Municipal Family Policies in Quebec

Child Friendly Cities Summit
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Structure of the Presentation

Municipal Family Policies in Quebec

1. Where did the idea for municipal family policies (MFPs) come from?
2. Why implement an MFP?
3. What are the foundations upon which an MFP is built in Quebec? / Which municipal stakeholders can take action to help children?
4. Who is involved?
5. What are the results achieved so far?
6. What are the plans for the future?
Where Do MFPs Come From?

In the 1980s, in the context of a government consultation...

- The idea of creating municipal family policies surfaced in Quebec.
- At the time, it was also proposed that, in every Quebec municipality, an elected representative be appointed to take care of family related issues (responsables des questions familiales or RQFs).
The first municipal family policy was created in 1989, paving the way for 783 municipalities and 31 regional county municipalities (RCM) to follow suit.

As of 2019:
- 900 municipalities and RCMs in Quebec have adopted an MFP
- 90% of the Quebec population is covered by an MFP
- MFPs are in place in each of the 17 administrative regions of the province
- Quebec-wide network of RQFs (700+)
- MFPs are the driving force behind 4,000+ family friendly measures

A Brief History of MFPs in Quebec
2. Why?

Why Adopt an MFP?

- Families in Quebec have changed dramatically since the 1960s
- This has fundamentally impacted the way families are structured

A MFP and an action plan are needed to help improve the quality of life of families, children and seniors
What Are the Foundations Upon Which an MFP Is Built in Quebec?

An MFP is a policy that shapes how municipalities think and act and puts families at the heart of municipal actions.

- A political commitment
- A collaborative process involving various community stakeholders
- A framework and an action plan
3. What?

Concrètement, « PENSER ET AGIR FAMILLE » c’est :

- **Concrétiser** la volonté politique favorable aux familles
- **Agir tôt** pour favoriser le développement global des tout-petits
- **S’engager** à ce que le mieux-être des familles et leurs préoccupations fassent partie intégrante des priorités municipales
- **Contribuer** à créer un climat et un milieu de vie qui soutiennent et encouragent les familles
- **Mettre en place** des mesures pour favoriser les échanges intergénérationnels
- **Créer** des environnements municipaux favorables aux SHV pour faciliter les choix sains des familles
- **Écouter** les besoins des familles pour réorienter certains services, règlements et priorités
- **Donner** aux parents « les moyens, le soutien et la valorisation nécessaires pour qu’ils exercent leur rôle et qu’ils assument leurs responsabilités »*
3. What?

Which Municipal Stakeholders Can Take Action to Help Children?

Areas of Municipal Action

- Communication
- Recreation, culture, community life
- School success
- Planning and development
- Support for community organizations
- Housing
- Security, mobility and transportation
4. Who Is Involved?

**Stakeholders**

- Direction générale
- Directions / services
- Chargé de projet
- Porteur administratif
- Le conseil municipal
- Élus
- RQF
- Comité de pilotage de la PFM
- FORMATEUR DU CAMF
- Réseau de la santé
- Organismes communautaires
  - Milieu scolaire
  - Tables de concertation
- Services de garde à la petite enfance
- Milieu des affaires
- Citoyens, parents, enfants
4. Who Is Involved?

CAMF: A Valued Partner for MFPs

- **Quebec wide nonprofit organization** with a local focus, created in 1989
- **Partner of the provincial family ministry** since 2002 for the financial and technical support program for MFPs
- Team of **22 trainers** across Quebec advising municipal administrations on initiatives related to MFPs and Age Friendly Municipalities (AFMs)
- Network of **310 members in 550 municipalities** (900 RQFs)
5. What Are the Results Achieved So Far?

Highlights 2019

• To date, 900+ municipalities and 37 RCMs from across the province have availed themselves of MFP related funding
• 90% of Quebec families live in a city or town that has adopted an MFP
5. What Are the Results Achieved So Far?

**Main Benefits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>POUR LES MUNICIPALITÉS/MRC</strong></th>
<th><strong>POUR LES FAMILLES</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Encourage la concertation et le partenariat entre les acteurs qui œuvrent auprès des familles;</td>
<td>Améliore la qualité de vie des familles;</td>
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<td>Valorise les acquis et le potentiel du milieu dans ses interventions auprès des familles;</td>
<td>Favorise les liens intergénérationnels;</td>
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<td>Assure la cohérence et la coordination des actions « familles »;</td>
<td>Favorise le mieux-vivre ensemble;</td>
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<td>Contribue à prévenir et à freiner l’exode des jeunes;</td>
<td>Reconnaît et valorise le rôle de la famille dans la communauté;</td>
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<td>Favorise l’attraction et la rétention des familles;</td>
<td>Contribue au développement global des enfants, à l’adoption de saines habitudes de vie et au développement d’environnements favorables au vieillissement actif;</td>
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<td>Facilite le dialogue intermunicipal;</td>
<td>Contribue au développement du sentiment d’appartenance, de solidarité et d’entraide;</td>
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<td>Encourage la participation citoyenne;</td>
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<td>Crée une force collective;</td>
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<td>Donne une vision sur 3 ans.</td>
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5. What Are the Results Achieved So Far?

- The Quebec equivalent of Child Friendly Cities is Municipalités amies des enfants (MAE) or Child Friendly Municipalities (CFMs)

- CAMF launched the initiative in 2009

- Since 2009 – 71 municipalities of all sizes, including 2 RCMs, have joined the CFM network

- 50% of children in Quebec live in a designated CFM
6. What Are the Plans for the Future?

The municipal political landscape in Quebec is changing. Bigger municipalities are now turning toward more specific policies or more comprehensive initiatives. CAMF has introduced transversal, integrated strategies to support and guide municipalities, in collaboration with community stakeholders.
inspiring initiatives for children