

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



FONDATION
DUFRESNE &
GAUTHIER

+ Community involvement

The Dufresne & Gauthier Foundation is first and foremost a story of family and community. We believe in the importance of understanding and respecting the uniqueness of each young person and each family, to enable them to reach their full potential. We believe that the strength of a community lies in recognizing its unity, valuing the diversity of its members, and the solidarity that comes from mutual understanding. That's why we encourage the BY and FOR approach in the communities where we are involved, via the organizations with which we forge privileged ties.

+ Territorial recognition

As an organization, we want to take a moment to honor the Indigenous territory on which we work, live and evolve. We wish to recognize the ancestral territories of the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) nation and the Huron-Wendat nation, where the Foundation's mission takes place. We are also committed to recognizing the First Nations people as guardians of the waters and lands on all the territories where our reach is present. These territories have long been places of encounter and exchange between various nations and the Indigenous peoples. And today, it continues to be a place that welcomes a wide diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

We recognize the past and present struggles of Indigenous peoples for survival, rights, dignity and sovereignty. For the Foundation, it's also our way of honouring the history that has shaped this land since time immemorial and continues to do so today. It invites us to ally ourselves with these struggles, based on the recognition that justice is the foundation of reconciliation and the reciprocity that is desirable and necessary in future relations between our peoples.

The Foundation recognizes that this statement will be subject to change over time. It represents a first step towards building strong and lasting relationships with the Indigenous communities. We recognize the need for further work to foster reconciliation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A word from the President	4
A word from the General Manager	5
A word from the Quebec City coordinator	6
About the Foundation	7
The Foundation in figures	8
Highlights of 2023	11
Report from the coordinator in Mongolia	14
Days <i>Réseautage</i> – <i>Ressourcement</i> – <i>Valorisation</i> 2023 (RRV)	17
Commitments, participation and outreach	18
Governance	21
Our valued partners	22

A word from the President

Hélène Dufresne



I'm also delighted to realize that new energies are inviting us to develop a heightened awareness of our practices and their impact.

This past year was unquestionably one of transition. We welcomed two new members to our team and said goodbye to the person who had been at the helm of our activities for thirteen years. I'd like to thank Johanne Beauvilliers for her dedication and empathy towards all those who benefited from her attentive listening and accurate observations of sometimes uncomfortable but nonetheless real-life situation. I would also like to thank her for having so ably accompanied Valérie Plouffe, now at the head of the Foundation, and Rose Rodrigue, who coordinates our relations with Quebec City organizations and is responsible of our communications.

With them, we decided that well-being in organizations would be the theme of our annual *RRV (Ressourcement, Réseautage et Valorisation)*. An [article](#) was produced following our events and which is now available in our publications on the Foundation's website. The issue of refugee families and asylum seekers caught our attention in 2023, and we choose to set up a fund to help the organizations that come to their aid, as well as certain organizations that we already support and that are responding to urgent requests made to them by these newcomers to Canada, often awaiting immigration status.

I have no doubt that we will pursue our mission with the same rigour and commitment to the organizations we support, with our renewed team, who have skilfully taken over the reins of our organization. I'm also delighted to realize that new energies are inviting us to develop a heightened awareness of our practices and their impact. Without denying what motivates us and what has made our mark, we are committed through this transition to getting closer to the younger generation and to questioning ourselves about better practices. This awakening to today's reality is being achieved with the same openness towards the Foundation's stakeholders that we have always promoted. Our donors, our Board of Directors, our team, and the organizations we support, and our employees are all an integral part of our ecosystem, constantly inspiring and fueling us on how best to build a more just and compassionate society together.

A word from our General Manager

Valérie Plouffe



What's unique about us is the relationship that the Foundation has developed and the respect it has for all the community workers who work day after day with children and their families.

It gives me great pleasure to take up the pen as General Manager of FDG. The year 2023 has been one of transition for us, and I began this new mandate with deep gratitude for the work of Johanne Beauvilliers over the past thirteen years. I'm taking over the management of a foundation with over 22 years of experience and remarkable expertise in its field.

This year, nearly \$2 million was distributed to 93 organizations in Quebec and Mongolia. And over 22 years, that is more than \$24 million in donations!

