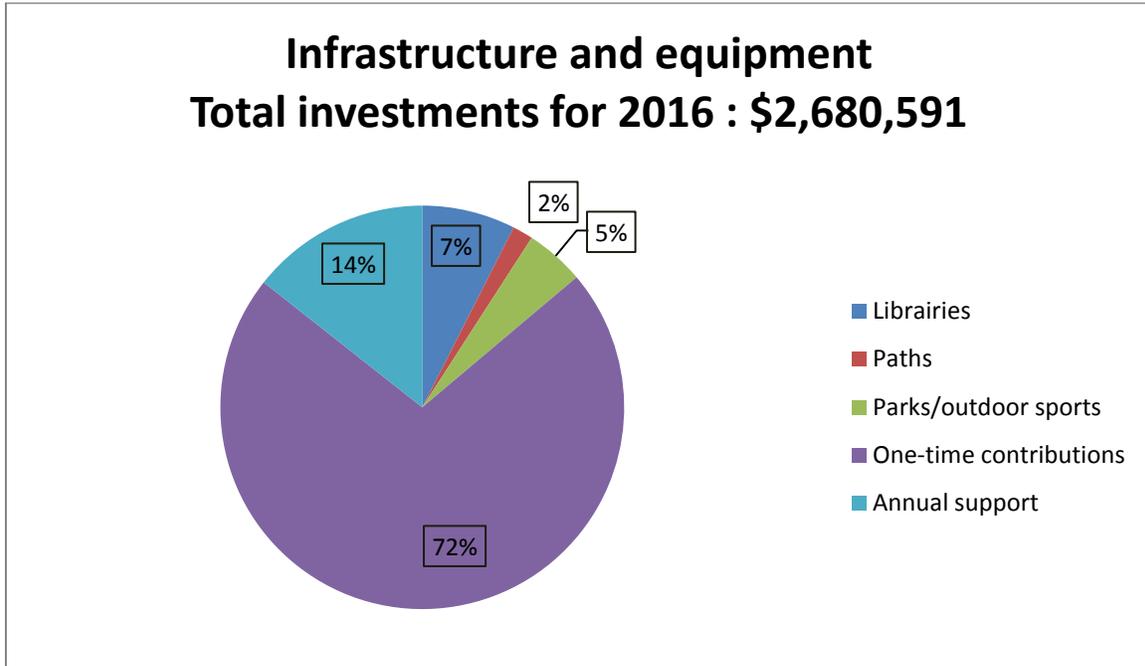
9. Municipal investments in recreation, culture and community living



*An organization can submit more than one support application, which explains why there are more applications than organizations.



In 2016, the total of planned municipal RCC investments will be approximately \$2,978,279. These figures do not reflect municipal employees' time spent supporting those initiatives.

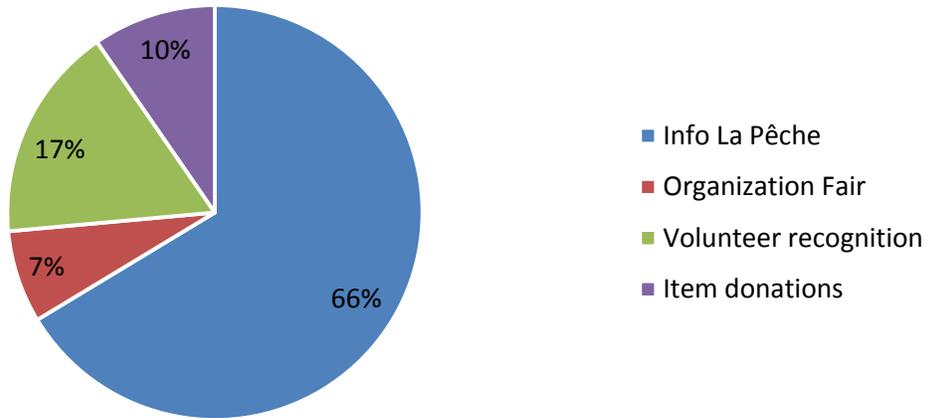


One-time contributions planned: Centre Wakefield La Pêche, double gymnasium Wakefield Elementary School, Fairbairn House, ball diamond, renovations to two community centres.

Annual infrastructure support: La Pêche Sports Complex, Centre Wakefield La Pêche, Fairbairn House.

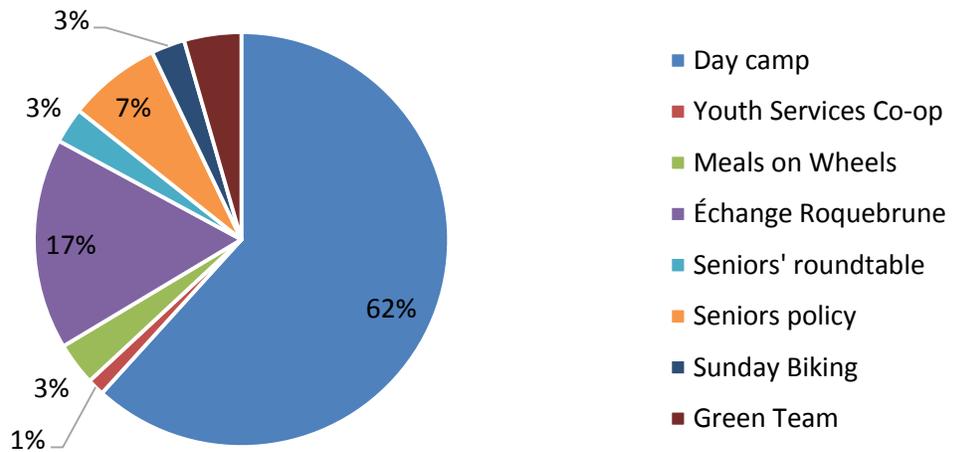
Support for community organizations

Total investment : \$41,600



Support for quality of life

Total investments for 2016 : \$89,788



10. RCC Mission

The Municipality of La Pêche has the mission to enhance the quality of life and the feeling of belonging through recreation, culture and community living.

