

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2023-2024



Convergence

Service d'aide aux hommes de la Gaspésie

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2023-2024

ANOTHER EXCEPTIONAL YEAR

STATISTICS OVERVIEW

635 active files, 153 new participants



Education: 27 % have completed Secondary III



44 % of participants including 139 fathers live in precarious financial and/or residential situations



767 minors affected by our interventions



23 fathers are homeless



59 participants live or are part of an indigenous community



207 have experienced a separation in the last 12 months



106 have had suicidal thoughts in the past year

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to present Convergence's activity report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

We have completed a third year of operation at Maison Oxygène. Thanks to our diligent, competent and caring staff, we welcomed fathers and children for average stays of 62 days.

This year, our field of intervention and expertise has intensified and diversified. Following a request from the Direction de la Sécurité publique, we increased our presence at the New Carlisle Detention Facility.

We also hired two new outreach workers, one in Pointe-à-la-Croix and one in Caplan. In addition, we created a new position for a fisheries outreach worker in Rivière-au-Renard to support the population dealing with the situation of considerable quota cuts. This work was conducted in partnership with the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC and Public Health, with whom we have signed a tripartite agreement.

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to our employees, volunteers, and managers for their exceptional contribution in such a special year in so many ways. Thanks to all these kind-hearted people, more men have been able to benefit from Convergence's services.

Diane Dupuis
President

Marie Hudon
Director General

OUR MISSION AND VALUES

CONVERGENCE is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to helping men on the Gaspé Peninsula, particularly men in difficulty, fathers in vulnerable situations, and spouses with inappropriate or violent behaviour.

The name CONVERGENCE means a meeting place for men, a space for sharing and exploration, with the aim of developing communication and assertiveness skills without violence. CONVERGENCE also connotes the coming together of several factors in a person's life trajectory that are conducive to the initiation of a positive personal process.

We adhere to recent field approaches that consider the socio-economic, cultural, and individual's situation as well as his or her family's. We are committed to the emergence of positive models of masculinity and fatherhood.

We oppose all forms of violence, regardless of the sex or gender of the aggressor or victim. Our intervention vision is based on the essential values of fairness, equality, and respect in interpersonal relationships, and self-responsibility in all forms of violence.

We don't want to frame social issues in terms of gender duality. Instead, we focus on the principles of solidarity and diversity to free us from the alienating factors of traditional gender norms.¹

Note 1 : Violence conjugale et familiale, vers une Politique gouvernementale renouvelée, Association à cœur d'homme, 2017

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Intervene and prevent specific problems faced by men;

Provide individual follow-up programs, workshops, and support groups for men with violent behaviours and for men in difficulty who are experiencing difficult events and situations that can have a negative impact on their mental health and their personal and social lives;

Promote education by providing training programs and workshops to the public and stakeholders on topics such as: domestic violence, family drama prevention, parenting roles, men's health and well-being;

Provide assistance and housing services for men in difficulty, with priority given to fathers and their children, with psychosocial and community support.

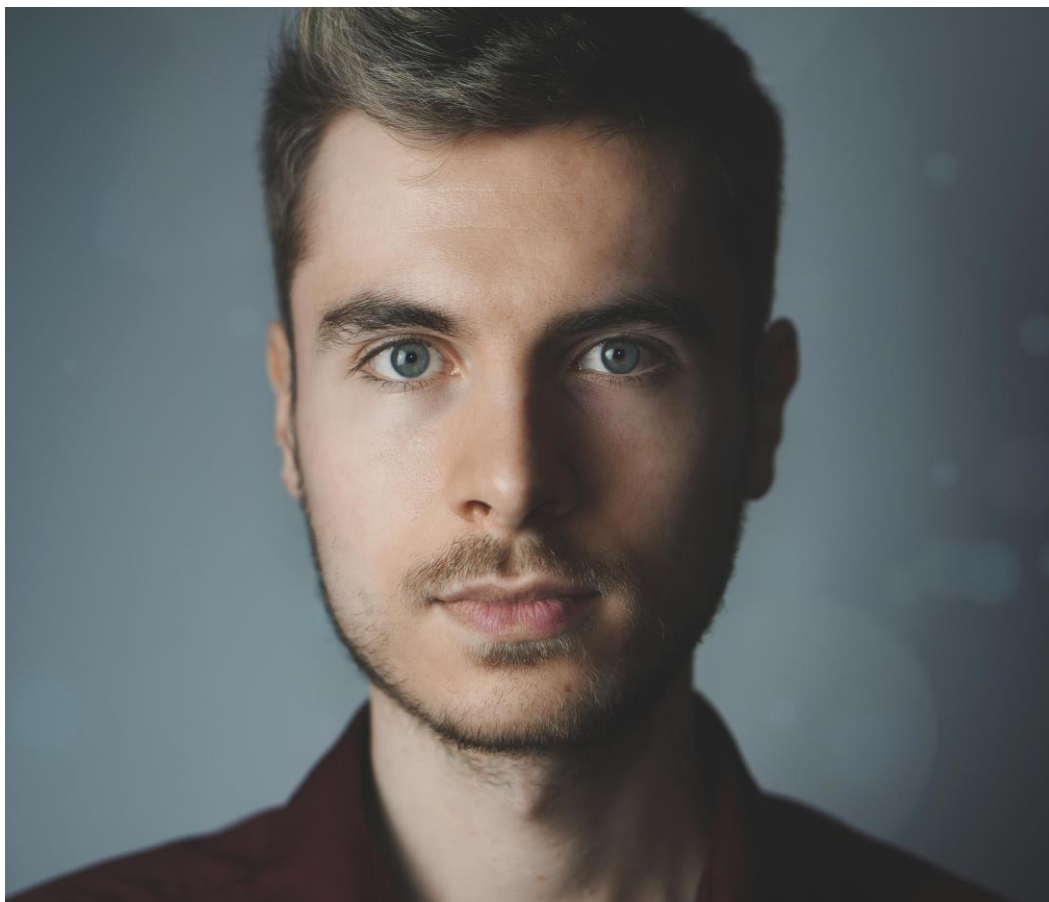


INTERVENING WITH MEN

The trajectory of a man's request for help is constantly evolving. With the many awareness and prevention campaigns, the percentage of younger men is increasing year on year. On the other hand, there are still many men who wait until the last minute, often in a crisis situation, to initiate a process, particularly among so-called "traditional" men. We could call this a last resort, since the "edge of the cliff" situation calls for rapid, concerted action.

