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Membership

The four English Clubs in Quebec take membership seriously and believe that membership is every member's responsibility. However, attracting new members remains a struggle – especially younger members - and most clubs are trying at the very least, to replace long-term members that have passed away. But in a province where the Anglophone population is, according to the 2016 census, only 7.45% of the total, our clubs are a little bit disadvantaged because they have a smaller population base to draw on. Many of our Clubs do have Francophone members, but they have to be relatively bilingual in order to participate in club activities.

But our four clubs are all persistent and persevering and do everything in their power to attract new members. At the RD meeting at the AGM in Winnipeg, we talked about membership “best practices”. Several RDs noted that many clubs had seen their membership boosted by reaching out to associations of retirees in the various professions – particularly retired educators and nurses – this is something I think our clubs should look at more closely.

Public Profile

All clubs are taking advantage of community partnerships and work in their respective communities to raise their public profile. Kiosks at Community Outreach days, high-profile local *events* like the Sherbrooke Summer Market and Public Speaking Contest,, the South Shore Club's Book Sale, the MLUWC's concert fundraiser (this year a dinner and sold out performance by the tenor Davide Bazzali) and the UWCM's Olympes de la Parole and recent move to the Atwater Library with a community open house – are all ways that our name is getting out there.

Our communications directors and webmasters ensure that local media and the general public are kept abreast of our activities and causes.

Advocacy

Our four clubs realize that advocacy is important - not only for its own sake - but also as a vehicle for attracting new and younger members who are anxious to take on a cause. The Sherbrooke Club, for example, has a particular interest in aboriginal issues, the MLUWC in adolescents who are phasing out of care.

Scholarships

Fundraising for scholarships is the backbone of each of our four clubs. I had the pleasure of participating in two clubs' scholarship handout evenings in the last year and it's really impressive and encouraging to see the wonderful young women who will be our leaders of tomorrow.

Sustainability

- All Clubs have Interest Groups
- All Clubs have speakers at meetings, many open to the public
- Three of the four English Clubs have Co-Presidents this year because they have been unable to find individuals willing to take on the Presidency alone. So far, this system appears to be working well.