IN THE KNOW: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF A STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITY GROUPS SERVING THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING, BILINGUAL AND ETHNO-CULTURAL COMMUNITIES OF QUEBEC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC

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ABSTRACT

There is a lack of knowledge about English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural community groups in Quebec. This community-based action research project addresses this gap by identifying these groups, their characteristics, and their relationship with the government of Quebec. This article explains why this research is needed and how it is being conducted. Four preliminary findings are discussed. They speak to these groups' characteristics, communication challenges, funding realities and the relationship between these groups and the broader French community sector via network involvement. Implications for changes are discussed.

RÉSUMÉ

Nous en savons peu au sujet des groupes communautaires anglophones, bilingues et ethno-culturels du Québec. Ce projet de recherche-action basé dans les communautés nous permet de combler en partie ce manque en identifiant les groupes en question, leurs caractéristiques et les relations qu'ils entretiennent avec le gouvernement du Québec. Cet article rend compte des besoins en recherche et comment celle-ci se déroule présentement. Nous y relevons quatre conclusions préliminaires qui portent sur ces groupes, sur les obstacles à la communication auxquels ils font face, sur les questions de financement qui les préoccupent et sur les liens qui existent entre eux et la communauté francophone environnante, liens rendus possibles par l'implication dans divers réseaux. Nous discutons ensuite des conditions nécessaires au changement.

INTRODUCTION

Little is documented about the community sector in Quebec that works in English with English-speakers, groups that work bilingually or with ethno-cultural communities. As these are the sectors in which the Centre for Community Organizations (COCo) is involved, in October of 2008 COCo began a community research project to help develop a better understanding of these groups and their work for social change in Quebec. The project was supported by the *Secrétariat à l'action communautaire autonome et aux initiatives sociales* (SACAIS)[2] and aimed to survey community groups over a three-year period. This article reports on the first year in which Montreal, Laval and the Eastern Townships were surveyed.[3] The preliminary results were reported at the *Association francophone pour le savoir* (Acfas) conference in May 2010. Given that the in-depth analysis of the first year of research is presently being completed, several additional results are reported on here.

COCo is a provincial non-profit organization that promotes social justice, active citizenship and just socio-economic development by encouraging healthy community groups in Quebec primarily through made-to-measure training, free information and consultation meetings, community learning events, and a monthly electronic newsletter (the e-bulletin). It works with self-described "ethno-cultural, bilingual and English-speaking community groups," recognizing the imperfection and overlap of these terms. The research was conducted by staff members with support from Deena White, a sociologist from Université de Montréal.

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH

Since its inception in 2000, COCo has identified trends within the groups that are part of its network. This was accomplished through the contacts COCo had established with the 2200 addresses that receive the e-bulletin and the specific contacts the organization has with approximately 300 groups per year (primarily through the made-to-measure training, free information and consultation sessions, as well as through groups participating in events and public training sessions). COCo also collaborates with majority francophone organizations (primarily through the *Coalition des organismes communautaires autonomes de formation* [COCAF]). This work has led to internal organizational reflections on how different groups in our network seem to compare to sister francophone organizations. Our observations have led us to suspect that groups in our network were generally more diverse in their services and programs, less connected to formal networks in Quebec and working with less governmental funding.

In 2006 and 2007 COCo held two events that led to the launch of the *In the Know* research project: the V.I.P. Forum (V.I.P stands here for visibility, influence, participation) and the Changing Times forum. Feedback coming out of these events confirmed the lack of knowledge among COCo's network about how funding from the government of Quebec works. Most participants at the two forums were unaware of SACAIS and its role, of the difference between autonomous community-action organizations and community-action organizations (the former working for social change from a strongly community-based approach and potentially funded for core operations by the government of Quebec and the latter responding to social needs but not necessarily independently from the state) and the vast formal network system that exists in Quebec among community groups. Specifically, at the Changing Times forum, a COCo facilitator asked participants: "Who here works with a group that receives global mission funding from the government of Quebec?" The only hand that went up in a room of 50 groups was her own.