Belief in the human capacity to evolve and develop

Promoting personal autonomy and self-determination



ADMINISTRATORS FOR 2023-2024

To September 26, 2023

Guillaume Lessard	President	New Richmond	3rd mandate 2017
Diane Dupuis	Vice-President	Anse-Pleureuse	1st mandate 2020
Lewis Annett	Treasurer	Gaspé	4th mandate 2013
Emmanuelle D.Fournier	Secretary	SADM	2nd mandate 2017
Pascal Soucy	Administrator	Employé	1st mandate 2022

Au 27 septembre 2023 (AGA)

Diane Dupuis	President	Anse-Pleureuse	2nd mandate 2020
Nicolas Rannou	Vice-President	SADM	1st mandate 2023
Guyline Castillou	Treasurer	Val Alain	1st mandate 2023
Catherine Chrétien	Secretary	Gaspé	1st mandate 2023
Audrée-Anne Hudon	Administrator	Montréal	1st mandate 2023

PERMANENT STAFF AND EMPLOYEES

Convergence

Marie-Alexandrine Hudon
Director General, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts;

Jean-Jacques Élie
Psychosocial Outreach Worker and special projects, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts;

Maude Carboneau-Girouard
Psychosocial Outreach Worker, Chandler;

Danielle Cyr
Psychosocial Outreach Worker, Caplan;

Vanessa Rivière-Landry
Intervenante psychosociale, Carleton-sur-Mer;

Rachel Savoie
Psychosocial Outreach Worker, at risk clientele, Pointe-à-la-Croix;

Stéphane Beaulieu
Psychosocial Outreach Worker, Rivière-au-Renard;

Patrick Jacques
Psychosocial Outreach Worker, Rivière-au-Renard.

Maison Oxygène Haute-Gaspésie



Mathieu Michaud
Coordinator

Abdou Badaoui
Psychosocial Outreach Worker

Danielle Drolet
Facilitator and special projects

Cédric Lavoie
Psychosocial Outreach Worker

Mike Therrien
Psychosocial Outreach Worker

Zita Dekpanhoun, part-time
Facilitator and Monitor

Kady Dao, part-time
Facilitator and Monitor

Luc Riffou, part-time
Psychosocial Outreach Worker

Sidonie Ngapout, part-time
Facilitator and Monitor

Léticia Fortier, part-time
Facilitator and Monitor

Vanessa Leblanc, part-time
Facilitator and Monitor

GOVERNANCE

For the year 2023-2024, CONVERGENCE had a Board of Directors of five (5) members from three (3) different MRCs until the Annual General Meeting held on September 27, 2023. During the AGA elections, four (4) members of the Board did not renew their mandate, and the five (5) members of the newly constituted Board were elected from the public, one of them continuing the mandate received at the Annual General Meeting of September 22, 2022, held virtually as authorized by the Companies Act.

The Board of Directors met six (6) times during 2023-2024, the equivalent of one meeting every two months.

At Board meetings, administrators were regularly informed of the main issues and challenges facing community life in Gaspésie, as well as of all the elements and actions promoting the consolidation of Convergence throughout the territory.

A great deal of information was forwarded and discussed with board members, in particular:

- Possible actions in connection with the regional action plan on men's health and well-being in Gaspésie;
- Convergence's participation in numerous meetings of local and regional Tables, as well as the Integrated Approaches to Social Development in the various MRCs, mainly concerning homelessness, housing, and mental health;
- The issue of housing in Gaspésie;
- Intensive monitoring of Maison Oxygène Haute-Gaspésie operations;
- The expansion of intervention services, particularly the new points of service in Pointe-à-la-Croix and Rivière-au-Renard;
- Development and follow-up of our services for perpetrators of sexual offenses;
- A major update of the Convergence General Regulations;

- The presentation and adoption of a Convergence Employee and Director Recognition Policy (PREAC);
- The presentation of the issue of access to justice by our participants, fathers in at risk situations.

Men and women, we are all part of the solution!

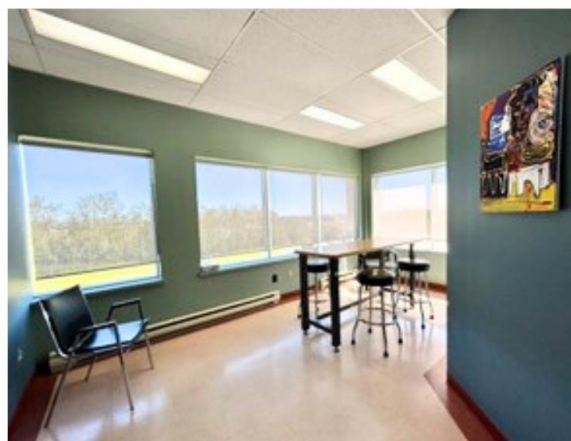
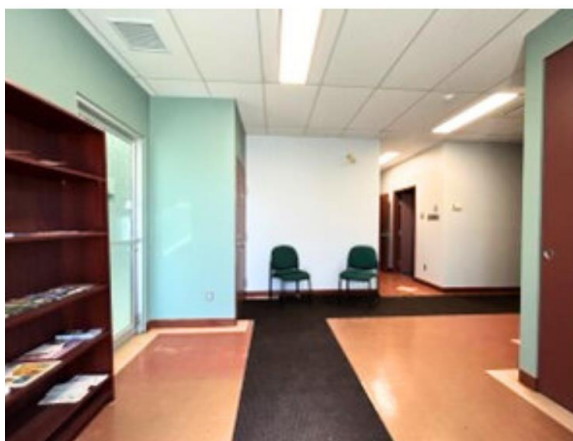


SITE LOCATIONS

OUR POINTS OF SERVICE

Gaspé-Rivière-au-Renard Office

Stéphane Beaulieu has been working in Gaspé-Rivière-au-Renard since August 2023. The office, originally located in Gaspé, was relocated to Rivière-au-Renard following the launch of the fisheries intervention project. The new office can accommodate two to three workers. Patrick Jacques is the new outreach worker, also based in Rivière-au-Renard. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Chandler Office

The Chandler office is located at the Centre de Services partagés, 163 rue Commerciale ouest. Maude Carbonneau-Girouard is available Monday to Friday, 35 hours a week.



