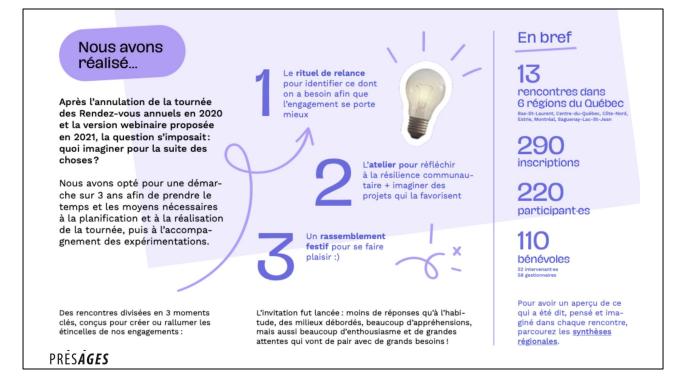


## Focus on community engagement and community resilience

Here's a perfect mix of information, ideas and concerns we gathered during the tour and share here to give you food for thought!

Enjoy your reading!



## What we have achieved...

After the cancellation of the Rendez-vous annuels tour in 2020 and the webinar version proposed in 2021, the question was: what to imagine for the future? We opted for a 3-year approach, to take the time and resources needed to plan and carry out the tour, and then support the experiments.

These meetings are divided into 3 key moments, designed to create or rekindle the sparks of our engagements :

- 1. The revival ritual to identify what's needed to improve engagement
- A workshop to reflect on community resilience + imagine projects that promote it
- 3. A festive gathering to enjoy :)

The invitation went out : fewer responses than usual, overwhelmed environments, a lot of apprehension, but also a lot of enthusiasm and great expectations that go hand in hand with great needs!

## In brief

13 meetings in 6 Quebec regions (Bas-St-Laurent, Centre-du-Québec, Côte-Nord, Estrie, Montréal, Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean)
290 registrations / 220 participants /110 volunteers

For an overview of what was said, thought and imagined at each meeting, take a look at the <u>regional summaries</u>.



### We harvested... what you'd like to see for the engagement

During the revival ritual, we asked participants to identify what they needed more of (+) and less of (-) to make their engagement better.

### + Listening to one's limits

The pandemic has given volunteers the opportunity to reflect on their commitment, to find new hobbies, to realize that they want more time for themselves... There is a growing understanding of the importance and value of setting limits and saying no. In return, managers have to accept and deal with these refusals.

### + De plaisir

In the capsule presented by Théâtre Fleury, the question of fun came up often and resonated with volunteers. We'd like to see more volunteering based on volunteers' expertise, interests and passions, and more time for informality, so as not to lose sight of the fun.

### - Professionalization

We mustn't forget that volunteering should remain volunteering! Some volunteers have the impression that they have a full-time job, or that their tasks and responsibilities are those of salaried employees.

### - Too much supervision

Too much supervision by managers, other volunteers or fund provider is an obstacle to creativity, self-organization and healthy delinquency. Some speak of consultation, democracy and autonomy, to feel that they have room to manoeuvre and that they are being listened to.



## We harvested... what you think of community resilience

During the workshop, we asked participants what resilience meant to them.

### Définition

- ability to rebuild, ability to adapt radical acceptance create in uncertainty
- turning on a dime going for it with a clear head an obligation to think and do differently

#### Levers

- taking the time to do things right recognize the field's ability to find their own solutions
- pay attention to individual needs and space publicize organizations and resources

### The brakes

- working in silos duplication of organizations and the lack of collaboration
- projects that rest on the shoulders of a few people difficulty in finding new staff - form of engagement too limited

Everyone agrees that the community sector has shown great resilience, and has done so for many years. With the benefit of hindsight, we would like to emphasize that this resilience is a response to numerous crises (social, ecological, health-related and others), but that it is not a solution or an end in itself. It must be accompanied by a healthy contestation and an attempt to resolve the problems at the root of these crises.



## We harvested... ... what you imagine for tomorrow

"What we want to do is create an apartment building that blends **many generations(1)**, with seniors, families and students. We want to offer a stimulating living environment, but also promote **mutual aid(2)**. We want people to **be able to manage on your own(3)** to do their own repairs for example. We're going to have to draw up a cooperation agreement to **decide together(4)** how we're going to organize all this. We'd also like there to be **shared services and equipment(5)**: a common wifi, a large courtyard where we can do some gardening, a community room where we can cook and eat together."

- (1) Plurigeneration
- (2) Cooperation
- (3) Autoproduction
- (4) Democratization
- (5) Communalization



## We propose...

## ... to draw inspiration from the commons too :

- organize certain services for seniors differently and respond to the challenges faced by the community
- V offer a form of commitment better suited to the aspirations of volunteers
- promote a different process for implementing community resilience projects
   proposing a return to basics the community sector

A common is : a resource + rules + a community

"It's a collectivity, a community that comes together to try to satisfy a need [...] by itself and for itself, by its own means. The other principal element [...] is that we pool our strengths, our ressources." Link :

https://ici.radio-canada.ca/ohdio/premiere/emissions/genre-humain/episodes/7 85756/rattrapage-dimanche-10-septembre-2023

"The common is less a thing than an activity, a collective process based on social practices. [...] The common in fact is an aspiration, it's a vision of the world, it's a project for society." Link :

https://praxis.encommun.io/n/hA4D1PPeOzL0DDYuNq2qOhzVsYk/



# We invite you to ... ... to consult resources, in different formats according to your preferences!

\*\* The resources are in french, we gonna try to give you ressource in english at soon as possible. Here are the link anyway : you can click when its bleu.

- <u>Reportage sur l'épicerie Le détour + Entrevue radiophonique avec</u> <u>Yves-Marie Abraham sur les communs</u> (8+11 minutes)
- <u>Vidéo d'introduction sur les communs</u> avec Marie-Soleil L'allier et Jonathan Durand Folco (25 minutes)
- <u>Article d'opinion dans Le Devoir</u> de Marie- Soleil L'allier et Jonathan Durand Folco (7 minutes)
- <u>Revue Recherches Sociographiques</u> Les communs au Québec : initiatives collectives citoyennes et autogestion, d'hier à aujourd'hui

... to explore the idea of the commons and experiment with us.

Write to us (<u>rva@presages.org</u>) to get a front-row seat to what's coming up:

- Getting to grips with the concept of the commons (webinar)
- Addressing the obstacles and levers specific to the community environment (workshop)
- Experience the commons through an activity or service (coaching)