

A POLICY FOR SENIORS AND FAMILIES

STANSTEAD TOWNSHIP

2016



En partenariat avec :

Famille
Québec



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INTRODUCTION

SENIOR AND FAMILY POLICY 2015

The Municipality of Stanstead Township is known for the beauty of its landscapes, the quiet and peaceful atmosphere, as well as its location along the banks of Lake Memphremagog. It covers 135 square kilometers and has a small permanent population spread out over the territory. During the summer a large influx of vacationers doubles the population especially on the shores of the two lakes (Memphremagog and Lovering). Stanstead Township wants to develop a vision for the future based on current realities, including the aging population, demographic stagnation and the absence of jobs and services. By adopting a policy, the municipal council is committed to making the municipality more attractive to the residents of today and tomorrow.

This policy, in force since August 2015, aims to adapt municipal services to the realities and needs of seniors and families.

Through its commitment, the municipality will place seniors and families at the heart of its priorities.

FRAMEWORK

In January 2013 the council adopted a strategic development plan to respond to the expectations of its citizens. The citizens of Stanstead Township expressed a willingness to act according to the dictates of social, economic and environmental development.

The council has adopted a policy aimed at respect for elders, the enhancement of the well-being and quality of life for seniors and families, as well as children's

development. The policy offers the tools to achieve the desired results.

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Francine Caron Markwell,
mayor

Dear Citizens,

I am proud today to present our policy for seniors and families.

The adoption of a strategic plan (2013-2018) was the starting point for discussion and action. This plan includes three axes including one for social development. It is clear that you sought a policy for seniors and families as a part of the plan. It is important to note that 27 % of our population is over 65, while 20 % are from the under 18 group.

In 2014 we made a request for assistance to the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux to become recognised as an AFM (Age-friendly municipality) and we were accepted.

A committee was first formed whose primary mandate was to develop a survey. This survey has allowed us to know your needs and expectations. Following several meetings of the committee, the resulting priorities were selected: community life, housing, infrastructure, security and transport. A three-year plan (2016-2018) identifies concrete actions for each of these themes.

Many thanks to the Committee members who compiled and analyzed all the information and have made this policy a valuable development tool for our community. Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the survey.

I also want to thank Mrs. Francine Charbonneau, Minister for the Family, Minister responsible for Seniors, Minister responsible for the fight against intimidation.

Finally, this document must not be left on the shelf. It should be a beacon that tells us that we remain focused on our priorities while accepting that these priorities may change over the years. A committee will be formed to monitor them.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Francine Caron Markwell".

Francine Caron Markwell

STEERING COMMITTEE

Our comitee : Marco Beauvais, Alison d'Anglejan, Marc Daigle, Micheline Roberge, Dany Brodeur, Mylène Brassard, France-Hélène Caillé.



Credit : Mark Linton

The steering committee was carefully formed to accurately represent all aspects of the lives of seniors and families in Stanstead Township. Therefore we find citizens living all over the municipality, workers and volunteers involved in various organizations. The intergenerational aspect was also considered in the process. It played a significant role. The committee consisted of ten people including the local councillor responsible for the portfolio of seniors, families, leisure and culture, six citizens representing the community (grandparents, parents, volunteers), the delegate from the Carrefour action municipal et famille, the community organizer from the health and social services center : CSSS (Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Memphrémagog) and the Stanstead Township community development officer who acted as project coordinator.

The mandate of the steering committee of the new policy for seniors and family and that of recognition of Stanstead Township as a municipality friendly towards seniors (MADA – Municipalité amie des aînés) consists among other things of the following objectives:

- To ensure the monitoring of the project in keeping with the definition of MADA;
- To hold consultations with the citizens about their needs and interests;
- To liaise between the municipal authorities and the community;
- To make recommendations to the municipal council;
- To ensure the development of a policy for seniors and family that is attentive to the needs of its citizens;
- To propose an action plan with a timetable.

To achieve its mandate, the steering committee met eight times since the start of work in September 2014.