Caplan Office

The office that had been located in New Richmond at La Passerelle for many years has been relocated to Caplan. Our new outreach worker, Danielle Cyr, sees participants from Monday to Friday for 35 hours a week.



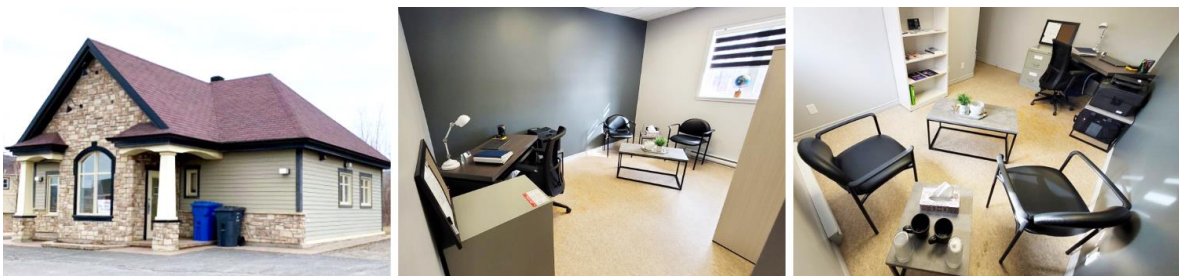
Carleton-sur-Mer Office

The office is located in the National Bank building. Vanessa Rivière-Landry works from Monday to Friday, 35 hours a week.



Pointe-à-la-Croix Office

A brand-new intervention office was opened in Pointe-à-la-Croix in January 2024. The office is located at 64 boulevard Interprovincial. Outreach Worker Rachel Savoie can welcome English-speaking participants, as well as those from the indigenous communities of Gesgapegiag and Listuguj.



Sainte-Anne-des-Monts Office

Located in downtown SADM, the premises feature three enclosed offices, a small full kitchen, a waiting area, and a good-sized room for group sessions. The office meets the requirement not to mix clientele with those of Maison Oxygène. In fact, given that Convergence receives, among others, participants dealing with issues of domestic violence and sexual assault, it has become imperative, out of concern for confidentiality and sometimes court orders, not to mix clientele.

Office located at 40 Route du Parc.

MAISON OXYGÈNE HAUTE-GASPÉSIE



Accommodating fathers and their children

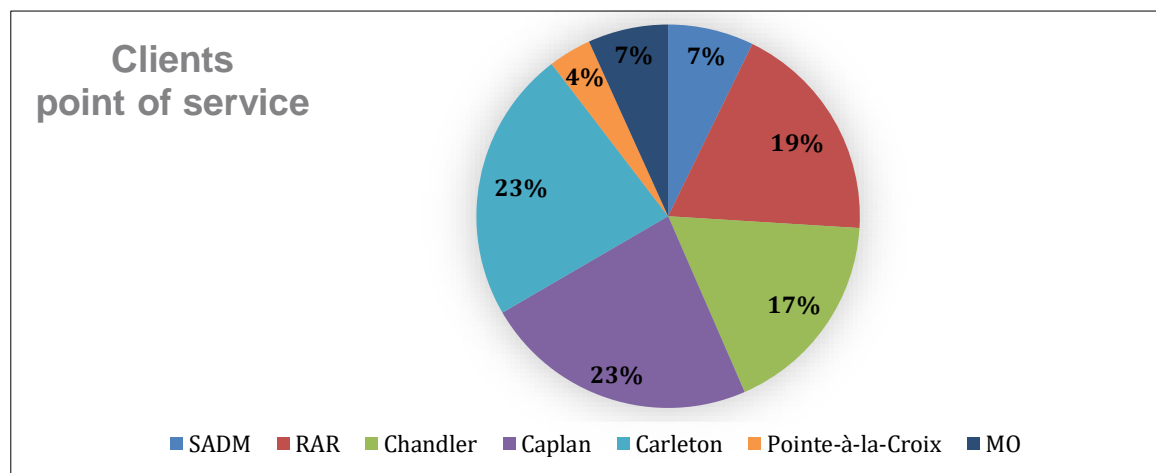
La Maison Oxygène in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts offers the possibility of receiving requests for help from fathers on an inpatient or outpatient basis, whether in an individual or group format. The premises offer a high level of confidentiality, even though by definition a Maison Oxygène is a shared living environment.



WHO ARE THESE MEN SEEKING HELP?

For the year 2023-2024, CONVERGENCE has seen a 9% increase in active open files compared with the previous year.

Evolution and distribution of requests for assistance by point of service



	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-202
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts	46	68	61
Maison Oxygène	43	24	17
Gaspé-Rivière-au-Renard	119	91	68
Chandler	111	87	72
New Richmond-Caplan	147	139	154
Carleton	146	137	133
Pointe-à-la-Croix	23	n/a	n/a
	n=635	n=546	n=505

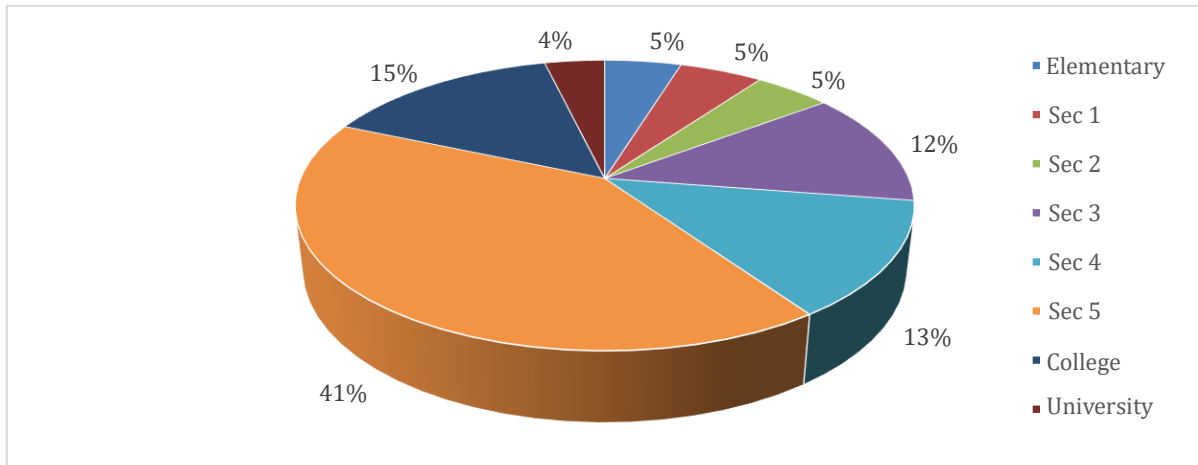
Age Groups

14-34 years = 35%, 35-56 years: 52%, 57 and +years: 13%

Representation by age group is more or less the same as last year.

