

To respond to Senator Fraser's question as to what an organization like Townshippers would do with increased financial support from the federal government/where is additional funding required I offer the following:

- Indexation of core program funding from Canadian Heritage to respond to constantly rising costs of business (TA's own program funding has been the same since 1989) and to provide community workers with a decent and stable living wage.
- Equity in funding envelopes dedicated to OLMCs. The English-speaking community of Quebec is marginalized by a lack of understanding around its reality (myths of the wealthy anglo persist) and a lack of consideration at many decision-making levels. The recent OCOL Annual Report, with a heavy focus on La Francophonie and left many of us wondering where our input had gone from the many consultations we attended.
- Townshippers could run and sustain its annual fall festival if it received dedicated funding that didn't require us to add a second day to the event and take on more work just to fit into the PCH festival funding envelope. As it stands now TDay is an activity like any other in our core program and we must fundraise close to 15 000 annually to meet expenses that increase each year.
- Project envelopes that don't require you to be a contortionist to fit your activity or initiative into parameters that don't correspond to the realities of the sector and that become recurrent for successful initiatives.
- Federal funding to support the creation of a Youth organization dedicated to the English-speaking community so that we can be on par with the majority instance and compete for provincial funding envelopes we are currently unable to access because of their funding structure (the province will only sign funding agreements with provincially mandated sectoral groups and we have nothing representative of ESCQ youth despite attempts to get support through enabling and strategic envelopes). Had it not been for the quick action of our intersectoral youth table (EDs of QCGN, TA, CASA, CHSSN, YES and LEARN), our youth would have been left out of the new 15 year Quebec policy on youth.
- Increased support for and research dedicated to rural English-speaking Quebec (off-island).