We would like to thank the committee members for their civic involvement. Without their cooperation, this approach could not have achieved its objectives.

SUMMARY OF 2014 SURVEY RESULTS

Analysis of the survey of the population of the municipality of Stanstead Township - part of the studies for the development of a Senior & Family Policy (MADA-PFM).

The following table outlines the composition of our sample compared to the 2011 Statistics Canada census data.

247 people responded to the survey. This was proportional to the population with a slight increase on the Anglophone side. Youth (both French and English) under 34 years replied in a lower proportion to their demographics, which is a common occurrence in surveys.

Variables	Statistics Canada 2011		Survey 2014	
Total Adult Population/ sample	890 Total Population 1035		247 for a response rate of 28%	
Under 18 years old	135			
18-24	55	6%	1	0%
25-34	55	6%	7	3%
35-49	170	19%	35	14%
50-54	105	12%	18	7%
55-64	225	25%	64	26%
65 years and older	280	31%	116	47%
Under 50 year	280	31%	43	18%
50 years and over	610	69%	198	82%
Couples	625	68%	177	72%
Other	295	32%		
Couples without children	210/335	63%	195	79%
Mother Tongue				
English	380	38%	121	49%
French	610	60%	114	46%
Other	20	2%		

Source : <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=F&Geo1=CSD&Code1=2445025&Geo2=PR&Code2=10&Data=Count&SarchText=Stanstead&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&B1=All&GeoLevel=PR&Geo-Code=2445025&TABID=1>



PORTRAIT OF THE MUNICIPALITY

Stanstead Township was incorporated in 1855 and is part of the Regional County Municipality (MRC) of Memphremagog.

The community has a special character because it is composed of two villages: Georgeville and Fitch Bay where Anglophones and Francophones have lived in harmony for over 160 years. It is a place with a unique environment: New England style heritage buildings and several tourist attractions, including Lake Memphremagog. The region has a variety of businesses including agrotourism, traditional farming, tourism. The population is varied including artists, entrepreneurs and includes permanent and part time residents.

The Township is bordered by two lakes (Memphremagog and Lovering) in a bucolic area that is renowned for its beauty and peaceful life.

Georgeville: Founded in 1797 on the shores of Lake Memphremagog, the village is a small hamlet. The community has its heart in the rich built heritage and wishes to protect the tranquility of the village. It is very busy in the summer and rather quiet in the

winter. Vacationers double or triple the permanent population in the summer. There is an inn, marina and general store all of which are only open during the summer season. An artists' cooperative, a community centre and a restaurant serve the population throughout the year. A walk around the village will allow a visitor to discover the Bigelow Pioneer Garden, the old red school house (1847) and several homes dating back to the early 1800s. Rest areas include the village green and the municipal dock, which offers an exceptional view of the lake.

Fitch Bay : Founded in 1792, as its name suggests, Fitch Bay is located at the head of a bay on Lake Memphremagog. The development of this settlement began in the mid-19th century. A convenience store with a gas station and a hardware store are located in the heart of the village and are open year round. There is also a childcare centre. The built heritage is present but has a less homogeneous look than that of Georgeville. The town hall located in a former Adventist Church (1866) and several other historical buildings are part of the village. There are two parks: Thayer in the village center and Forand Park which is on the bay

and gives boat access to the lake. The community is generally younger and more Francophone when compared to Georgeville.

Tourism plays an important role in the economy of Stanstead Township. There is no industry in the Canton, however there are independent businesses, several artists, contractors and other professionals who work from their homes. The majority of permanent residents are retired or semi-retired.

2013-2017 Municipal Council :

Mayor: Francine Caron Markwell,

Councillors: George Charles Atkin, Dany Brodeur, Janet Cooper, Gaétane Gaudreau Langlois, Christian Laporte and Pierre Martineau.



Credit: Aurélia Parrenin



POLICY ORIENTATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

The policy for seniors and families, what needs must it fulfill?

1. To improve the quality of life for families and seniors
2. To help energize the community
3. To further develop the citizens' sense of belonging to the community
4. To support citizen involvement

Definitions

Seniors

Who belongs to this group?