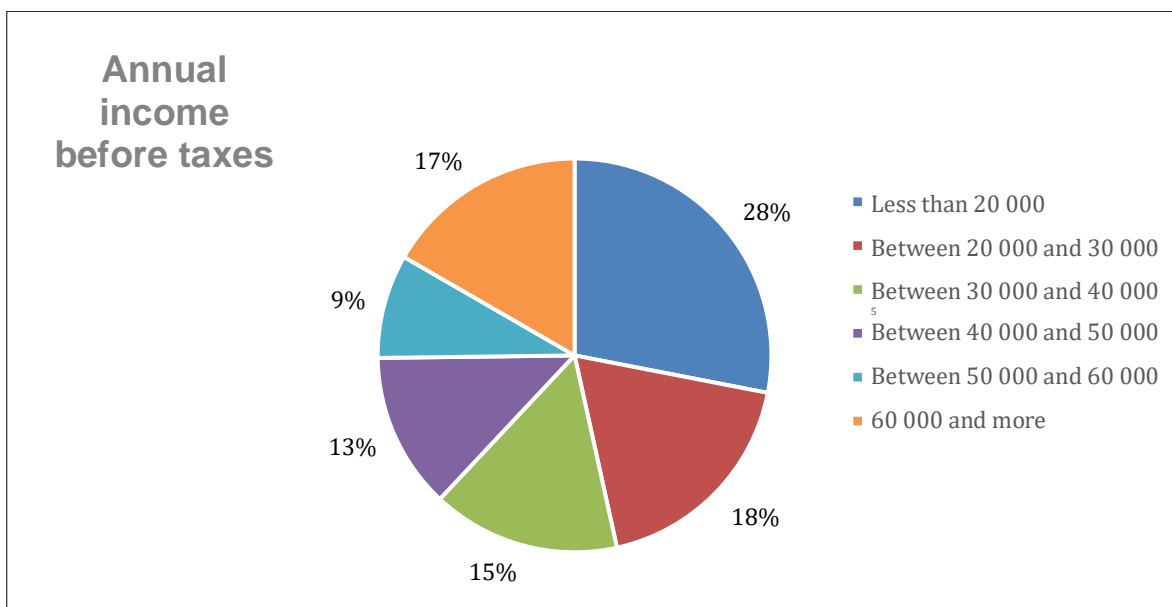
Education

The level of education is similar from year to year. Men and fathers in our services who have completed Secondary III represent 27%.



Income

Of all our participants, 56% earn \$30,000 or less, 23% earn between \$30,000 and \$50,000, and those over \$50,000 represent 17%.

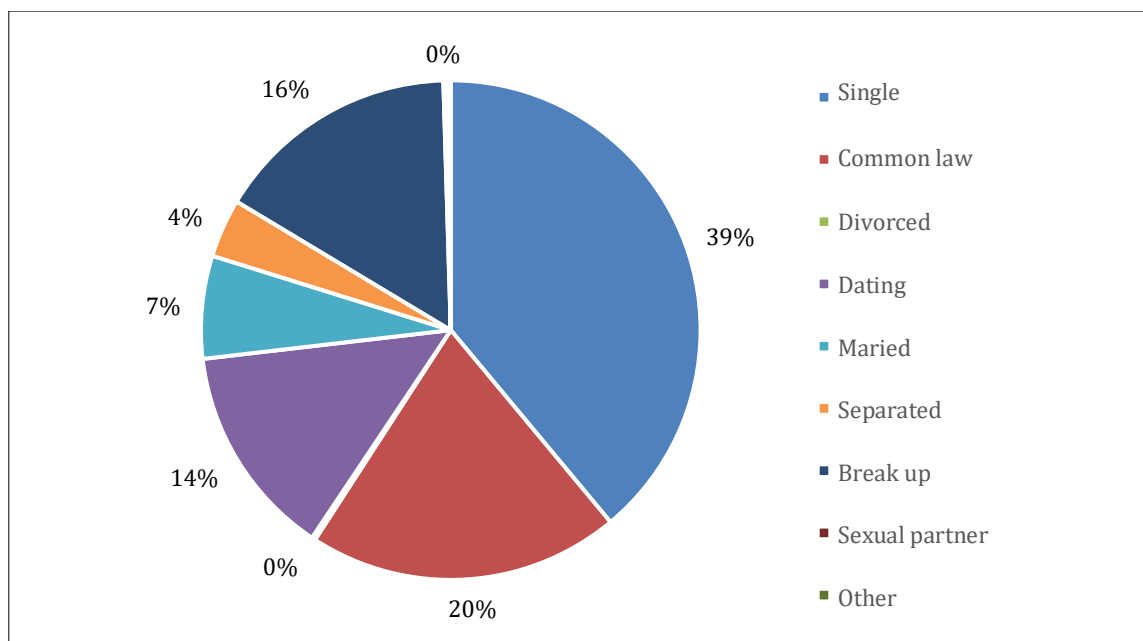


Direct correlation between employment, income and education

Our data show that the men who consult Convergence's services may be under-educated compared to Quebec as a whole, with nearly 30% having completed Secondary III. The overall figure is down from last year, particularly for those enrolled in a DEP (Diploma of Vocational Studies). Our data show that these have fallen by less than half. Unfortunately, this is a trend we've been observing for some years now. CEGEP and university graduates are in the same proportions as last year. On the other hand, participants earning less than \$30,000 (56%) still explain the correlation between education and income.

Marital status

Among the participants, 40% were single, 25% common-law and 18% dating. At the time of seeking help, nearly 18% of the men were experiencing a break-up.



Fathers are very much apart of our services

This reality influences our interventions, as concerns and issues related to fatherhood are pervasive and increasingly topical. Fathers tell us they need to be close to their children, whether in terms of childcare, acquiring parenting skills, or caring for their children.