This apparent lack of knowledge and connections between many English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural organizations and the government of Quebec may be explained by the historical divide between the English and French communities in Quebec and reinforced by the re-organization of funding for the community sector in the late 1990s, with limited participation from English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural groups.[4] However, at COCo it has been observed that there is an interest on the part of English-speaking groups to be part of the larger Quebec community sector.

Discussions between COCo and SACAIS officials identified the need to more fully document the reality of English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural community groups. *In the Know* seeks to do this. Its objectives are to:
- Locate the anglophone, bilingual and ethno-cultural community groups in Quebec;
- Develop a portrait and understanding of anglophone, bilingual and ethno-cultural community groups working in Quebec;
- Identify these groups' structures, the characteristics and patterns that emerge regarding the recognition of groups by the provincial government, and the types of activities in which they tend to engage;
- Test the hypothesis about why these groups are marginalized or excluded;
- Propose strategies to support the recognition and inclusion of these groups in the Quebec community sector.

THE LITERATURE THAT INFORMS THE RESEARCH
To understand what is known about ethno-cultural, bilingual and English-speaking community groups, their relationship with the government of Quebec and the challenges in doing this type of research, a review of the literature was undertaken to clarify the basic concepts that inform the work. Several key points are now summarized.

Little is known about the sector
The community sector is large and diverse. It is not defined consistently and is not well documented. There are still many gaps in our understanding of it. This is true of the sector in the Western world, Canada, and in Quebec (Brock, 2003; L'alliance de recherche universités-communautés en économie sociale, 2006; Scott, 2003; White, 2001, 2008). Specifically in Quebec, the *Mise en œuvre de la Politique de reconnaissance et de soutien à l'action communautaire (*henceforth referred to as the *Politique)* completed by Deena White and her team at Université de Montréal (2008), speaks about "community actors" who are less or not known and recognized by the government.

The size of the sector is itself difficult to determine. In 2003 COCo attempted to estimate the number of community groups working in English in Quebec. At that time we hypothesized that the figure was at least 2,500 (COCo, 2003). This was based on comparing quantitative data from various sources. We know that the non-profit sector in Quebec is larger than any other province (per capita; L'alliance de recherche universités-communautés en économie sociale, 2006). We also know that many of these organizations are not defined as community organizations according to the *Politique*[5] definition. Many are classified as sports and recreation groups (L'alliance de recherche universités-communautés en économie sociale, 2006). We also know there are over 50,000 non-profit organizations in Quebec registered with the Inspecteur general (and other non-profits are registered with the federal government) and approximately 4000 non-profits are funded for core operations by the government of Quebec (with another thousand or more funded by various ministries via service agreements and projects) (ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale, 2007).

Identifying the size of the sector and the groups within it is therefore an important starting place for research.

There is little acknowledgement and even less knowledge about the similarities and distinctions or differences between ethno-cultural, bilingual and English-speaking community groups and French-speaking community groups in Quebec

For the most part, particularities or distinctions of ethno-cultural, bilingual and English-speaking community groups in Quebec are not acknowledged. White et al (2008) note this lack, along with the lack of government recognition of some French-speaking groups. In speaking about the relationship between the state and community organizations in the area of health and social services, Jetté (2008) also refers to the lack of acknowledgement of English-speaking or ethno-cultural differences. COCo, in its proposal for funding research, speaks about "les groupes communautaires invisibles". "Les autres communautaires" is a term that surfaced during the research project to describe the many parts of the community sector in Quebec, which are invisible to some but very visible and active in their local settings.

Identifying the differences and distinctions as well as the similarities with the larger French-speaking community sector is a first step to understanding these "autres communautaires". Without this information it is difficult to encourage the full participation of these groups in the broader Quebec community movement.

