

The Association across the years :

2022 The year 2022 was marked by the celebration of the 40th anniversary of AQPA. Two major activities were organized to highlight this milestone. A first achievement was the organization of symposiums that allowed fruitful exchanges between the community environment and the world of aphasia research, to the great benefit of people with aphasia and their loved ones.

The AQPA, like the Maison de l'aphasie Foundation, was associated in the planning and financing of the project thanks to two researchers Carole Anglade (University of Sherbrooke) and Anna Zumbansen (University of Ottawa) who obtained a Connection grant of the Human Sciences Research Council to present 4 conferences that took place between April and November 2022.

The symposiums aimed to facilitate exchanges between the various players in Francophone aphasia research (people with aphasia and relatives, community organizations, clinical workers and managers of rehabilitation services and researchers). Multidirectional knowledge exchange was put forward by all stakeholders and they emerged as winners.

The second event was the presentation, in November 2022, of a show bringing together the Aphasia Choir and the Aphasic Theater, under the theme: « *40 years of history and life told to the Little Prince visiting the planet Aphasia* ». It was a gathering of the community around aphasia, held at the Maison de la culture Mercier, which made it possible to trace the history of the AQPA, to receive testimonies on our multiple activities as well as to recognize pioneers of the 'association. But even more, this celebration provided a unique opportunity to appreciate the talent of the members of the choir and the actors of the Théâtre Aphasique.

Once again, they showed creativity and determination, always interested in making people better aware of aphasia. The production of the souvenir program enriched the event since this booklet presents in a particularly lively way the inclusive,

multicultural and innovative environment of the AQPA. It was an important moment to thank all those who have contributed to our achievements over the years and who continue to participate generously in fulfilling our mission. Together, they have made a marked difference in the lives of people with aphasia. Thank you to the Maison de l'aphasia Foundation, which greatly contributed to the project preparation.

2021 At the dawn of the year of the 40th anniversary of the AQPA, the preparation of the holding of 4 Crossword colloquia intended for people with aphasia, their relatives and the community has been planned. These conferences are intended to be accessible, in their presentation, and focus on recent research in aphasia and their impact. Also a show bringing together the AQPA and, as a collaborator, the Théâtre Aphasique was in preparation.

The AQPA was invited to a partnership with the Music and Health Research Institute, codirected by a speech therapist at the University of Ottawa, Dr. Anna Zumbansen.

The Service for relatives of an aphasic person (SAPPA), an AQPA program, was chosen as the organisation presented in the annual report of L'Appui, for the Montreal region.

The year was marked by the obtaining of several subsidies which notably made it possible to develop the offer of services, by zoom, in presence or in a hybrid way.
Note:

- A grant from the Program Action Aînés du Québec for the Reinforcement of friendly visits project
- A grant from Quebec friend of seniors for the Better Communicate in the Digital Age project, which has made it possible to develop training adapted to information and communication technologies for people with aphasia, relatives and volunteers.
- A grant from the Mirella and Lino Saputo Foundation for the implementation of orientation models for better continuity of services between the health and social services network and community organizations dealing with aphasia.

- A grant obtained from the City of Montreal for the project « Bâtir le pont de la communication par la culture », which allows phasic people, relatives and members of the community to explore and express their experiences through dance, plastic arts and video.

2020 The highlight of the year was concluding our first strategic planning. It was carried out with the participation of stakeholders, including members with aphasia, relatives, employees and volunteers, directors of the board of directors, representatives of the Maison de l'aphasia Foundation and many partners. Nearly 160 people were mobilized. The presentation of a renewed vision, a modernized mission, redefined values based on solidarity, the development of people, inclusion, respect and democracy, led the organization to adopt a strategic plan 2020-2023.

Since March 2020, the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the activities of the AQPA have moved from a face-to-face mode to a virtual mode. With creativity and a great capacity for adaptation, we have resolutely turned to technologies and remote psychosocial support. Thanks to an Emergency Fund from the MSSS, we were able to provide tablets and support for teaching.

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2019 Housed at the "Centre de services communautaires du Monastère" since 2016, in December 2019, the AQPA took possession of new premises offering a much larger surface area allowing independent access to more spacious and numerous rooms for the holding of its activities. Efforts have been made to develop and restructure our friendship visits. Volunteer support tools and a leaflet have been prepared. An intensified partnership with other organizations funded by "Appui Montréal " enabled two projects to be carried out. The first resulted in the production of a quiz to raise public awareness of informal

caregiving and help caregivers recognize themselves as such. The second resulted in the publication of a directory for CIUSSS of the Centre-Ouest-de-Île-de-Montréal clientele, indicating services to relatives in the area.