We also see a great deal of distress linked to break-ups. Our interventions are all the more valuable and necessary, considering the number of family tragedies directly linked to situations of marital and family breakdown. We recommend and guide our fathers towards the necessary and specific parental or family support services, health services, and legal support. At Convergence and Maison Oxygène, we are vigilant in maintaining quality links with our main partners, whether they come from the health, social services, or legal fields.

The many facets of fatherhood

- 401 fathers consult our services;
- Our interventions directly or indirectly affect 767 children;
- 229 fathers earn less than \$30,000 a year, which is significant;
- 66 fathers have had suicidal thoughts;
- 82 have received a mental health diagnosis;
- 101 are in a break-up situation;
- 155 fathers are being monitored for domestic violence;
- 115 have a no-contact order;
- 109 have a court order for follow-up;
- 23 fathers are at risk of homelessness;
- 116 fathers have a file with the DPJ, affecting 241 children;
- 89 children have witnessed violence in the home.

Reasons for requesting assistance

Job loss	7
Break ups	118
Legal case	133
Violence	242
Hospital	4
Isolation	33
Work conflicts	17
Family problems	127
Marital	132
Depression	92
Suicidal thoughts	41
Crisis situation	82
Homelessness	34
Other	1
Total	1056

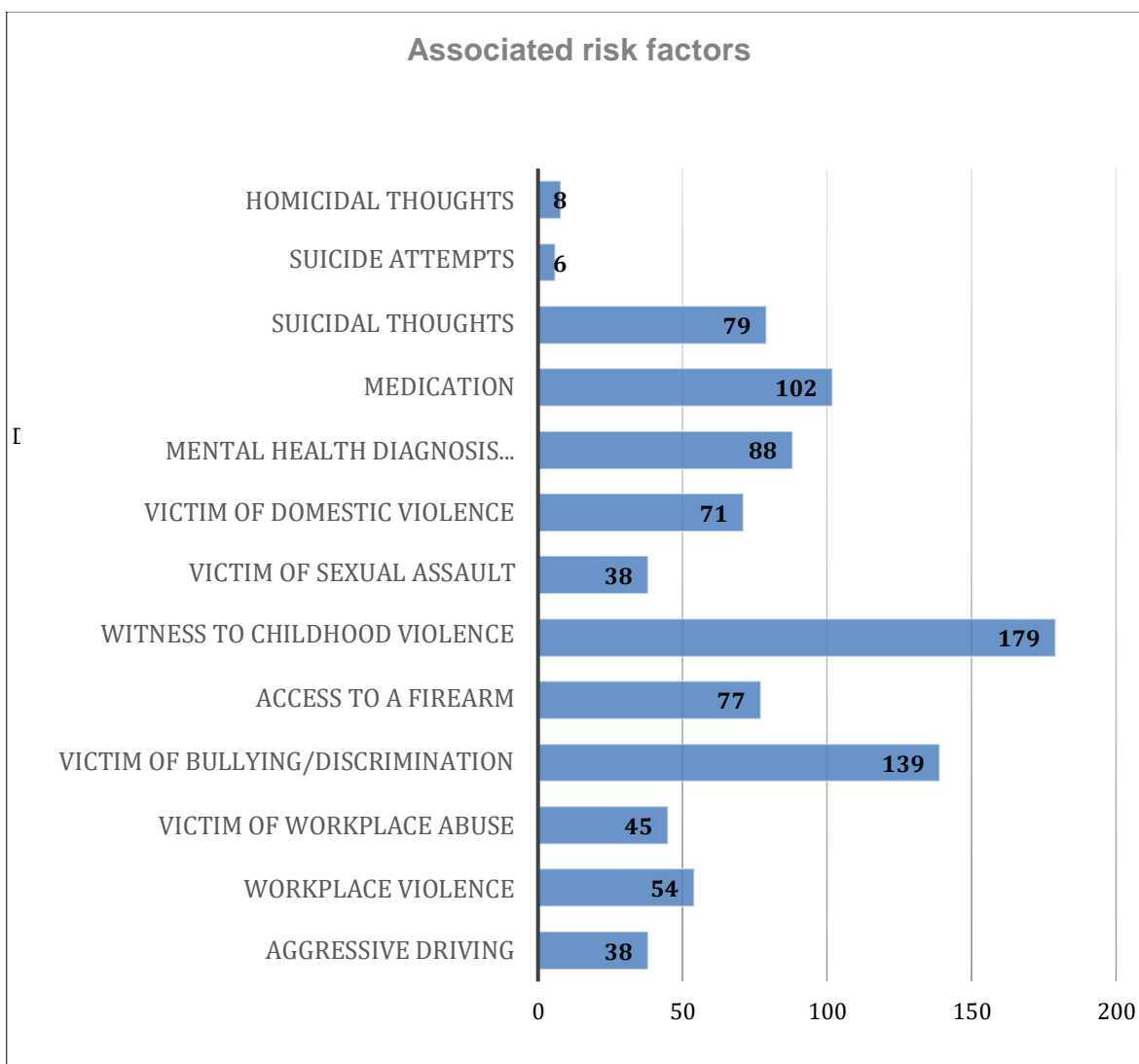


Source of references



The judicial system, probation services, and the health and social services network are the main referrals. We would also like to emphasize the excellent collaboration with Arc-en-soi's correctional, probation, and social reintegration officers. Information exchanges are based on mutual trust and duly authorized by our participants. These exchanges enable us to better grasp the issues involved in exit plans and the motivations underlying the subsequent pathway.

Associated risk factors



We consider these data to be associated factors, since these characteristics help to define a much more complete profile of the person who comes to see us.

GESPEG PROJECT

For a third year, CooPères Rosemont came to visit us as part of their Gespeg project. This wonderful project enables dads and their children to camp outside Montreal. This year, they once again chose the Gaspé Peninsula, and in particular the Parc de la Gaspésie, with their return to Montreal ending in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts at Maison Oxygène. A visit to Exploramer, a spaghetti dinner, and an intense game of soccer, kids versus dads, and an evening bonfire with marshmallows made this a magical day for all, children and adults alike.



Youth huddle before the soccer game!

It's not fog!



Two Coopères workers with their smoke torches! What an atmosphere!