In Stanstead Township seniors are people living in a stage of life where paid work is not their main concern. They are valued and their experience is recognized with the hope that it is shared with those around them.

Families

Who belongs to this group?

In Stanstead Township, the definition of family is quite broad. It includes both family ties as well as those of the heart and recognizes all those who raised us, all of those we love.

This policy will guide the council in its decisions on the creation of a favorable environment for families and people of all ages.

MINISTERIAL GUIDELINES

AFM Initiatives

The municipality wants to combat ageism; adapts its policies, services and structures; adopts a comprehensive and integrated approach; encourages the participation of seniors; relies on collaborative partnerships and the mobilization of the entire community. It supports the creation of an environment that is favorable to seniors and families while adapting municipal services to their reality and needs.

To rely on consultation and the mobilization of the entire community.

“Aging and living together, in our home, in the community, in Quebec”¹

¹ This is the translation of the french “Vieillir et vivre ensemble, chez soi, dans sa communauté” taken from the Guide d’accompagnement pour la réalisation de la démarche «Municipalité amie des aînés (MADA)» proposed by the Quebec government.



Family Policy Objectives

The Quebec government, through its commitment, places the family at the heart of its priorities.

To create the best possible environment for all families in Quebec by establishing conditions that will enhance their development.

To adapt municipal services to the realities and needs of families.

To place the family at the heart of municipal priorities through the creation of a stimulating environment for families.

The reflex “Think Family - Favour Family”²

² This is the translation of the french “ Penser famille - Agir famille” slogan from Le ministère de la famille et des aînés.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN THEMES WHICH SHAPE THE POLICY?

1

COMMUNITY LIFE

2

HOUSING

4

SECURITY

3

INFRASTRUCTURE

5

TRANSPORTATION

Theme 1 - Community Life

Recognizing that the development of our municipality is closely linked to the community sense of belonging, we believe in the importance of citizen involvement. It is therefore essential to promote community participation in organized activities for and by the citizens.

Theme 2 - Housing

A community cannot sustain its development without considering the quality of the housing. A policy is important to provide opportunities to meet the needs of established families as well as newcomers to access and maintain properties.

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Theme 3 - Infrastructure

The municipality supports the creation of public spaces in order to facilitate group and citizen gatherings and activities. It recognises the needs of citizens by creating new infrastructures and making existing ones available. In each case, universal accessibility is a key factor.

Theme 4 - Security

The municipality is concerned about security at large on its territory. Whether in public spaces or at home, measures should be considered to increase the sense of security in our community.

Theme 5 – Transportation

The policy aims to study options and to explore new ways to facilitate the development of innovative forms of transportation in response to community needs. All types of transportation will be analyzed.



THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY AND ITS ACTION PLAN

The objectives set for each theme of intervention require specific actions which will extend from 2016 to 2018. These actions are grouped together and allow the implementation of the policy for seniors and families in Stanstead

