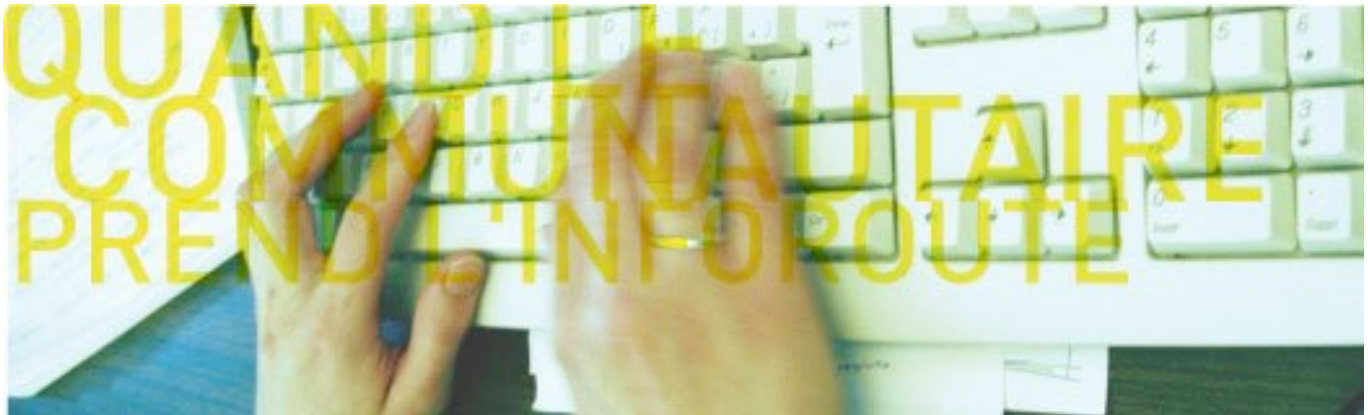# Communautique

COMMUNAUTIQUE is a Montreal-based non-profit urban community network founded in 1995 to assist low-income individuals and families and other groups potentially excluded from participating in the information society.

Our Activities:

Training
Communautique offers training to various organizations across Quebec, enabling groups and citizens to make strategic use of the Information Highway.

Access
Communautique is active in various projects and provides services to increase access for segments of the population that are usually excluded. These services include:
- Projects that allow groups to acquire hardware and get connected and that allow employees and volunteers to receive training in the use of these technologies
- Educational initiatives that focus on the particular challenges facing persons with disabilities in the use of ICTs
- Web development services
- Support for Community Internet Access Points (CAP Sites)
- Peer training
- Research
- Communautique conducts or contributes to various studies that aim to assess the level of appropriation of ICTs and how this is influenced by socio-economic factors. We are also working to analyze the impact of the Digital Divide in Quebec and to study the process of citizen appropriation of ICTs as well as the issues surrounding cyber-democracy.
- Consensus-building

Communautique is engaged in activities that foster discussions and consensus-building with a focus on fostering an inclusive, co-operative and knowledge-based society in which each individual is a full participant. We believe this goal can be achieved through:
- A democratic access to ICTs
- The development of common cyberspaces
- The dissemination of new forms of communication that will encourage collective projects

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Publications
Communautique produces literature related to its activities, including:
- Studies regarding the adoption of ICTs and the needs expressed by community stakeholders
- Memoirs and press releases about the place of ICTs and community groups in public policies
- Manuals and user-guides for Community Internet Access Centers' staff and for on-line training

COMMUNAUTIQUE OBJECTIVES

Connecting Communities
Support civic participation by promoting information literacy, appropriation of information and communications technologies and contribution to their development.

Our Objectives
- Enhance access to ICTs and to the Internet
- Promote resourcefulness and self-reliance among voluntary sector groups, citizens and within the community environment
- Create a democratic cyber-culture
- Combat socioeconomic exclusion and unequal access to ICTs
- Our Strategies
- Provide training in the strategic use of ICTs and enhance access
- Develop tools for deliberation and analysis with a focus on research, experimentation and innovation
- Engage and co-operate within the community environment

COMMUNAUTIQUE ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Until recently Communautique also managed a CAP Youth Initiative (CAP-YI) program through which youth facilitators were hired in various communities to provide information and training sessions on the use of ICTs to socially marginalized populations, including low income, new immigrant and elderly individuals. Overall, Communautique's Internet initiation and new technologies workshops have been attended by over 150,000 people, and have played an important role in combating the digital divide in Quebec society.

Communautique also plays an active and visible role advocating on behalf of universal access and community networking issues. In 2002, for example, it issued its Platforme Québécoise de l'Internet Citoyen, which articulated the basic principles of community networking – emphasizing the importance of overcoming the digital divide and enabling full participation in the information society - and called upon government to develop and implement policies and programs recognizing universal access as a basic right of citizenship and supporting the role played by community networks in democratizing the information society.

Communautique is a founding member of the MAILLONS Network which brings together actors in
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the nonprofit sector interested in the development of the Internet in Quebec. This Network created the corporation Un Québec branché sur le monde who's aim is to link Quebec to the world, in providing high speed Internet access at a reasonable price as well as to increase Internet access in Quebec regions where access is still limited.

Since 2006, Communautique has led a research program on digital inclusion based primarily on establishing a qualitative portrait of the inclusion/exclusion experience of Quebec citizens who are handicapped or who have a limited degree of familiarity with the use of Internet for information and communication purposes, on their solutions and strategies and priorities, as well as on establishing priorities that will encourage their inclusion.

Communautique also sits on the Canada Telecommunities Council, who established the Internet for Everyone.ca campaign.

Communautique calls for local action towards a Digital Plan for Quebec, Canada and in municipalities.

We recently published a Manifesto for a Quebec Digital Plan.

Since 2010, Communautique has begun transforming its organization in order to integrate experimentations with open social innovation inspired by the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL), an international federation of benchmarked Living Labs in Europe and worldwide.

Communautique is now working to establish conditions favorable to the emergence of Canadian and Quebec open social innovation networks with citizen technologies from the perspective of Internet defined as a common public good.

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