CONVERGENCE AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Social development in Gaspésie

The CONVERGENCE office and staff took part in several videoconferences to raise awareness of our services and become more involved in regional and local community life. Convergence is involved in various social development initiatives in the MRCs of Avignon, Bonaventure, Rocher-Percé and Haute-Gaspésie.

In addition, Convergence works with the Professional and Correctional Services Department, the DSPC-GÎM, and the GÎM Public Health Department on the TCRMGÎM Regional Round Table on Men's Realities. In agreement with the Table's main partners, the Îles-de-la-Madeleine firm Gemini was given the mandate to develop a Communications Plan and produce communications tools and by-products. Several meetings have taken place to date, with deliverables scheduled for September 2023.

IMPLICATION ET ENGAGEMENT DE CONVERGENCE

National groups

Since its foundation, Convergence's permanent staff and speakers have been involved and committed in many ways with local, regional, and national bodies, organizations, and associations. Here's an overview.

Association à cœur d'homme - Réseau d'aide aux hommes pour une société sans violence (ÀCDH)

ÀCDH is an association of 31 autonomous community organizations across Quebec that help men dealing with violent behaviour in marital and family situations.



Convergence has been accredited by this Association since its first year of existence. Over the past ten (12) years, Convergence's General Manager has served seven (7) years on the Board of Directors, the last three as Treasurer.

ÀCDH asks its directors to sit on various committees, representative of all the involvements that a national association can entail. The committees on which Convergence's Executive Director has sat over the past year are: the Communications Committee, the Membership Committee and the CRIPCAS/ÀCDH Committee.

Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur les problèmes conjugaux et les agressions sexuelles (CRIPCAS)

The Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Marital Problems and Sexual Assault (CRIPCAS) is a strategic consortium funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture (FRQSC) since 2002. It currently includes 35 regular researchers, 63 collaborating researchers, some 60 partner organizations and over 250 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. CRIPCAS stands out for its research programming focused on both sexual assault and marital problems, as well as the existing interfaces between these two issues.

The CRIPCAS/ACDH committee has developed an intake questionnaire for all new applications to Convergence. This confidential and highly secure questionnaire gives Convergence staff a good idea of the general psychological profile of the person making a new request for help. The questionnaire, completed on an iPad, is sent directly over the Internet. The results of the questionnaire are then integrated into our Filemaker database.

Réseau des Maisons Oxygène (RMO)

Having the Maison Oxygène label enables Convergence to participate in networking, training, and community of practice activities at both management and clinical levels. The new Maison Oxygène staff attended a national meeting in November 2023 and February 2024. In addition, our caregivers attended virtual communities of practice, as well as training in domestic violence prevention and homicide risk assessment.

Regroupement provincial en santé bien-être des hommes (RPSBEH)

The values espoused by the Regroupement are in line with a general perspective of action, considering that helping men also means helping women, children, and society.

Convergence's Executive Director has been a member of the RPSBEH Board of Directors since October 2022.

Convergence is a member of the following associations:



GASPÉSIE CORRECTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Service agreements

The year 2023-2024 was marked by a major expansion of CONVERGENCE's services. The extension of the open services contract with the Gaspésie Professional and Correctional Services Department has helped stabilize the Chandler office. On the other hand, the secure environment contract with the DSPC-GIM stipulates that our Chandler-based outreach worker, Maude C. Girouard, intervenes for individual meetings with an anglophone and indigenous clientele. Correctional Services has asked us to increase our presence to sixty

(60) hours for individuals, and to 40 hours for English-speaking and indigenous clients in detention. Bilingual outreach worker Rachel Savoie has been given this new mandate.

Details of individual meetings and workshops:

Closed environment

Individual meetings: 29 inmates for 62 contact hours

Workshops (3 groups)
"Inside the line" 30 inmates for 9 full days

Workshops (2 groups)
"Multiple facets of violence" 20 inmates for 2 full days

Workshops (2 groups)
"Non-violent communication" 20 inmates for 2 full days

Workshops (1 group)
"Fatherhood" 10 inmates for 1 full day

Evaluations of the individual sessions and workshop days reveal that participants feel committed to understanding and integrating the tools offered to them.

Open environment: Chandler point of service

The outreach worker met with 29 ex-convicts and remand prisoners for 126 hours of assessment and intervention.

APPENDIX - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Follow-up and clinical coordination activities

To begin with, we would like to point out that Convergence now calls on the services of an external clinical coordinator for domestic violence. Since September 2023, Anne-Julie Gagnon, a criminologist who was at the time clinical coordinator of the Optimum Men's Resource Centre in Saguenay-Lac St-Jean, has been in charge of clinical coordination in domestic violence, following a call to all members of the "À cœur d'homme" Association. Since hiring her, Anne-Julie has moved to the Association as clinical coordinator and research support. We're very proud of our relationship with this wonderful resource and would like to thank Anne-Julie for responding to our request for clinical support.

- **Number of individual follow-up sessions on domestic violence:**

2160 individual meetings conducted as part of clinical activities. Individual meetings take place at the point-of-service office with the participant. Normally, we conduct 2 to 4 assessment meetings to determine the person's needs, and then begin the clinical process related to the request. Each client (participant) completes a survey as part of the CRIPCAS/ À CŒUR D'HOMME research partnership. The survey is sent anonymously to CRIPCAS, where responses are collated and entered into our database.

- **Number of individual sexual violence follow-up sessions:**

185 individual follow-up sessions were conducted as part of the assistance program for perpetrators of sexual offences. It should be noted that our clientele comes mainly from the judicial system. Most clients in this category are engaged in a process that will last from 12 to 24 months.

- **Number of individual follow-up sessions for men in difficulty:**

699 individual follow-up meetings were held. These meetings bring together men in difficulty, in the process of marital and family break up, experiencing family bereavement, job loss, accidents leading to disability, etc. These men are also victims of domestic violence. While our basic mission is to help men who behave violently, we also accompany male victims, whose percentage has risen considerably in comparison with last year.

- **Number of telephone calls requiring immediate assistance:**

601 telephone calls for immediate assistance were recorded. These calls are often received outside opening hours, but not exclusively. What's more, a certain number of these calls turn into virtual meetings (around a quarter) via the zoom platform, or into appointments made at a later date.