The English-speaking population is interested in inclusion and belonging to Quebec society

In writing about the evolution of Quebec's English-speaking community, Jedwab (2004) traces the history of the Anglophone population from having to (individually and collectively) renegotiate its minority status since the 1970s to coming to a place where it is a broader community, including ethno-cultural communities that use English as their first official language (with French or English as the two choices). Many parts of this English-speaking community are interested in inclusion and belonging in Quebec society.

As examples, recent research has shown that English-speaking youth want to stay in Quebec, contribute to Quebec society, become bilingual citizens and foster better relations with Francophone youth (Quebec Community Groups Network, 2009). Artistic organizations working in "non-specifically European traditions" (the majority not using French as their first language) also want to be included and recognized in Quebec. A coalition of groups lament the fact that the government has insisted for a long time on the intercultural aspect of Quebec society but has not translated this recognition by changing practices in funding and in creating a fair policy to support organizations and artists from cultural communities (Stand Firm, 2008). However, the

lack of knowledge about the English-speaking community groups makes it hard to know how to move specifically towards inclusion and belonging.

The ethno-cultural, bilingual and English-speaking communities of Quebec are not one community that neither can nor should be expected to speak collectively
Each cultural community has its own unique history and the Anglophone community has historically not spoken as one voice (Jedwab, 2001, Quebec Community Groups Network, 2007). This is not uncommon among cultural communities. Speaking as one voice is not necessarily desired. What is needed is an understanding of how the state functions and an ability to participate, appropriately and in a desired fashion, with the broader community sector. This also requires that the state have an understanding of the range and complexity of the diversity of community groups working for social change in Quebec.

Quebec has a well-structured and funded community sector that is exemplary in the Western world yet has some important challenges to overcome
Quebec has more non-profit organizations per capita than any other province in Canada and a large proportion of the funding for these groups comes from the government of Quebec (L'Alliance de recherche universités-communautés en économie sociale, 2006). The *Politique* outlines one of the most progressive and sophisticated relations between the state and the third sector in Canada (White, 2001). Quebec's community sector is distinctive and very progressive within the rest of the Western world (Sotomayor & Lacombe, 2006; White, 2008). This is to be applauded. The hard work that went into making this possible needs to be acknowledged.

Experience at COCo suggests that ethno-cultural, bilingual and English-speaking community groups do not, by and large, benefit from this policy. Moreover, the evaluation of the *Politique* (White et al, 2008) identified some important questions that support observations made at COCo, suggesting there are some important challenges to overcome in the implementation of the *Politique* (via the *Cadre de référence*). These include:
  • The *Politique* is simply a policy, not a law which government departments are required to fulfill. This leaves the door open for discrepancies in implementation of the *Politique*.
  • The implementation of the *Cadre de référence* relies on the sectorization of groups, meaning each group seeking core funding needs to be connected to a specific ministry. This makes it hard for groups that do not define themselves as single issue organiza-

tions to find a "home ministry". Other organizations simply do not fit the criteria to be attached to a ministry.[6]
- The accessibility of funding is uneven among groups.
- Groups need to be better informed about the *Politique* and the *Cadre de référence*. While this finding is raised with the French community sector in mind, at COCo we continually speak with groups that do not know the *Politique* and the *Cadre de référence* exists. Moreover, there is no official English version of the *Cadre de référence*.

The Quebec community sector is also well-structured and institutionalized (Deslauriers & Paquet, 2003). While this raises challenges for groups to find the time for being active in network organizations (*tables de concertation, regroupements,* and coalition meetings) (RIOCM, 1998), for ethno-cultural, bilingual and English-speaking community groups simple inclusion in these structures appears to be a problem. COCo's experience suggests that a lack of basic information about where to participate and that a lack or limited ability to work in French can lead to groups not being connected to the broader sector. The research reported on here seeks to understand participation in networks more fully.