2018 Organization of cooking workshops with the collaboration of Resto-Plateau. 3rd edition of the Journal « De Maux à Mots », made by a workshop of Louise Malo (CREP). Produced videos by SAPPA, posted on the website as well as on Youtube, intended to facilitate the communication with an aphasic person. Addition of summer workshop on a day, because of the CREP. Ten workshops for dyads of which one member has primary aphasia have been offered to AQAP.

Friendship visits have resumed their momentum under the coordination of Béatrice Chay for

9 months. 5% increase in grant APPUI Montréal for the SAPPA project, for the period 2019-2021. A student of UQAM did an internship in sexology from September 2018 to April 2019. Participation of the President, Marie-Claire Nadeau, at the National Consultation Day on loved ones assisted by Minister Marguerite Blais. The AQPA has filed a collection of its proposals during this consultation..

2017 January 2017 marks the 35th anniversary of the creation of the AQPA. Aphasia House Foundation produces, with the participation of the staff and members, a promotional video on the activities of AQPA « Aphasie, j't'ai pas choisie! ». Renewal of the Support from « l'Appui aux proches aidants Montréal », for the 2017-2019 period, including a 38% increase in the amounts granted. Additional Anglophone groups in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, thanks to a new logistical partnership with the Cummings Center.

As part of the CREP workshops, second publication of the Journal « De Maux à Mots » by the members for aphasic people. Inspired by the « Carnet de suivi » and elaborated in English and French, a website adapted for people with aphasia, « Accès AQPA » is created and is accessible via the home page of our own site. Client hearing screening, conducted as part of workshops conducted at AQPA by McGill University's School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Pilot project conducted in collaboration with the « École d'orthophonie et d'audiologie de

l'Université de Montréal », for people with progressive primary aphasia and their loved ones. Opportunity for drama workshops at AQPA, in collaboration with « Théâtre aphasique ». Conference by Louise Bourbonnais at the Montreal Stroke Summit in November 2017 on the AQAP's social integration mission.

2016 AQPA has received a grant from City of Montreal and « Artistes amateurs 55 ans et plus ». Françoise Rollin is nominated Executive Director. AQPA moves to the Centre de services communautaires du Monastère. In June, a poster session was organized by Marie GagnonBrousseau in the context of the theatrical activities « En voix et en vie », at the Carrefour des connaissances, Centre de réadaptation Lucie-Bruneau.

Support and training was given to Speech and Language Therapists for the establishment of social SLP clinics in Quebec City and Sherbrooke (<http://orthophoniesociale.org/>). The choir, Choeur de l'aphasie, was invited to three TV shows: « La Fabrique culturelle » with Kim Thuy, the dramatic series FEUX and Banc public with Guylaine Tremblay. The choir also gave a concert at the World Social Forum.

2015 A grant of \$85 000 is received from the Regional Conference of elected officers in Montreal for theatrical activities with Mise au jeu in eight residences for the elderly. A grant is received from the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec for the creation of an adapted web site for people with aphasia. Significant increase of friendly visits as well as increases in the number of volunteers and interns were noticed. The first workshops for people with progressive primary aphasia, are created at the University of Montreal School for Speech and Language Therapy (SAPPA program).

A poster session on the SAPPA program at the Carrefour des connaissances is introduced by the Centre de réadaptation Lucie-Bruneau. A presentation of the SAPPA project is given at the 10th Colloque québécois de réadaptation. A two year renewal grant from l'APPUIMontreal for the SAPPA program and grants from the City of Montreal (PAL and PALIM) for the people with disabilities leisure activities are received.

2014 Donation of \$50,000 from J. Pelletier. Maureen Stafford leads monthly meetings for caregivers in the context of the SAPPA program. Ten AQPA members are part of a PIMO pilot project. The Aphasia House Foundation has become a public foundation and receives its charitable organization number from the Canada Revenue Agency. Launching of the Foundation is hosted by an exhibition of artworks from our members (Hugo Brochu, Cong Nguyen, Viviane Troche and Louise Bourbonnais) at the Boite gourmande, 454 Laurier East, Montreal, in the presence of the two spokesmen, Guy Nadon and Normand Gougeon. At Christmas time, La Presse+ publishes an article about the choir.

