

Connecting with Quebec

Partnering with francophones in Canada



In a recent survey, the people of Quebec declared that the most important thing to them is family. However, there's a lack of quality resources on parenting and marriage in the French language.

The state of the family in Quebec is in something of a crisis. Cohabitation is considered the norm for new families, divorce rates are soaring and 58 per cent of babies are born to unwed mothers.

The current influence of Christians in Quebec is limited and the churches are struggling to have a transformational impact on their communities. There is a need in Quebec, one that you are helping to meet. But we remain hopeful and encouraged, as Quebecers are open and the potential for change is great.

Focus on the Family Canada has heard the cry of our French-speaking fellow Canadians. Through your support, we're partnering with churches and organizations in Quebec, such as Christian Direction and Ministère Multilingue International, and impacting the people where they most desire – in their families.

The Lord has provided for the needs of this ministry through the generosity and prayers of friends like you. While we have been especially mindful of our finances and resources during recent months, I'm delighted to tell you that God continues to open great doors of opportunity for us to serve Canadian families.

In November of 2008, I had the privilege of attending the Parenting Matters conference in Montreal. In partnership with Église NouvelleVie (New Life Church), we introduced Focus on the Family Canada to thousands of francophone families and we were able to bless hundreds of moms and dads with a message of grace based parenting. It was an exciting answer to prayer to see Focus on the Family Canada expand its ministry to francophone families.

As people hear about the new services and programs available in their language, they are responding. We have faith that this is just the beginning of a whole new breadth of resources, support and programs for French-speaking Canadians.

Please pray with us as we reach out to more and more Canadians. The transformative power of God through your prayers is the spiritual fuel we need to achieve the goal of helping families thrive.

Sincerely,

Terence Rolston
President
Focus on the Family Canada

Parenting Matters to the people of Quebec

The goal was 300 . . . 1,000 showed up

Once again, God has gone before us and prepared the way. Our plan was to hold a Parenting Matters conference in Quebec, but with a unique facet: it was to be presented in French.

Language is the most distinct cultural difference between Quebec and the rest of Canada, one that tends to limit communication and resources. But this is changing. Through our partnership with Family Matters® and Église Nouvelle Vie, the largest evangelical francophone church in Canada, we were able to present help to French-speaking parents for the first time!

Speaker and author Dr. Tim Kimmel led the conference, his valuable expertise being translated into French as he spoke. Two of Dr. Kimmel's books, *Grace Based Parenting* and *Raising Kids for True Greatness*, have been translated into French and were available at the conference.

The churches of Quebec were hoping for 300 attendees. They were amazed when 1,000 people showed up, with an additional 3,000 hearing Dr. Kimmel at the Sunday morning services. God has a plan for our francophone neighbours and we are privileged to be a part of it. Your partnership with us is a vital component of this plan and for you we are truly thankful.

So, what now? *We're just beginning . . .*

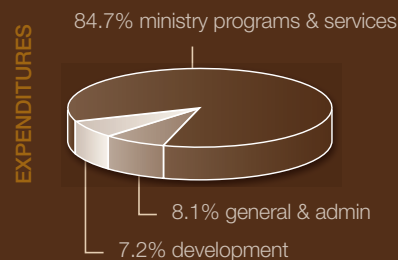
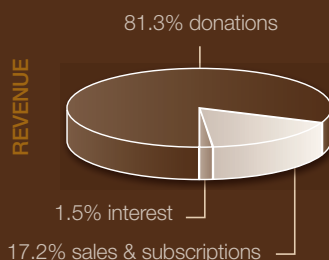
The Parenting Matters conference was the first big step in Focus on the Family Canada's involvement with the people of Quebec. The goal was to minister to the francophone church community and to create a buzz about the resources and ministry available in French. It was a time to build infrastructure within the communities, to strengthen relationships with our partners, and to serve.

God's plan for the French-speaking population – not just in Canada but around the world – is far bigger than we can imagine. As we learn to operate with “open hands,” the response to these first steps has been overwhelming. Because of your support, we're able to walk through the doors God is opening in Quebec. It won't happen overnight, but we pray for continued healing and salvation for Quebec's families. A few tools that will continue to support the francophone community are:

- Focus on the Family Canada French website: **Objectiffamille.ca**
- Focus on the Family Canada magazine in French, to be published four times per year. Our list of subscribers has grown to 17,000 homes!
- An online bookstore with books and programs available in French
- Administrative support by our partner Christian Direction in Montreal, taking phone calls, letters and emails in French

As we launch into working with Quebec's non-church community, we pray that the resources being developed will be effective and many more will be reached with the hope of Christ. We are also putting together a “family tool kit” to reach children and families through the education system. God has an incredible plan for the families of Quebec and it's a blessing to be a part of it!

We are stewards. Our programs and services are supported entirely by our donors in Canada. We are committed to keeping our donors informed of our progress and are members of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (COCC). We are stewards of all the resources God entrusts to us and we are accountable to our ministry partners, and to God, for how we use all that we receive.



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The sign of good
stewardship and sound
management.



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