METHODOLOGY
Given COCo's interest not only in documenting but also in seeing changes in the relationship between English-speaking, ethno-cultural and bilingual community groups and the government of Quebec, it was decided early on that the research in this field would adopt an "action research" approach. Staff recognized that to be truly change-oriented, action research requires meaningful participant involvement in all phases of the research (Reason & Bradbury, 2006; Jordan, 2003) and that the research must lead to emancipation and empowerment (Boog, 2003). Finally, the research must focus also on action, not only research (Jordan, 2003; Reason & Bradbury, 2006). With this in mind the research project was designed.

Specifically, a questionnaire was used to seek answers to the research questions. It was developed, tested and analyzed with potential research participant organizations, several leader or regrouping organizations in the English-speaking sector, the funder of the research (SACAIS) and Deena White (Université de Montréal). Work with these partners is ongoing as the research continues. The questionnaire was online and self-reporting.[7]

The questionnaire asked questions about the following topics: the person filling in the survey (section 1), the group and the work it does

(section 2–7), how the group is funded (section 8), the relationship with the government of Quebec (section 9), funding relationships with the government of Quebec (section 10–12) if the group is not funded by Quebec, questions for groups not currently receiving global mission funding (section 13–31), what kind of networks the group is part of (section 32–34) and whether or not the group would like to stay in contact with the research and COCo (section 35). The questionnaire was launched with a specific mailing to the COCo e-bulletin list in April 2009. It was distributed via other networks and visits were made to buildings in Montreal housing several community organizations to raise awareness about the project. This random sampling approach (McMillan, 2004) was chosen as there is no accurate information on the number and contact information of English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural groups working in Quebec. (In fact, there is no complete and accurate information on all community groups in Quebec.)

As part of the outreach efforts, a list of 559 different English-speaking, bilingual or/and ethno-cultural community groups in Quebec was compiled. Phone calls were made to these organizations by staff members who had knowledge of the community sector. Over 400 calls were made to gather information about these groups and to encourage them to respond to the questionnaire. Of the list compiled, 57% of groups did not complete the survey. Most potential respondents were polite and open to the research but simply did not seem to have the time or a deep enough understanding of how the research could help their group. Additional research is needed to understand more fully the reality and needs of these groups.

Analysis was conducted by COCo staff and further analyzed with several groups that participated in the questionnaire, several individuals with a broad understanding of the community sector and the funder. The long-term commitment of the funder to the research and the web of links between this research and COCo's ongoing work are fertile ground for success. Concerns exist that action research is often done with inadequate time for the research, underfunding, lack of clarity in the roles and expectations of the various partners, lack of funder involvement in the research, and lack of next steps or follow-up (Flicker, Savan, McGrath, Kolenda, Mindenberger, 2008). This is not the case for this research. The cumulative effect of a three-year process, adequate funding, government and academic researchers, and a plan for follow-up bodes well for the remainder and outcomes of the research. Thus COCo is clearly in the lead of the research as a community group with support from other community groups.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