Theme	Objectives	Actions
Community Life	Recognizing that the development of our municipality is closely linked to the sense of belonging, we believe in the importance of citizen involvement. It is therefore essential to promote community participation in organized activities for and by the citizens.	<p>Maintain the community volunteer recognition party.</p> <p>Support the annual "Fête des Neiges" event.</p> <p>Support the Fête nationale du Québec event</p> <p>Support the Canada Day event</p> <p>Develop an efficient communication strategy.</p> <p>Create a list of services in the Township (ex. baby sitters, carpooling, professional services, handyman) offered in exchange, or for hire.</p>
Housing	A community cannot sustain its development without considering the quality, quantity and type of housing offered. It is important to provide opportunities to meet the needs of resident families as well as to newcomers to access and retain properties. Particular attention is to be paid to seniors who wish to remain at home.	<p>Update the zoning and urban plan.</p> <p>Develop a program to help seniors who want to stay in their home, home maintenance.</p>
Infrastructure	The municipality supports the creation of public spaces, facilitating groups and citizen meetings. It recognises the necessity of being alert to the needs of citizens by creating new infrastructures and making existing one available. In each case, universal accessibility is a key factor.	<p>Make improvements to Thayer Park (for young children, families, teenagers and seniors).</p> <p>Form a citizens' committee on the future of the community center in Fitch Bay.</p> <p>Facilitate safe pedestrian access to the center of the villages.</p> <p>Improve internet access.</p>
Security	The municipality is concerned about security at large on its territory. Whether in public spaces or at home, measures should be considered to increase the feeling of safety in our community.	<p>Identify vulnerable citizens and create a way to reach them in case of a major event. Update the list on an annual basis.</p> <p>Set up a phone line in case of emergency</p> <p>Continue to improve lighting and road signs.</p> <p>Disseminate the emergency action plan.</p>
Transportation	The policy aims to study options and to explore new ways to facilitate the development of innovative forms of transportation in response to community needs. All types of transportation will be analyzed.	<p>Begin approaches to assess the possibility of being a member of Transport des Alentours. Facilitate paratransit.</p> <p>Improve the quality of public roads.</p> <p>Adopt speed control measures in the villages.</p> <p>Promote carpooling.</p>

Township. The council has given a mandate to monitor the policy and assess the implementation of the three-year action plan to the follow-up committee and the councilor responsible for senior and family issues.

Responsible - Partners	2016	2017	2018
Municipality-Mayor and Culture and Leisure Committee	May	May	May
Action Communautaire du Canton de Stanstead (ACCS) and the Municipality, Community Development Officer	February	February	February
ACCS and the Municipality, Community Development Officer	June	June	June
Georgeville Community Association -Municipality, Community Development Officer	June -July	June -July	June -July
Municipality - Community Development Officer, Administrative Assistant	✓	✓	✓
Municipality - Community Development Officer, Administrative Assistant	✓	✓	✓
Municipality - Council, Municipal Inspector, an outside firm that makes recommendations	✓		
Municipality and Community partners: Information Centre for Seniors (CIA), Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Memphrémagog (CIUSSS), Centre d'action bénévole (CAB), etc.	✓	✓	✓
Municipality - Council - Community Development Officer	✓	✓	
Municipality - Culture and Recreation Committee - Citizen group	✓	✓	
Municipality - Ministry of Transportation		✓	✓
Municipalité - Council - Citizen group	✓	✓	✓
Municipality - Neighbors in the Community.	✓	✓	✓
Municipality - Administrative Assistant, Public Security Committee	✓	✓	✓
Municipality - Public Works -Ministry of Transportation	✓	✓	✓
Municipality - Public Security and Public Works Committees	✓		
Municipality - Community Development Officer -MRC Memphrémagog- Transport des Alentours	✓	✓	
Municipality - Ministry of Transportation	✓	✓	✓
Municipalité - Ministry of Transportation	✓	✓	✓
Municipalité - Community Development Officer, Administrative Assistant		✓	✓

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Municipality of Stanstead Township would like to thank the members of the Steering Committee:

Mrs. Alison d'Anglejan, retired and representative of seniors. Emeritus Professor University of Montreal.

Mr. Marco Beauvais, representative of youth and families. Automotive bodywork technician.

Mrs. Mylène Brassard, representative of youth and families. Web marketing designer and editor.

Mr. Dany Brodeur, municipal councillor in charge of the seniors and family portfolio.

Mrs. France-Hélène Caillé, retired and representing seniors. Dietary technician with the Memphremagog CSSS.

Mr. Marc Daigle, representative for youth and families. Owner and manager of Au Bivouac, Outdoor and Recreation Centre Inc.

Mrs. Micheline Roberge, retired teacher, President of the Working Table for Seniors in the MRC Memphremagog and the on the committee for the Regional Working Table for Seniors.

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Mr. André Langevin, trainer Carrefour municipal action et famille.

Mr. Dany Gagné, Community Agent of the Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Memphremagog.

Mrs. Hélène Hamel, Community Development Agent and project leader.

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Credit : Aurélia Parrenin