Above and beyond the donations made each year in the communities, for me the Foundation is first of all a story of commitment and heart to the organizations that support children, young people and their families. What is unique about us is the relationship that the Foundation has developed and the respect it has for all the community workers who work day after day with children and their families. It is the understanding, the empathy and the sensitivity to the inequalities that some children face. And that's what rallies people around the Foundation and what drew me to it.

None of this would have been possible without the invaluable contribution of each and every one of you. I would therefore like to express my gratitude to Hélène and Rose, my everyday accomplices, to Dulmaa, our coordinator in Mongolia, our valued partners, our collaborators, the members of our Board of Directors, and all those who have supported the Foundation over the past 22 years. Your trust and collaboration have been essential catalysts in continuing this magnificent work.

It is therefore with deep optimism and a continuing commitment to FDG's mission that I will continue my mandate in 2024. It's a wonderful adventure that begins for me with respect and recognition for all that has been accomplished by the Foundation to date.

Mot de la coordonnatrice de Québec

Rose Rodrigue



It is with great gratitude that I underline how fortunate I am to evolve in an environment that values the strength of the community and, above all, encourages the consolidation of its social safety net.

Dear collaborators and partners,

Although I've only been with the Foundation for a few months, I'd like to express my sincere gratitude for your warm welcome. Over the past year, I've had the opportunity to flourish in a human environment imbued with solidarity and kindness towards young people and families. It is with great gratitude that I underline how fortunate I am to evolve in an environment that values the strength of the community and, above all, encourages the consolidation of its social safety net.

I'd like to thank each and every one of you for the moments you've shared with me and, above all, for the trust you've placed in me.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

A private family foundation

The Foundation Dufresne & Gauthier (FDG) was created in 2001 by H el ene Dufresne and Daniel Gauthier. The Foundation supports projects in Quebec and Mongolia that aim to make a difference in the lives of many children from underprivileged backgrounds or young people at risk. In Mongolia, we support locally run community projects that help children in this country where population disparities continue to grow.

Our mission

Our mission is to help children from the most vulnerable families and young people at risk by supporting projects that bring together families and organizations in a neighborhood or community, and that contribute to the well-being of children and respect of their fundamental rights.

Our vision

FDG's vision is to ensure the long-term viability of its community-based approach, by promoting the gradual development and consolidation of a support network in the communities where it operates to better support children and their families at every stage of their lives.

The values we hold dear

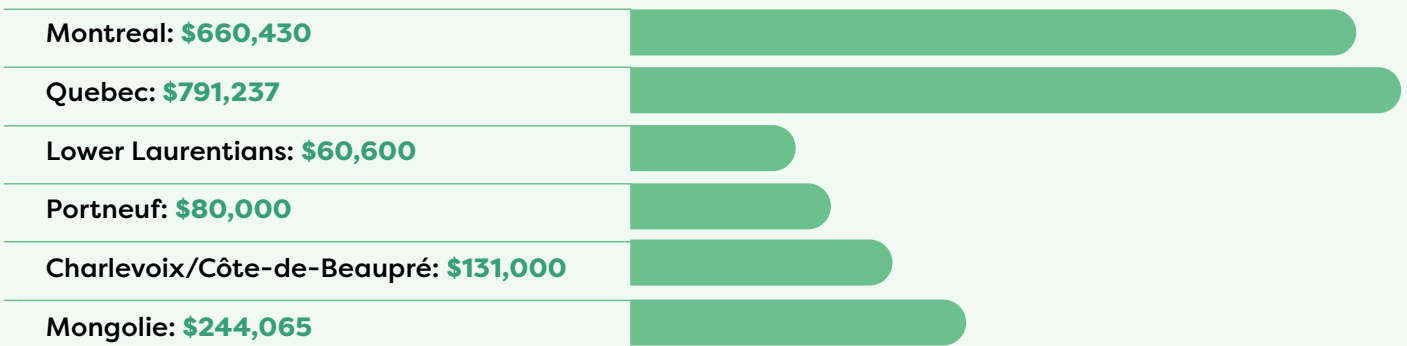
- **Social transformation:** We support projects from groups and communities and believe that each citizen has the ability to influence their reality and ours.
- **Social inclusion:** We support children and their families regardless of their social class, language, ethnic origin or living environment.
- **Partnership:** To develop relationships based on respect, trust and transparency.
- **Eco-citizenship:** Exercising our relationship with others, with institutions and with the environment as full-fledged citizens whose rights also come with responsibilities.