A total of 559 English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural community groups were located in Montreal, Laval and the Eastern Townships. While this is possibly the only list of its kind, COCo knows of other organizations that are not on the list. More groups exist. A total of 217 completed questionnaires were analyzed. The majority of these groups serve Montreal (68%, 144 groups), followed by all of Quebec (15%, 32 groups), Laval (8%, 18 groups), and the Eastern Townships (9%, 20 groups) (see Table 1). The groups work mostly with families, seniors and youth, in that order.
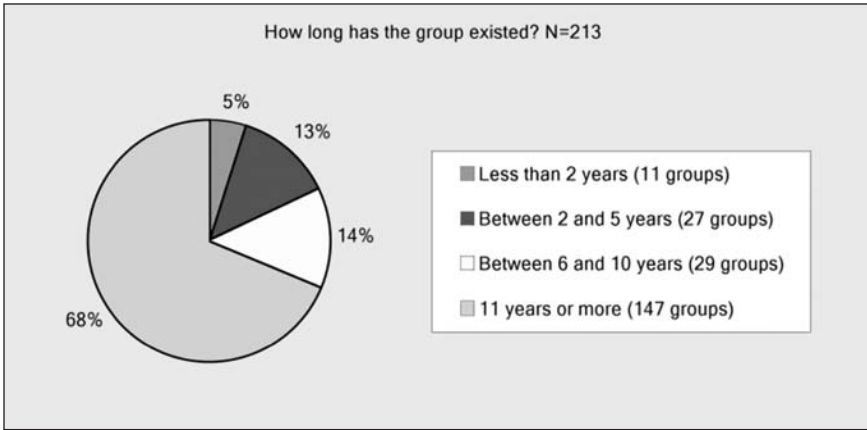
Table1
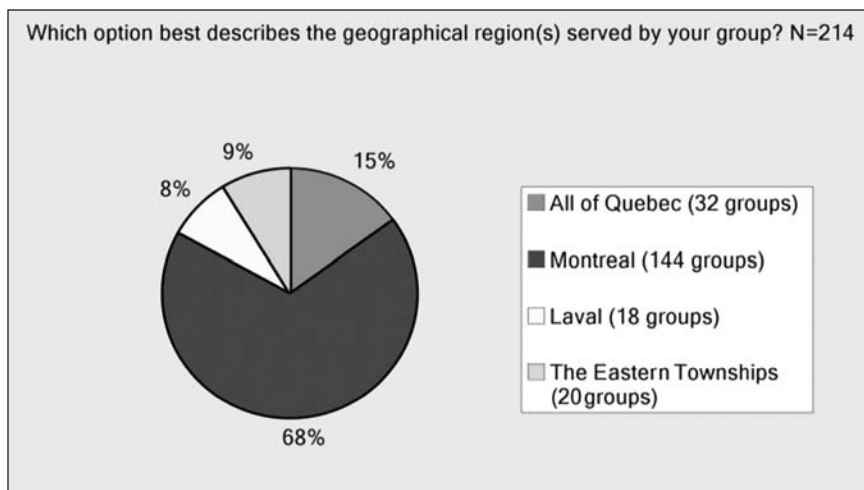
Four preliminary themes were presented at the Acfas conference. They are presented here along with several supplementary findings from the recent in-depth analysis.

Groups can be characterized as generally small and hardy

Overall, groups participating in the questionnaire are small and hardy. They meet diverse social needs in many languages. For example, 67% of the groups surveyed have 5 or fewer full-time employees, yet 82% of the groups have existed for over 6 years and 68% have existed for 11 or more years (see Table 2). As well, 77 respondents identified more than one area in which they work, indicating a complexity of needs with which they are faced. Thirty-nine percent of groups (83 groups) have the capacity to work in languages other than English and French.

Table 2

How long has the group existed? N=213

5%

13%

14%

68%

■ Less than 2 years (11 groups)

■ Between 2 and 5 years (27 groups)

□ Between 6 and 10 years (29 groups)

▨ 11 years or more (147 groups)

While no comparative data currently exists to identify differences and similarities with French-speaking groups, there is a sense that the small size and multiple areas of work of these groups, coupled with their ability to work in multiple languages, are perhaps features more unique to the English-speaking, ethno-cultural and bilingual groups. This is a question for future research.

Communications are a challenge
Generally, groups do not seem to broadly reach out and promote their existence. Neither do they seem to "speak the same language" as the government; not primarily in terms of fluency in French but in the understanding and use of words and concepts.

Promoting their existence
Only 23% of the 559 groups identified in the outreach have a web-site, whereas 26% (57 groups) of the 217 groups who completed the questionnaire had no web presence. These findings were responded to immediately. A web presence was created for the groups via the COCo website (see *http://www.coco-net.org/en/node/237*). As well, COCo has been profiling groups in the monthly electronic e-bulletin. Lastly, a grant has been secured from Canadian Heritage (federal government) to assist groups to "spread the word" about their existence through developing a more meaningful web presence as well as other promotional tools based on the image they want to project.

