

2014 is almost at a close. Soon we will be celebrating the end of the year and the holiday season. At this time, our thoughts often turn to those in need. We hope that the Aphasia House Foundation will be considered by individuals and corporations planning to support charitable organizations. A donation to the Aphasia House Foundation will help us to reach our goal of creating a meeting place for people with aphasia.

Christmas generosity?

Do you know any kind-hearted people or corporation that would like to make a donation during the Christmas season? Some companies have an employee fund which they use when it is time to show their concerns about to people who have special needs. You could let them know about the needs and purpose of the Aphasia House Foundation. Any donation helps.

Closed because of austerity measures

AQPA, like hundreds of other community organizations throughout Quebec, cancelled its activities on November 17 to protest against the expected austerity measures of the provincial government. Demonstrators showed their concern about government underfunding of community services.

A user survey of the RIOCM (Regroupement intersectoriel des organismes communautaires de Montréal) for 183 associations (<http://www.riocm.ca/rapport-financement-organismes-montreal-plusieurs-groupes-menaces-fermeture>) indicates that 93% from all sectors, have endured consequences of underfunding, whether they come from mental health, homelessness, intellectual impairment, AIDS, prevention of violence against women, poverty, etc.

The government has promised to raise funding by 162 million dollars. The cancellation of this increase was very hard to accept. The RIOCM is asking Minister Lucie Charlebois for an investment of 225 millions from PSOC (Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires) to support the mission of organizations in health and social services.

*RIOCM gathers 300 Montreal community organizations in health and social services, family, immigration, and collective rights defense.

A new project for AQPA

AQPA is pleased to announce that the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec has granted 21000\$ to create an interactive web site, completely adapted for people with aphasia. When completed, you will have access to tools and exercises made just for you. The web site will provide discussion platforms... and will help you find new friends.

The association is supported mainly by grants, a number of which have allowed AQPA to create a DVDs and to give computer workshops. The SAPPa program is also funded by grants, which are becoming more scarce. This is why AQPA joined the November 17th demonstration. This is also why the Aphasia House Foundation was created.