THE FOUNDATION IN FIGURES

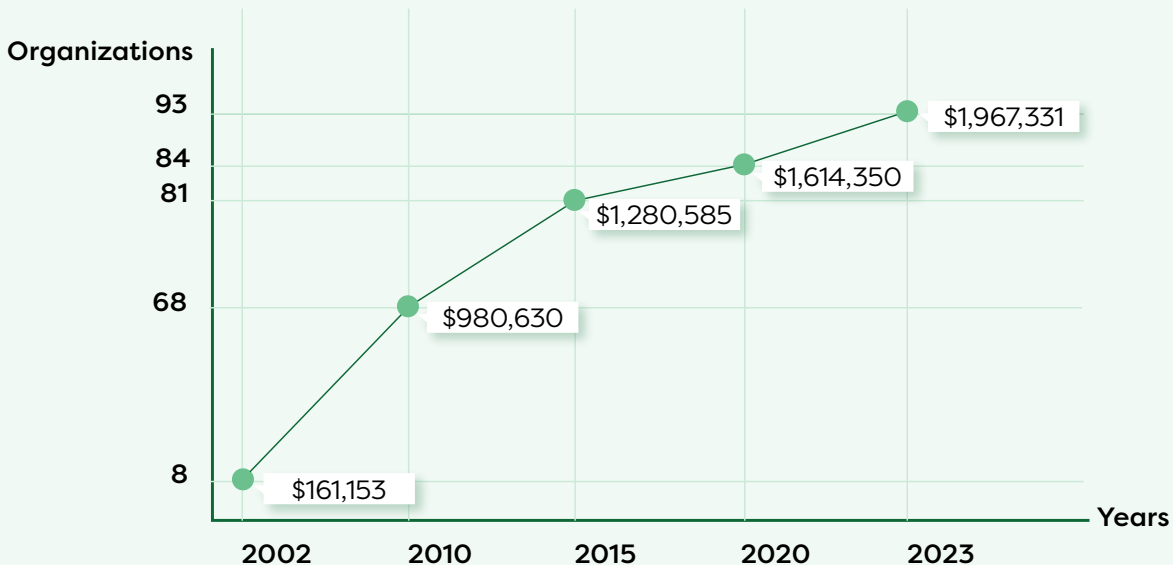
Quebec Mongolie review



Breakdown of the value of donations by territory:



Donations and organizations since 2002 Quebec and Mongolia:





46 organizations have received an increase in funding between 2022 and 2023. This represents 65% of the organizations supported by the Foundation.



Since 2002, \$24,113,372 has been distributed to 199 community organizations in Quebec and Mongolia.

Average number of years we have supported organizations with which we have agreements in Quebec:

Number of years	Number of organizations	%
1 to 5 years	8	11%
6 to 10 years	25	34%
11 to 15 years	15	21%
16 to 20 years	21	29%
21 years and more	4	5%
TOTALS	73	100%

Quebec

Portfolio

Grants are awarded on the basis of two main areas of intervention:

- Youth participation (youth portfolio)
- And enhancing the parental experience (family portfolio)

To clearly define the projects supported by the Foundation, a portfolio detailing each of these directions and categorizing financially supported projects has been designed. Here is the classification of these projects and the amounts allocated to them.

Types of portfolio and categories	Number of organizations	Amounts invested in 2023
Family	35	\$829,837
Daycare/Respite	9	\$207,850
Citizen involvement	2	\$35,000
Food safety: community kitchens and/or community gardens	6	\$158,387
Parent/child and family support activities, home visits	18	\$428,600
Youth	36	\$804,580
Support in a shelter context	7	\$212,000
Empowerment and citizen involvement	6	\$142,500
Activities related to the environment and nature	1	\$25,000
Recreational and/or preventive activities	11	\$226,000
School dropout prevention	6	\$124,080
Support through street work	5	\$75,000
TOTALS	71	\$1,634,417

In addition to categorizing projects within our portfolio, FDG focuses on three other areas: the environment, indigenous peoples and equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). In 2023, we supported two indigenous projects, three environmental projects and 15 EDI projects.