Speaking "different languages"
Many of the groups surveyed have the capacity to speak, read and write in French (see Table 3). However, having a greater ability to work

in French appears to be an advantage when it comes to funding. Of the 81 groups that receive global mission funding, 80 groups answered the question about language capacity. A total of 82.5% (66) of these 80 groups said they were "very able: many of us can" read and write in French. Of the 98 groups not receiving global mission funding who answered the question on language capacity, 44% of these groups said they were very able to read and write in French (43 groups). This suggests that groups with less capacity to work in French might tend to lose out on potential funding. There are probably other related factors involved (such as knowledge of the funding structure and a history of connection with the majority francophone community sector). However, this data potentially underlines the helpfulness of having capacity to work in French in community groups. This needs to be examined in more detail.

Table 3
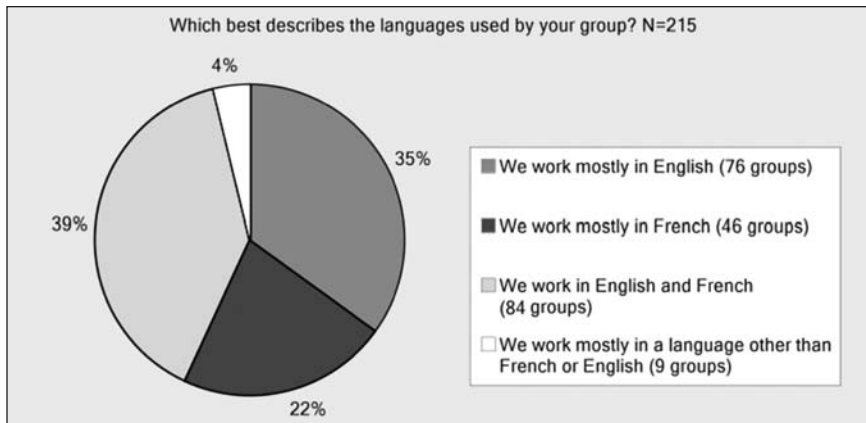
However, many groups seem to speak a different language from the government in terms of the understanding and use of words and concepts. For example, when asked what sectors the groups serve, many groups did not define themselves in ways similar to government definitions. The questionnaire identified sectors of work based on funding streams from the government (health & social services, immigrant & cultural communities, education, arts, etc). As mentioned, 77 groups choose not to use the categories and are rather self-identified.

Groups with global mission funding have greater clarity about the government ministry with which they need to work. Of the groups currently receiving global mission funding (n=81), 73 answered the question on sector and 16 groups used the optional text box to further describe the sector they work in which they work. Of the groups not

currently receiving global mission funding but appearing to meet the criteria for global mission funding, 47 (n=62) answered the question about sector and 30 groups used the optional text box to describe their sector. Groups not receiving global mission funding are less clear about how they describe their work in ways that facilitate communication with the funder.

Moreover, in two analysis meetings conducted with the groups, comments were made about how difficult it is for groups to communicate with the government of Quebec. Language capacity was specified as one of the reasons, but it goes beyond that. Level of ease and understanding with regards to concepts and terms makes communication difficult. For example, a board member from a group in the Eastern Townships recounted how speaking with government officials made her feel: "You need to be an anthropologist to figure out how it works. I don't think it was just the language barrier. We just couldn't connect on any level!"

Funding: Some groups are left out
Of the 217 groups surveyed, 37% (81 groups) receive global mission funding.[8] This was a pleasantly surprising finding from the research. Global mission funding provides core funds for basic maintenance over time, reducing the precarious nature of funding that many organizations live with when they survive with irregular, project-based funding (Scott, 2003). It is desirable for many groups.

Of the 136 respondents who do not receive global mission funding (63%), 88 groups responded to the questionnaire section to see if they respond to the criteria for global mission funding. Sixty-two of these appear to meet the criteria for global mission funding.