2013 Publication of the Bulletin « Maison de l'aphasie » as a project linked to the creation of the Aphasia House Foundation holding its first General Assembly and its first Board of directors. Donation of \$45,000 from Mr. Karel Velan. Publishing of the French version of the DVD: Communiquer avec une personne aphasiques. Louise Bourbonnais is interviewed in the televised program "RDI-Matin" on Saturday May 25th, as part of the «Week of Aphasia » programming. Obtaining of a subsidy from « L'APPUI pour les aidants – Montréal » allowing the establishment of the SAPPA Project: A service for caregivers of people with aphasia. Return of the Photography Workshops animated by Mylène Dion, with the theme « Sur le Plateau Mont-Royal ». Their goal: to publish a 2014 Calendar with a selection of the "Best pictures". Creating of the Workshop « Petit chœur » aiming to teach the new singers the words of the choir's songs. A Welcome Group is also created to integrate the new participating members. Obtaining of AlterGo's recognition prize for the AQPA's 30 years of existence as well as the Raymond-Bachand-Development Prize, awarded to emphasize all the work accomplished. Launching of the Workshop « Christmas Preparations » with Mylène Dion and of the Anglophone "Welcome Group".

2012 A photo exhibition in the « Passage des arts de l'IUGM » as a result of the summer workshop given by Mylène Dion. The Choirs Chœur de l'aphasie and Chœur de

l'espoir (from Quebec City) teamed to give a concert at the Anglicane de Lévis. The AQPA choir also participated at the Mondial Choral Contest, in Laval. The AQPA moved their premises to 454, Laurier Avenue East, in the heart of the « Plateau Mont-Royal” District. Opening of the workshop given by Michelyne Hubert at the École d'orthophonie de l'Université de Montréal . Darla Orchard starts animating voluntarily an Anglophone Group on Monday afternoons. McGill University sends students for an in-service program for the following disciplines: Social Service, Speech Language Pathology and Occupational therapy. In November, The Choir « Choeur de l'aphasie » participated in the « Agora de l'aphasie » in Quebec City, with Christine Cantin as a highly appreciated speaker.

2011 Computer classes are set up thanks to a subsidy from the Ministère des services gouvernementaux through the program “Appui au passage à la société de l'information”. Obtaining of a subsidy from the Ministère de la famille et des aînés through the Program « SIRA » for the production of an educational DVD meant to bring help in the communication of caregivers with people with aphasia. Photography workshops are held during summertime under the theme “Aphasia” intended for an exhibition in January 2012 at the Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal. In collaboration with the Université de Montréal students doing a Master in Speech Language Pathology are greeted in the fall session. A Social Service student from McGill University is also accepted for a field practicum. The number of workshops suggested increases, as well as the amount of participants. McGill University agrees to send Speech Language Pathology and Social Service students for field training as part of their annual program.

2010 Louise Bourbonnais becomes Executive Director. On the «Week of aphasia », a presentation of the play « Le Facteur temps » is given at the « Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal » by the Théâtre aphasiques. The amount of members in the Board of Directors increases. The AQPA Choir participates in the shooting of the Robert Lepage movie « Triptyque ». A Social Service student from the Cégep Marie-Victorin joins the AQPA team.

2009 In January, McGill University accepts to start a pilot project despite the fact that the AQPA is not able to ensure a long term involvement. A Speech Language Pathologist accompanied by students facilitates the anglophone groups. The Agence de la Santé et des services sociaux de Montréal confirms that an extra subsidy of \$20,955 would be given from development budgets. A new workshop is held on Thursday afternoons.

2007 Terre Aphasie: A rerun of the show given by the AQPA in 2006, in collaboration with the Théâtre aphasique at the Centre Leonardo DaVinci and at the Gesù. The first agreement is made between the AQPA and McGill University to introduce English speaking people with aphasia to the organization. The anglophone workshop held on Saturdays continues its activities with the guidance of a facilitator. A new workshop starts its activity on Monday mornings.

2006 Participation in the radio program "Christiane Charrette" (CBC). Constance-Lethbridge
Rehabilitation Center makes a donation of \$7,000 bringing its help and support to the AQPA. Concrete steps are made with the anglophone group to create an autonomous Chapter in Montreal. Its integration with the AQPA seems to be the simplest and most efficient way to offer them services.

2005 The AQPA continues to host the anglophone groups at its premises, and also supplies the services of a psychosocial worker. The AQPA receives a donation of \$5,000 from the
Fondation Dr Paul David pour personnes aphasiques. Appearances in various
television
reports such as « Enjeux (SRC) » and at Canal Vie. The Association moves its office back to its previous location in the Institut Universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal.