2 INDIGENOUS PROJECTS
3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS
15 EDI PROJECTS

Mongolie 2023 report



1,533,065 USD

Total amount for the program since the beginning

- 17 projects of 15 organizations including the “Joint project” implemented by 3 partner organizations. The total amount for the implementation of these projects was 163,994 USD.
- Since 2010 FDG has supported 26 organizations’ projects, “The Toys Project” was implemented in 14 Kindergartens, and the “Summer Camp” project was implemented by the NGO “Children Young People Protection and Development” for 11 years.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

Change in the FDG team

The year 2023 was a time of renewal for our team. After more than 13 years as Foundation Director, Johanne Beauvilliers retired on June 30, 2023. Our administrative assistant, Carole Hamel, also made the same great leap on December 31. Valérie Plouffe, Coordinator for just over a year, has taken over as General Manager, and Rose Rodrigue has been hired to coordinate services to organizations. It is with a heart full of gratitude that we salute the departure of these two women committed to their community.

From left to right:
Valérie Plouffe, Carole Hamel, Hélène Dufresne, Johanne Beauvilliers and Rose Rodrigue



Dulmaa in Quebec City

Dulmaa, our Mongolian coordinator, visited Quebec from June 5 to 15, 2023. We were able to discuss our donation allocation processes, funded projects and financial issues. This enabled Dulmaa, Rose and Valérie to get to know each other better and to meet with community organizations to identify projects and working approaches that could influence practices in Mongolia.



Discussion with Carrefour familial les Pichous and Maison Dalauze in Pointe-aux-Trembles in June 2023 on the theme of domestic violence.



Activity with Valérie, Dulmaa and Rose at the Foundation's office.

Refugee and asylum-seeker fund

In May 2022, sensitive to the impact of the war in Ukraine, FDG set up a special fund for refugees and asylum seekers. This temporary fund was intended to meet the emergency needs of young families and pregnant women newly arrived in Quebec. 4 organizations were targeted by the FDG to meet these needs. In 2 years, \$400,000 was distributed to organizations in Quebec City and Montreal. This temporary fund ended on December 31, 2023, and helped 1,600 families and their children.



New website

The Foundation's website got a makeover in 2023. Launched in October, it now allows us to more easily update our content more easily. Online donations are now available via the [Zeffy transactional platform](#). We invite you to visit our web site here: fdg.ca. We would also like to thank Lara Emond of [Nordet & Co](#) a former member of our Board of Directors, for her support, which greatly facilitated our work.

Restructuring our partner agreements

After consultation with organizations supported financially by FDG, the Board of Directors recommended in February 2023 that we end annual and three-year agreements in favor of “Long-term Commitments with Annual Reassessment” and “Temporary Partnership Agreements”. This change will enable us to bring greater consistency between our practice and the type of funding offered to organizations. It is part of a constant concern for equity and a desire to support organizations towards sustainable development, while respecting our financial and human capacities.

90%
of the organizations
we support are
part of a long-term
commitment with
annual re-evaluation

REPORT FROM THE COORDINATOR IN MONGOLIE

Dulmaa Luvsansharav

In 2023, the FDG office in Mongolia worked and organized activities focusing on making concrete contributions to fulfilling the FDG's Strategic Plan and the Mongolia office Orientation plan for 2022-2024. The year 2023 was a year in which cooperation between partner organizations was brought to a slightly higher level, the number of supported projects was increased, collaboration with new organizations that work with different target groups and consolidating the results of the Pilot project supported in 2022.

I have had the opportunity to visit the head office in Quebec City after 5 years due to the COVID-19 situation to become acquainted with the foundation's activities and get information about the changes that are taking place. Also, I introduced the situation of children in Mongolia, the organizations FDG cooperates with as well as the projects they are implementing to the foundation's directors and newly appointed staff.

The most exciting thing that happened on this occasion was to meet and say goodbye to Johanne Beauvilliers, the General Director and colleague with whom I have worked for 13 years since 2010 when the representative office of the FDG in Mongolia was established at first. I would like to express my gratitude to Johanne, who provided clear guidance and constant support, shared her work experience, gave me development opportunities during all this time. As a result of the systems, and forms she created for the smooth running of program and administrative activities, we are still working harmoniously with the new director and the new staff.



Summary of 2023 accomplishments

In 2023, many serious cases of violation of children’s rights and violence against children occurred in Mongolia, which showed the need to increase further the role and responsibility of the government and non-governmental organizations working for children.