We looked closely at the mission statements supplied by respondents and categorized them as ethno-cultural if they mentioned working with a particular ethno-cultural group, or offering support or services to immigrants or newcomers in general, or to the English-speaking community. Of the groups who shared their mission statement and who are not currently receiving global mission funding (n=60), we found that 56% (34 out of 60) of the groups work with ethno-cultural groups. Among groups with global mission funding, only 22% (17 of 79) of the mission statements were classified as ethno-cultural. These findings suggest that groups working with ethno-cultural communities are having a harder time accessing global mission funding.

Relationships between these groups and the broader francophone community sector via networks

Before embarking on this research, there was a sense among the COCo staff that many English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural groups are not very active in the formal Quebec community sector networks and that participating in these networks is beneficial if one wants to be informed about funding opportunities and changes in government policy affecting the organization and its work. The preliminary results of the first year indicate that the reality is more nuanced.

A total of 75% of the groups surveyed (165 groups) are active in at least one network and 46% (100 groups) are active in at least three different networks. (The survey asked about participation in a maximum of three networks. Groups may be involved with more.) Specifically, more than a third (34%) of the networks listed by groups with global mission funding were either regional, Quebec-wide *regroupements* or networks. Only 12.5% of the networks named by groups without global mission funding were regional networks. Examples of regional networks include the *Conseil québécois des gais et lesbiennes* (CQGL) and *Coalition pour le maintien dans la communauté* (COMACO). This finding indicates that groups with funding are much more likely to be connected to broader (regional) networks.

IMPLICATIONS FROM THE FINDINGS

These results, although preliminary, raise some important implications for the relationship between the English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural community groups and the government of Quebec. In relation to the size and work of the groups, does the current funding structure respond to the needs of the groups surveyed? Many groups cover multiple areas of work yet funding from the Government of Quebec is through a "home" ministry that focuses on one area. We know this "sectorization" is a problem not only for groups participating in the survey (Charest, 2004; White et al, 2008). However, the groups participating in this study may reflect a specific characteristic of minority-language groups, that is, the need to cover multiple needs within one organization. This is because of a lack of volume in numbers that would allow for multiple groups, with more specific mandates, to emerge. Funding from the government of Quebec does not take this reality into account.

Secondly, this research, specifically the qualitative data, raises questions about how groups can better communicate with the government. There is a difference in the understanding and use of words and concepts in conversing with government officials in French, which affects the ability among English-speaking, bilingual

and ethno-cultural groups to meaningfully connect with key people in various ministries. This suggests that it might be helpful to have specific people identified within the ministries that groups can go to for information, or that a bilingual person at SACAIS serve as a "liaison" between the various government departments and groups. Likewise, resources might be developed at the community sector level to help groups in their communication with the government.

Another implication that this research raises concerns the knowledge and understanding of the government of Quebec's funding structure. The *Cadre de référence* that explains the *Politique* is voluminous and available only in French. Many of the groups surveyed do not know about or do not understand it. A recent event sponsored by the *Reseau québécois en action communautaire autonome* (RQ-ACA) and COCo reinforced this. Many groups simply do not know that the *Politique* and the *Cadre de référence* exist or do not understand the basic elements of these documents (e.g.: what type of organization gets funded and how). According to RQ-ACA, this is also true for parts of the French-speaking community sector. The need for more knowledge and understanding of the government of Quebec's funding regime is corroborated by a recommendation from White et al (2008) that *regroupements* develop training kits for grassroots groups to help them understand the *Politique* and the *Cadre de référence*, and especially to understand why and how to use these documents in their relationship with the funder. This raises questions about how to build knowledge and understanding of the funding structure among groups. Should the *Cadre de référence* be translated? Should more information sessions be organized to explain the *Politique*?

Connected to this is the need for English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural groups to have the opportunity to share with government officials to build a better understanding of the work these groups do and how they address issues of social change, exclusion and poverty within Quebec. The web map on the COCo website and the profiling of groups in the COCo e-bulletin are some of the small ways in which these issues are being addressed. More is needed, including opportunities for direct contact between the groups and the government.