- **Number of telephone calls to support relatives:**

187 telephone calls were received in support of relatives worried about the well-being of their spouse or son, and/or the safety of their family. These calls are usually received outside office hours.

- **Clinical coordination meetings in sexology:**

34 clinical coordination hours were provided to the entire ATS intervention team. These meetings take place on Zoom with the sexology clinical coordinator. Cases are studied and intervention options are discussed. These meetings are mandatory for all staff trained to work with sexual offenders.

- **Domestic violence clinical coordination meetings:**

238 clinical coordination hours in domestic violence were provided. These hours are used to discuss cases, draw up intervention plans, help each other with more difficult cases, and find new avenues of intervention. What's more, during these exchanges with our practitioners, we sometimes invite external resources such as those from the DPJ or the correctional system to discuss processes.

- **CRIPCAS Webinars:**

As a member of the À cœur d'homme Association, Convergence participates in the research partnership committee with the Centre de Recherche Interdisciplinaire pour les Problèmes Conjugaux et les Agressions Sexuelles (CRIPCAS). The Director, and since January 2024, the subsequent Director, is a member of the committee and attends all clinical meetings, as well as the presentation of webinars by Master's and PhD students. In 2023-24, 3 committee meetings were held, and 8 webinars were presented as part of the research. These webinars are offered to stakeholders from member organizations, as well as to members of the research committee. These moments are rich in exchanges, as the students really want to learn about practices in order to better target their research topics, with the aim of eventually being increasingly useful to us as partners. The research partnership between CRIPCAS and members of à cœur d'homme is unique in the world. Many researchers in France, Switzerland, Belgium and even the United States are envious of our protocol.

2. Maison Oxygène Services



- **Maison Oxygène accommodation:**

We hosted 14 different dads and their children, for an average stay of 62 days. 12 different children were accommodated. The fathers received support and psychosocial follow-up and were supported in the community to help them make better use of local resources.

- o Food collection: 33 deliveries;
- o Food, clothing, and toy assistance (Shared): 4 deliveries;
- o Infant-Milk: 1 infant formula delivery;
- o DPJ: 37 supervised visits with the DPJ took place at Maison Oxygène.

- **External services:**

39 different fathers received outpatient services. **996 hours of outpatient follow-up** were provided to fathers. Outpatient services have been very popular since we managed to fill the day shifts. This is a marked improvement over last year. These follow-ups are either in the outpatient services category or in the post-housing category. This category aims to consolidate the skills acquired during the stays and ensure the children's safety.

- **Dads' dinners**

The dads, accompanied by Maison Oxygène employees, organized 4 dads' dinners. The main purpose of these occasions is to teach fathers how to experience a festive event in which they are involved. Making food, serving, cleaning up, playing with their child, above all, encourages them to come out of their isolation.

- **Workshops: With Dad, it's different**



Maison Oxygène offered the community "With Dad, It's Different" workshops. These activities are offered free of charge to fathers with their children aged 1 to 6. There are 10 workshops spread over 20 weeks (every other Saturday before noon). During these workshops, fathers are called upon to collaborate and/or play with their child to carry out fun activities. The workshops are given in order, as they are evolving. Sessions are led in collaboration with a community member and a Maison Oxygène outreach worker.

- **La Chases, battles, and tickles**

Central theme: father-child physical play is a vital part of a child's life.

- **Daddy's cabin**

Central theme: Discipline - a source of safety.

- **Invent a game!**

Central theme: The purpose of play.

- **Winter rally**

Central theme: Organizing a day and obstacles to paternal involvement.

- **Theme party**

- Central theme: Co-parenting.

- **The 5 senses**

Central theme: Fathers, children, and novelty.

- **The safari**

Central theme: pretend play.

- **Hulk the terrible!**
Central theme: Fathers, aggression, assertiveness, and conflicts between children.
- **Cooking my way**
Central theme: Helping children without doing everything for them.
- **Forest rally**
Central theme: A look back at the program and the themes covered throughout.

3. Training and conferences

- In May 2023, the DGA and the Chandler outreach worker attended the National Men's Health and Wellness Conference in Quebec City. Workshops attended:
 - Benchmark for assessing the needs of men in situations of marital breakdown to identify at-risk situations and make referrals;
 - Men who are victims of domestic violence;
 - Staff retention in our organizations: how to make an organization more attractive;
 - Evaluation of the liaison officer project in a Maison Oxygène.
- In May 2023, Pierre l'Heureux and Gilles Tremblay updated our training tools. At the time, three outreach workers were called upon for this update. The training course in question was " Better intervening with men," for which Convergence is accredited and recognized as a community partner.
- In June 2023, we sent our new outreach worker from Carleton to the Îles-de-la-Madeleine for intervention training with perpetrators of sexual offences. The 4-day training was given by Cloée Fournier, a sexologist who had come to the Islands specifically for the Hommes et Gars organization. The director, Serge Richard, graciously offered us a free place for our new outreach worker. This enabled us to avoid a gap in our service in the Baie-des-

Chaleurs region created by the departure of our former outreach worker.

- In December 2023, we again organized training for 4 new people in our service to deliver the same program. The points of service affected by this training are: Caplan, Pointe-à-la-Croix, Rivière-au-Renard, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. The training was given at our Caplan office by the same trainer as in the Islands, who is also our ATS clinical supervisor.
- In November and December 2023, two of our senior outreach workers trained in sexual assault services attended the RIMAS national symposium. These occasions are important for keeping our knowledge up to date in terms of help and follow-up for perpetrators.
- Over the course of the year, shelters for abused women organized training sessions to familiarize themselves with "**La Loupe**", a new tool designed to operationalize the new **GIM rapid intervention ESCOUADE**. The training was given by Christine Drouin, criminologist, researcher at UQAM, and member of the national homicide review committee. Convergence's key outreach workers at all points of service were invited to take part in these training sessions, in order to fulfill their mandate as part of the emergency response to homicide risks. To date, eight members of our team have been trained. This training is directly linked to the training received by the A Coeur d'homme Association: How to assess the risk of homicide, which all our employees took through the Réseau des Maisons Oxygène with Mario Trépanier from the Via L'Anse organization. The whole process of setting up the Escouade brought the shelters for abused women and Convergence closer together.
- In February 2024, the entire clinical team, as well as the permanent staff, met in person in Bonaventure for a Lac-à-l'épaule-style meeting. As we are deployed in all MRCs,

Convergence makes it a point to organize at least one or two in-person activities per year. The event provided an opportunity to strengthen the team around the new tools under development, with our clinical coordinator present at the event.