In 2023, FDG cooperated with 15 organizations and funded 17 projects with a total amount of 163,994 USD. Within the framework of these projects, more than 400 vulnerable children were provided with social work services in development activities throughout the year, 52 children and 45 women who were victims of domestic and sexual abuse were placed in temporary shelters, and provided with social, psychological, and legal assistance. Also, 30 children were enrolled in summer day camps and 71 in summer camps.

New projects submitted by 3 organizations were funded, and one project trained young people and boys to protect themselves from various forms of discrimination, bullying, and violence by increasing their awareness of children’s rights.

3 partner organizations have successfully implemented a pilot project aimed at providing social work services and psychological counseling to empowering multi-disciplinary teams working in the community to reach out to child victims of abuse and teenage mothers living in suburban areas who cannot access social work and psychological services. Through this pilot project, based on the resources of NGOs operating in the area, some indicators show by the number of children involved in the services and the quality of services that providing necessary services in one place is effective.

12 organizations jointly wrote and published the booklet “Children’s Rights Protection: In Practice, Experiences of non-governmental organizations working on real cases” which is a continuation of the “Children’s Rights Protection: In Practice Initiatives and good practices of non-governmental organizations”, which was jointly written by the organizations that receive funding from FDG. The English version of the booklet is available [here](#).

The launch of the booklet was organized in November 2023 by partner organizations. Representatives of government organizations, international and local NGOs working in the field of children’s rights, as well as researchers and teachers from universities that train social workers, have been invited and participated in the event. During the event, the way that the organizations presented the case stories included in the booklet to the participants was compelling. They were split into groups of 3 and presented the cases through monologues, speeches, and videos.

New projects submitted by 3 organizations were funded, and one project trained young people and boys to protect themselves from various forms of discrimination, bullying, and violence by increasing their awareness of children’s rights.

Mongolian Program Committee

The Program Committee met twice to discuss and select project proposals to be submitted to the Board meetings. In 2023, FDG Mongolia received 41 new project proposals and the MPC members selected 17 projects.

The members participated in the booklet organized and launched the event on the 22nd of November, 2023.

In 2023, 14 hours of training were organised.

The meetings were held at one of the NGOs FDG supports. It gave information to the meeting participants to know about the organization's target group and its activities and share experiences with each other.

29

Number of follow-up monitoring visits



3

Number of participations in the activities organized by the partner organizations



3

Number of partners' meetings



Evaluation working groups:

- To increase transparency, cooperation, experience sharing, and learning opportunities for the partners' staff, working groups were created.
- One group was established to guide and improve the implementation of the Pilot project which three organizations jointly implemented. This working group had 3 meetings.
- A second group was supporting those who write stories on real cases. This group had discussions 4 times.
- A third group oversaw editing the written stories into a booklet and met twice.

DAYS RÉSEAUTAGE

RESSOURCEMENT – VALORISATION 2023

Our RRV days took place on October 19 and 26 and was marked by a return in person. As the form of a laboratory on well-being in the workplace, community partners were invited to come together to enjoy a moment of resourcing and networking, while sharing their expertise to the other organizations supported by FDG. In addition to the various workshops offered this year, such as singing, body expression and writing, and the end of the day was marked by a 5@7 in the form of a festive cabaret.

We would like to thank the participants once again for their presence at this event, and for their invaluable collaboration during the discussions. We would also like to thank André Fortin, accompanied by Jacinthe Dubé and Myriam Jezequel, for their invaluable contribution to the event.

To read the article summarizing the even click [here!](#)