2004 Distribution of a cartoon from collective authors, titled: Aphasia Terre Incognita ou Comment communiquer avec une personne aphasique.

The English Group is transferred to the AQPA premises on Rosemont Blvd.

2003 Beginning of the specialized educator Marjorie Dugas. Christine Cantin begins as choirmaster and composer. The AQPA begins a new project aiming to accompany the communication of English people with aphasia to be held at the Constance-Lethbridge Rehabilitation Center. The AQPA receives a donation of \$7,000 from the "Fondation Dr Paul David pour personnes aphasiques".

2002 A celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the AQPA is held with 250 people in attendance.
Launch of the Cahier de suivi. The AQPA moves its premises to 419 Rosemont Blvd, in Montreal. Republishing of the guide *S'informer pour mieux agir*. Financial support from the foundations J.-Armand Bombardier, Dr Paul David, Adolphe and Roger Ducharme and « Les Ailes de la mode ».

2001 Alain d'Amours starts as Executive Director

2000 A work integration contract with the OPHQ allows the AQPA to hire an office clerk. A subsidy from the « Fondation J.-Armand Bombardier » is obtained to hire a social worker.

1999 Signing of the first agreement between the AQPA and the "Centre de ressources éducatives et pédagogiques de la commission scolaire de Montréal (CREP)".
Financial difficulties cause cutbacks in AQPA Activities.

1998 Création du Regroupement provincial des associations de personnes aphasiques, le RAPAQ.

1997 Launch of the Information Guide *S'informer pour mieux agir*, which was distributed in the Health Network and Social Services. Creation of the Regroupement provincial des associations pour personnes aphasiques du Québec called "RAPAQ".

1996 A survey conducted with over 106 establishments about services given to the people with aphasia. Participation to the Inter-Establishment Committee of «Centre de réadaptation LucieBruneau » so that preferential treatment could be given to the exchanges related to people with aphasia.

1995 Consolidation of the AQPA with the creation of two salaried positions. The Théâtre aphasique becomes an AQPA Chapter. The OPHQ financially recognized the AQPA as a Provincial Organization, by assigning the mission to coordinate various chapters throughout Quebec.

1994 Creation and launching of the movie Les mots perdus (the lost words), by Marcel Simard, with the president of honour Lise Thériault, President of the OPHQ. About fifteen members were actively engaged in writing the scenario.

1993 Second International Congress for Associations of People with Aphasia at the Intercontinental Hotel of Montreal, under the responsibility of the AQPA. First presentation of the play Le silence qui parle (the talking silence), conducted by Anne-Marie Théroux, actor and Speech Language Therapist, founder of the Théâtre aphasique.

1992 Drawing up of the first work integration project for a young person with aphasia. 10th Anniversary: Tribute to "Founder-Members and Volunteers". Opening of the Sherbrooke, Laval and Ste-Hyacinthe Chapters.

1991 Launch of the book L'aphasique during the third International Week of Aphasia. Beginning of the Choir and first Theatre Workshop. Opening of Montreal-East and Trois-Rivières chapters.

1990 Second « Week of Aphasia » now spread on a worldwide scale. Opening of a new AQPA Chapter in Granby. The actor Yvon Dufour becomes spokesman for the cause of people with aphasia.

1989 First « Provincial Week of Aphasia », an event created simultaneously with the First

National Week of Aphasia in the United States. Participants of the First International Congress for Associations of People with Aphasia in Bruxelles. Seminars in Mont-Joli, SaintHyacinthe and Arthabaska.

1988 First profitable-activity: Presentation of a theatre play called Une amie d'enfance of Louise Roy and Louis Saïa. First Inter-association Congress AQPA-APIA (Quebec Association of people interested in aphasia).

1987 The AQPA obtains a subsidy of \$1500 from the « Ministère des loisirs, chasse et pêche » and from the OPHQ. Important involvement of caregivers.

1986 Creation of the «Caregivers Group ».

1983 First issue of L'Abri, a bulletin published on a regular basis, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Montreal-North. Its production stopped in 2009, the budget being \$800 per year, for only 45 members.

1982 Foundation of the Organization with Claude Charrette, Paul Moisan, Lucie Grenache and Sylvie Guay who signed the patent papers. The AQPA first settled its Head Office in the Research Centre of the Côte-des-Neiges Hospital. In its beginning, the group consisted of 5 to 7 people but it soon grew up to 20 people, including a Speech Language Pathologist and a volunteer.