- On March 14, 2024, our new English-speaking outreach worker attended a training session from the Regroupement pour la valorisation de la paternité: "Engaging with Fathers." This training aims to give specific tools included in the RVP's famous PAPPA guide, now available in English.

4. Networking activities, communities of practice, and democratic life

- **Maisons Oxygène Network communities of practice for all:**

Four two-hour meetings for a total of 8 hours of virtual community of practice were held for all Maisons Oxygène network workers: October 12, November 16, December 14 and January 25. These invaluable occasions provide a forum for exchanging views on the issues faced by caregivers in different MOs across Quebec. There are 24 at the moment. We discuss cases, safety measures, clinical tools, and more.

- **Communities of practice for Maisons Oxygène managers:**

Three two-hour meetings for a total of 6 hours of virtual community of practice for Maisons Oxygène Network managers were held. These meetings are used to discuss organizational and management issues between MO departments. There are also discussions on funding, and the stabilization of sums to maintain services to the population on a 24/7 basis. Organizational obligations to maintain the Maison Oxygène label are also discussed.

- **Maisons Oxygène Network Days:**

The Maison Oxygène coordinator and the DGA attended the Network's AGM in June 2023. In addition, on the same occasion, the DGA attended the managers' café scheduled during the Network days. During the November days, the General Manager and a new participant traveled to Quebec City for the days. A board member also attended the workshops offered for the first part of the event, to familiarize herself with the reality experienced by our dads in MO. In February 2024, the coordinator's team and the new DG were once again able to take advantage of the RMO meetings as well as the RVP Su-père Conference. The two events are always twinned to avoid a second trip.

- **Integrated approach to social development in the Haute-Gaspésie:**

The DIDS Grand Assembly took place on May 1, 2023. The Maison Oxygène coordinator and the assistant general manager both took part in this event. Some 35-40 people from across the community attended. The General Manager attended a meeting of DIDS members on February 26, 2024, at the Seigneurie des Monts in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. Issues discussed included:

- Propose / reflect on a game plan for strategic planning for the DIDS
- Propose and adopt the new composition of the strategic committee
- Adopt a position regarding the DIDS trustee
- Propose human resources game plan for 2024-2025

These nurturing encounters help strengthen networking among us in the community.

- **Homelessness Committee**

The DGA attended a meeting of the homelessness committee on May 25, 2023, at which progress was discussed on the document on the situation of homelessness in Gaspésie, as well as the Vers un chez soi projects awarded for the year. A dozen people attended the meeting.

- **Adult Workshops**

Convergence's new General Manager attended a meeting of the Haute-Gaspésie Adult Workshop, held on March 21, 2024. Those present reviewed the actions supported by the workshop, in particular the school motivation and perseverance agent. New actions were discussed, and a prioritization exercise took place. Thirteen people attended the meeting.

- **Rocher-Percé Social Development**

Our Chandler outreach worker took part in discussions with the coordinator about maintaining the partnership with the Supermarket Recovery Program (SRP), now known as the Garde-Manger. Our organization's participation in this initiative is greatly appreciated by our clients.

Our outreach worker has attended all the small thematic meetings organized by the Réseau de développement social de la MRC Rocher-Percé, particularly on issues of social exclusion and poverty.

5. Presentation of services to the community and partners

- On May 17, 2023, MP Stéphane Ste-Croix came to visit Maison Oxygène and announce new funding for Maison's operations. We discussed our needs and the actions to be taken to ensure greater visibility for Maison Oxygène.
- On October 18, the General Manager, the Assistant General Manager and the Pointe-à-la-Croix outreach worker travelled to the Listuguj reserve to meet with the management of the Community Health Center. The main objective was to discuss the possibility of linking our respective services to meet the demand for help from men in the community. The meeting took place in good spirits, with links still to be developed. However, the CHC management agreed to lend our support worker an office to respond to specific requests from members of their community.
- On November 9, we travelled to Gaspé to meet with representatives of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC (Démarque de développement social) and representatives of the CISSS, Santé publique. We discussed the situation in the fisheries sector and proposed a solution. It was agreed to draw up a job description for an outreach worker in the fisheries sector. This we did quickly and submitted to the project's stakeholders. We estimated a budget, and the MRC and Public Health agreed to contribute financially, at least for the first year, to implement the measure of an outreach worker, fisheries sector. A new and profitable collaboration with and for the fisheries community was formed.

- **Carleton Point of Service**

- Presentation of services and World Café on the theme of positive sexuality at Carleton CEGEP;
- Hosted two students in delinquency intervention technology and presented our services;
- Launch of: My family, my community, on April 14, 2023, in Maria;
- Two meetings of the coordinating committee were held with our Carleton outreach worker;
- 24/7 Committee: two meetings;
- Mental Health Roundtable: 2 meetings;
- Presentation of services at the New Richmond police station;
- Presentation of services at the Matapedia CLSC (adult services team).

- **Pointe-à-la-Croix new point of service**

Our new outreach worker in Pointe-à-la-Croix has been specifically mandated to develop links with both Indigenous communities, as well as with English-speaking people in the Baie-des-Chaleurs region, specifically Avignon-Bonaventure. Rachel was hired in August 2023 and has already overcome several language barriers. We're proud of her contribution to the English-speaking community. She has met with several partners to make herself known, talk about our resource, and create new roots.

Promotion of services:

- Child Child and family services, Listuguj: 4 people;
- Culture and family support, Haven House, Listuguj: 3 people;
- Mawiommi Treatment Center, Gesgapegiag, Listuguj: 3 people;
- Health and Community Services, Gesgapegiag: 4 people;
- Healing Lodge, Gesgapegiag;
- Family Ties, 2 phone contacts;
- CASA, New Carlisle, meeting with 5 people;
- L'Émergence, Maison Mary Grace in Maria, meeting with 3 people;

- An addiction center in Campbellton, met with a team of 10 people (note that clients from Quebec attend this organization);
- CLSC de Matapédia, team meeting 12 people;
- CEGEP de Carleton, meeting with 18 students;
- SQ de New-Richmond, presentation to 6 team members.



Convergence

Service d'aide aux hommes de la Gaspésie

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