The Municipality recognizes the important role that recreation, culture and community living play in terms of:

- improving the well-being and overall health of the community;
- forging ties within the community;
- contributing to the local economy; (economic impacts and job creation)
- participating in the development of social capital (social wealth)
- creating a place where life is good.

11. The Municipality's directions

The Municipality favours **four key principles** that guide its actions in the area of recreation, culture and community living.

Principles

- **Encourage diversity** in recreation, culture and community living and ensure it is accessible* to everyone for the benefit of the entire municipality, while respecting the individual nature of each village, their values and personalities.
- **Support and promote** the strength, vitality and empowerment of the community through the philosophy of **“working in cooperation with”** i.e. being a **proud partner** with its community and making the means available to it for that purpose.
- **Promote good communication** among the organizations and the various stakeholders operating in the area of RCC within the municipality and assert their interests outside its borders. The Recreation Department is a central point and the nucleus for networking and the distribution of RCC information for the entire municipality. The Department uses means of communication such as the website, Municipal Briefs and community organization fairs.
- **Encourage the organizations to diversify their funding and develop financial independence.**

*Accessibility: physical accessibility, accessibility in terms of cost and advertising.

12. The RCC Department's directions

The Recreation, Culture and Community Living Department is responsible for implementing the Municipality's mission and directions for recreation.

The Department is assigned the following objectives:

- To facilitate, support and stimulate recreation, culture and community living and to make the means available for that purpose.
- To combine efforts, coordinate and ensure a high-level view of recreation, culture and community living within the municipality;
- To play a liaison, communication and RCC information dissemination role with citizens, partners, organizations, the government and the Municipal Council (e.g. grants available, training provided);
- To promote networking by putting people into contact with each other;
- To foster an approach where the need comes from the community and where the Recreation Department provides support, helps with starting up initiatives and creates opportunities;
- To provide a high-level view of municipal infrastructures, including existing parks, playgrounds and sports fields, and to make recommendations for maximizing the use of them and ensure that they meet the public's needs;
- To track the evolution of RCC in La Pêche and ensure that the municipal approach (philosophies, regulations, mechanisms) reflects the community's evolution;
- To rely on volunteer work and ensure volunteer recognition;
- To manage the policy on the financial support and sponsorship provided to the organizations by the municipality;
- To provide the libraries with liaison and support management.
- To stay current on new trends in recreation and to represent the Municipality outside its borders, in terms of recreation, culture and community living.
- To coordinate and liaise with the RCC committee.

13. Action areas

Further to the consultation with the organizations in 2012 and 2014 and the public consultation in October 2015, the following action areas were prioritized:

- **Infrastructures:** (community centres and other buildings, youth and family centres, libraries, parks, sports fields, playgrounds)

The Municipality is aware of the importance of infrastructures, whether municipal or non-municipal, in the RCC offering and wants to work with the community for ensuring the viability, promotion and use of the existing infrastructures and for acquiring new infrastructures that meet the public's needs.

- **Communication:** (networking, liaison, joint action, pooling)

The Municipality is committed to staying aware of what exists in terms of RCC within the La Pêche territory and being the municipal reference for citizens, partners, organizations, government and the Municipal Council, and providing and facilitating the lines of communications among all stakeholders.

- **Volunteering:** (succession, management, recruiting, training and recognition of volunteers)

The Municipality has the role of supporting the community in terms of volunteering (managing, recruiting, training, position notices, agreement with schools for volunteer succession among young people) and making the means available for that. It also has the role of recognizing the contribution of volunteers in La Pêche.

- **Support:** (funding, professional development, equipment)

The Municipality provides support in the following areas: municipal funding and assistance in seeking out new sources of funding, professional development, equipment sharing.

14. Mandate of the Recreation, Culture and Community Living Committee (RCCC)

A committee made up of two elected officials, one Head of recreation and five citizen members representing the community's interests was created to support and bolster the RCC Department. The RCC Committee expresses opinions and makes recommendations to the Recreation, Culture and Community Living Department about ongoing matters and also works on ad-hoc projects.

15. Conclusion – next steps

The following actions will be carried out for publicizing the new RCC Policy and action plan.

- Event for publicly launching the policy and its action plan.
- Publicizing, disseminating and distributing the policy and action plan throughout the municipality's entire territory.

16. Policy review period

The policy will be reviewed within a period not exceeding five years to ensure that it reflects the evolution of recreation, culture and community living in La Pêche.

17. Action plan

An action plan will be prepared and adopted every three years.