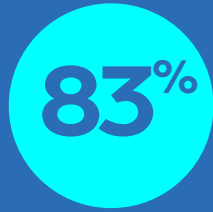
Statistics for these days



organizations present



of participants say they were able to network and share with other organizations



felt that the activities offered met their expectations

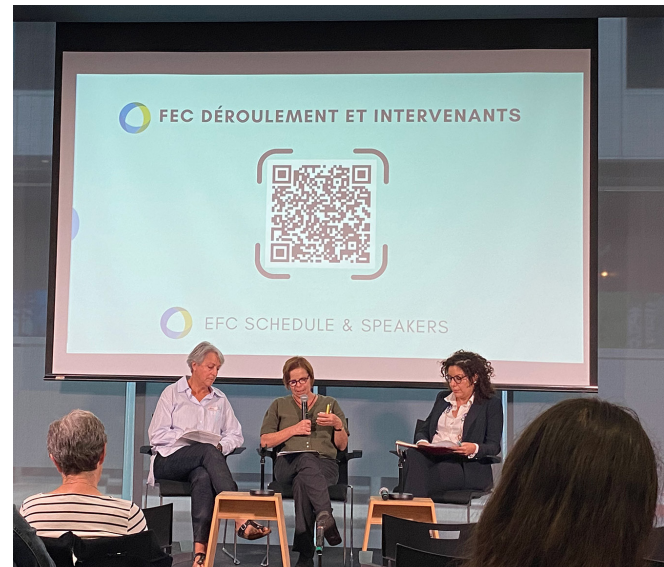


Photos : RRV Montréal held on October 19, 2023 at MEM - Centre des mémoires montréalaises

COMMITMENTS, PARTICIPATION AND OUTREACH

The Foundation was present

- The second edition of the [Lumières sur le coût de la vie de l'Observatoire québécois des inégalités](#), event took place last spring in Quebec City, under the theme of the impact of the rising cost of living. This event was surrounded by enriching discussions with united actors in the development and implementation of tangible solutions to support our communities.
- In September 2023, [Environment Funders Canada](#) and the [Collectif des fondations québécoises contre les inégalités](#) jointly organized a day of exchange on the theme of “Integrating the climate justice perspective”. Our Executive Director, Valérie Plouffe, was present, accompanied by our President, Hélène Dufresne, who was a panelist for the closing session on the theme “Mobilizing the team and the board of directors to take the next steps”.
- During the first day of the [Mallet Institute’s 2023 Summit on Philanthropic Culture](#), last October, our president, Hélène Dufresne, was there as a panelist for an enriching discussion on the complementary roles and vision of philanthropy, alongside numerous players from a variety of backgrounds.
- Our president Hélène Dufresne took part in a workshop given as part of [PhiLab Québec](#)’s fall school on the theme of Philanthropy and international development. The workshop, which took place in the fall, focused on our work in Mongolia, and was attended by some 15 graduate students in the social sciences and management.
- FDG is actively involved in the [Collectif des fondations québécoises contre les inégalités](#). As a member, it participates in various working committees. In 2023, we took part in more than 15 committees.



Canadian philanthropy’s commitment to climate change

In 2021, FDG signed the [Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Disruption](#). Building on the International Commitment, it invites all funders in the country, whatever their mission, to unite and commit to acting against climate change. By 2023, nearly fifty philanthropic organizations will have signed up to this commitment.

The Canadian Philanthropy Pledge on Climate Change is a tool based on 7 pillars in which the actions and measures taken by each of the signatories fit. The elements presented here are a summary of those taken by FDG to pursue its commitment to the climate and climate disruption.

THE 7 PILLARS OF THE MANIFESTO



1- Education and learning

Although a signatory, FDG does not have a specific environmental mission. However, we are keen to improve our practices and support our partner organizations' initiatives in this area.

- We have made an inventory of current practices within the organizations we support, and initiated discussions between ourselves.
- We also held an exchange between members of our Board of Directors and a foundation that has made a major shift in the fight against climate change.
- We took part in two meetings of foundations involved in the environment, organized by Philanthropic Foundations of Canada, to learn more about the network's current practices, advances and resistance.



2 - Allocation of resources

We continued our support for activities aimed at mobilizing citizens around climate change and biodiversity loss. In 2023, \$90,000 was allocated to organizations involved in environmental activities.



3 - Integration

We have not yet identified any specific activities in this area.



4 - Endowments and assets

We followed with interest the [ESG Grand Canadian Championship](#). The Board of Directors has decided to entrust part of its investment portfolio to a manager who stood out in this competition. Our investment policy is also under review. A new version should be adopted in 2024.



5- Activities

Telecommuting has certainly reduced our carbon footprint in terms of travel. However, we feel that telecommuting limits social interaction, which we see as a major constraint on the development of the people with whom we interact. Returning to face-to-face activities will raise questions about the best way to reduce the carbon footprint of our activities.



6 - Influence and advocacy activities

FDG supported the *Collectif des fondations québécoises contre les inégalités* in its lobbying for the interpretation of the Charities Act to consider the desire of foundations to support citizen movements, such as student or environmental movements, which until recently did not qualify for a charity number.