In relation to funding, this research suggests that there may be a need for funding for ethno-cultural groups that are addressing social change at a local culturally-based level. Findings from White et al (2008) support this proposal. The government of Quebec currently funds ethno-cultural groups that help new citizens integrate into Quebec during the first few years of their arrival. This research has clearly indicated that there are many groups that work with members of cultural communities

beyond their initial integration into Quebec society to address issues of integration, social change, exclusion and poverty.

The findings on funding show that many groups are able to access global mission funding. Were these groups active in the broader Quebec community sector when the re-organization of funding was being carried out in the late 1990s? Do these groups have more capacity to work in French? Do these groups understand the *Politique* and have they been able to demonstrate their adherence to it better than other groups? What distinguishes the groups that have accessed funding from those that have not? More analysis is needed. However, there is also the challenge of limited funding. Even if groups qualify, it seems there is little money for groups who were not at the table in 1999.

The findings on groups participating in networks are very preliminary. Participation appears to be high. COCo has previously identified the need for groups to learn about local networks in which they can participate and the need for networks to encourage and support the participation of less bilingual groups if English-speaking groups are to become part of the more formal Quebec community sector. Informal interviews in the past have identified that English-speaking and ethno-cultural groups more at ease in English often feel uncomfortable and do not understand the dynamics when they participate in French-speaking network organizations. More analysis is forthcoming to identify which networks groups participate in. Additional research is needed to understand network participation more fully.

This action-based research has already begun implementing actions to promote strategies for the recognition and inclusion of these groups in the wider Quebec community sector. The web presence offered to groups via COCo's website and a recent meeting with the *Comité interministériel* (which regroups all the government of Quebec ministries that fund community groups) to share the findings and discuss follow-up are examples of some of the actions that are being implemented as a result of this research.

The English-speaking, ethno-cultural and bilingual community sector in Quebec is complex and multi-faceted. This reality is not unlike the reality of the community sector in Canada and the dominant French-speaking sector in Quebec (Brock, 2003; L'alliance de recherche universitiés-communautés en économie sociale, 2006; Scott, 2003; White, 2001, 2008). The *In the Know* research has begun to unravel and understand elements of this sector. During year two and year three, surveying of the other regions of Quebec as well as further research are needed to understand this sector more fully and to support its development.

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ENDNOTES

1   *www.coco-net.org*

2   SACAIS is the provincial body mandated to coordinate the implementation of the *Politique de reconnaissance et de soutien de l'action communautaire.*

3   Year two (2010-2011) surveyed the Outaouais, Laurentian, Lanaudière, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Montérégie (South Shore) and Quebec City regions. The other regions of Quebec will be surveyed in the third year (2011-2012). The Eastern Townships (which is Estrie plus the eastern section of the Montérégie) was used, not Estrie, as this represents how COCo's network identifies itself, how organizations in the region access COCo services and how the organizations see themselves.

4   For a deeper discussion of other related reasons, see Jedwab and Maynard, 2008, page 169–170.

5   For more information, see the *Cadre de référence en matière d'action communautaire, troisième partie*, retrieved September 2, 2010 from *http://www.mess.gouv.qc.ca/sacais/action-communautaire/cadre-reference. asp*.

6   One such example is the community group l'Autre Montreal. They are an organization that promotes education about social issues and their history through organizing bus tours. Their mandate touches on aspects of education, in a popular sense, however they simply do not fit the criteria of one specific ministry (Charest, 2004).

7   SurveyMonkey, an online survey tool that enables people of all experience levels to create their own surveys and analyze the results, was used. It is inexpensive (or free), easy to design, distribute and fill in and allows for in-depth data analysis.

8   Global mission funding is given to autonomous community action organizations. These are organizations which meet 8 specific criteria for funding including being completely autonomous from government structures, inspired by and reflecting citizens concerns, and working for social change. See the endnote #5 web link for more information.