7 - Transparency

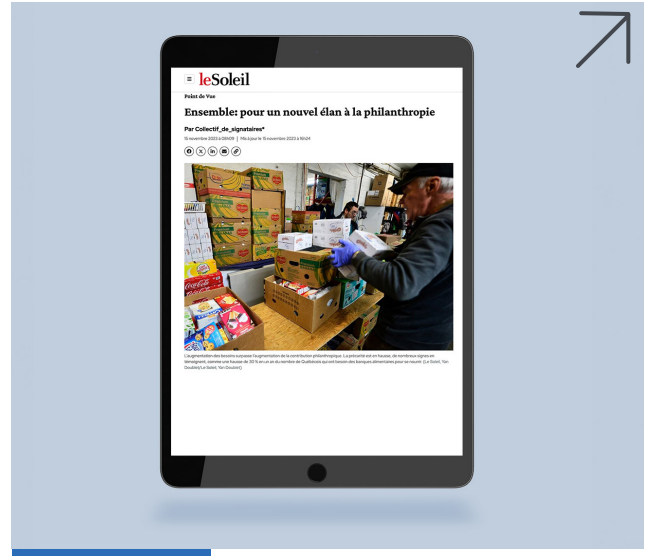
The 2023 report on FDG's progress in relation to the 7 pillars of this manifesto constitutes the first edition of this commitment. It will continue an annual basis.

FDG as a co-signatory

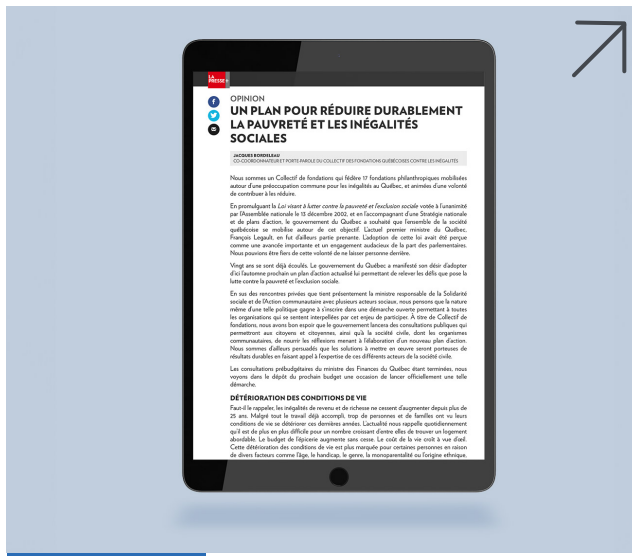
As a foundation, we believe in supporting causes that are close to our hearts. Here are the letters and briefs for which we have added our voice in 2023.



Crise des médias : La philanthropie ne peut rester silencieuse.



Ensemble pour un nouvel élan à la philanthropie.



Un plan pour réduire durablement la pauvreté et les inégalités sociales.



Brief submitted in June 2023 and presented by the *Collectif des fondations québécoises contre les inégalités* as part of the Public Consultation for the development of the 4th Government Action Plan to combat poverty and social exclusion.

GOVERNANCE

Our Board of Directors

The team is made up of committed managers, each of whom contributes, in his or her own field of expertise, to raising the profile of the Foundation, achieving its objectives and strengthening our actions.

This year, we would like to mark the departure of Lara Émond, who contributed with her expertise for nearly five years. Thank you for your availability and commitment.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Dominique Villemaire as a new Board member. She joined us in May 2023 as a specialist in communications, project management and contemporary Quebec visual art. Welcome to the Board!



Lara Émond



Hélène Dufresne
President



Daniel Gauthier
Vice-president



Claude Choquette
Secretary-Treasurer



André Couture
Director



Aurélie Gauthier
Director



Dominique Villemaire
Director



Francis Morin
Director

OUR VALUED PARTNERS

We would like to express our deep gratitude to our partners. Their commitment and collaboration are essential contributions that help us strengthen our capacity to act, create a positive impact and make a difference in the lives of young people and their families.



OUR COORDINATES

2505 Laurier Blvd, Suite 200
Quebec City, QC G1V 2L2

E-mail address: info@fdg.ca

Website: fdg.ca



FONDATION
DUFRESNE &
GAUTHIER