

Réseau FADOQ

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**Application for accreditation to the Open-ended Working Group on
Ageing Third Session of OEWG on Ageing
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The purpose of the organization;

Réseau FADOQ is the largest organization of seniors in Canada. It is composed of many affiliations, divided in different regions and works in partnership with many organizations and associations. Réseau FADOQ relies on hardworking employees and devoted volunteers.

Its mission is to bring together people from 50 and older, to represent them and to recognize and defend their rights and their needs. It also organizes activities and provides programs and services that meet their needs; all this in order to promote quality of life and fulfilment of all its members.

Réseau FADOQ is working on several files with the aim of improving the quality of life for seniors. Whether militating for the poverty level, ill-treatment, the conditions of seniors living in a residence or in a long-term care facility, or prejudice against workers of 50 and older and intergenerational relations, Réseau FADOQ questions decision-makers and the media regarding the needs of seniors. The expertise of Réseau FADOQ when it comes to defending the rights of seniors is well-known in Quebec and in Canada. In only the last three years, Réseau FADOQ has presented more than 20 reports to governmental authorities to raise awareness about important issues for seniors. Moreover, the Réseau FADOQ is often invited to present its reports during parliamentary committees and to meet leaders and elected officials to bring the seniors issues further.

Information as to the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the human rights of older persons;

Réseau FADOQ has implanted several programs and activities regarding the protection and the promotion of human rights, dignity and quality of life of seniors.

Poverty

In Canada, there is a universal contribution-free benefits program, Old Age Security. The program includes a component established to enhance the income of the poorest senior citizens: the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). However, this program does not even provide the minimum one needs to survive at the poverty line as defined by the government of Canada.

With one of the highest GDPs per inhabitant amongst the OECD, Canada is a country that could afford to have a program to guarantee a decent living for all its senior citizens. However, since registration to the GIS is not automatic, about 160,000 seniors in Canada do not receive this help when they are entitled to it. It is often the most vulnerable individuals (often women who have worked little or not at all, isolated people, seniors who cannot read nor write or those who are not very familiar with governmental resources) who are the most wronged by the political and administrative hurdles. When all the communication tools exist to transmit information regarding admissibility to the program, the Canadian government is still refusing to implement the necessary steps so that vulnerable seniors get registered automatically for this last-resort financial help.

For many years now, Réseau FADOQ has campaigned for an improvement and simplification of the GIS program. We have launched the campaign "GIS: The alarm sounds, react! ", Including a petition containing over 40,000 names, which was tabled in the Parliament of Canada.

Senior-aware

Réseau FADOQ considers health and elder abuse as major matters that affect many citizens. To improve the situation, Réseau FADOQ advocates the maintenance of a universal health care of quality that is fair and accessible, gives priority to home care; supports caregivers and campaigns to increase financial assistance and support provided; demands greater access to end-of-life care to allow all seniors to die with dignity; and finally educates seniors and their families about abuse and fraud.

Specifically to counter abuse and fraud against elderly, Réseau FADOQ has launched the programme *AînéAvisé*, the only program in the province of Quebec designed to inform seniors. *AînéAvisé* offers information sessions on elder abuse and fraud and on how to recognize the signs. It also distributes resources and

disseminates essential tools. This program is based on an original concept of animation. The sessions of information are offered by a volunteer and a senior policeman; the team combines the confidence of a peer and knowledge of a professional.

Programme QualitéLogi-Être (PQLE)

Réseau FADOQ has always been a leader regarding the quality of life of elderly in retirement homes in Quebec; it has always fought for the improvement of safety and dignity of seniors in nursing homes, long-term care and all type of residences. Through the specific program PQLE, Réseau FADOQ evaluates elderly retirement homes in terms of safety, of respect of the rights of seniors, of quality of care and of leisure activities offered and provides advices to the owners. Furthermore, the program is designed to help seniors choose a residence adapted to their specific needs.

More generally, Réseau FADOQ also campaigns for the rights of senior landlord and tenants. Too many seniors are forced to abandon their homes, unable to pay their property tax bill. In partnership with the different stakeholders, Réseau FADOQ wants to find a solution that would allow less fortunate owners to stay in their home for as long as they wish. Réseau FADOQ has also worked in the interest of the tenants and obtained a flexibility of the law concerning the penalty for breach of lease upon death of an elder or in case of moving for health reasons.

Experienced workers

Réseau FADOQ campaigns for the rights of experience workers to have their experience and knowledge recognized and to counter ageism. Also, their contribution is extremely essential to address the scarcity of labor force that Qubec will be facing in the next years. Doing so, Réseau FADOQ has educated actors of all backgrounds regarding the value of experienced workers and has advocates an approach of flexible human resources management adapted to the different stages of life. Plus, Réseau FADOQ has established two programs in this sense.

Défi 50+

The program Défi 50+ was developed to raise awareness of over 3 000 employers in Québec to the value and experience of workers of 50 and

older. Several awareness tools have been produced as part of this campaign to highlight the strengths of experienced workers.

Mentoring: the crossroads

The program *Mentoring: the crossroads* has been designed to promote the exchange of experience and knowledge between experienced workers and young professional recently arrived on the labour market or in the process of integrating a new job. This program was developed in collaboration with many regional and national organizations and is adapted to the economic and social realities of each region of Quebec.

Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international level;

For a few years now, the Réseau FADOQ has been developing its international section through involvement in various socioeconomic files and large-scale partnerships. Founded 40 years ago to meet the needs of French-speaking seniors from the province of Quebec, the Réseau FADOQ has broadened its horizon to the national and international levels.

As far as Canada is concerned, a recent association with the Fédération des Aînés et Aînées Francophones du Canada (FAAFC) has allowed the Réseau FADOQ to share its services (socioeconomic, recreational activities, and rebates and privileges) to French-speaking seniors from other provinces. This association made us realize that despite living in different geographic areas, the daily lives of seniors require similar interventions and programs.

Internationally, the Réseau FADOQ has also developed a partnership with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Several programs, such as an awareness program for workers over 50, are shared by our two organizations. Other connections, such as a rebate and privileges program specially made for people over 50, have helped to further our exchanges.

Furthermore, the Réseau FADOQ is involved in the organization of Canada's delegation for the IFA Global Conference on Ageing held in Prague in June 2012. The Réseau FADOQ is presently preparing a package that will combine a participation in the conference and regional tourism in order to favour registration within the Quebec delegation.

Finally, Réseau FADOQ has participated at the last two working group on ageing. Since then, Réseau FADOQ has been meeting key stakeholders and mobilizing

its resources to raise awareness amongst Canadian representatives and decision-makers about the urgent need to have an international convention on the rights of seniors.

Copies of the annual or other reports of the organization with financial statements, and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions

See documents attached (Financial report FADOQ.doc, financial statement - official signature FADOQ.doc)

A list of members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality

See document attached (governing body FADOQ)

A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution

Réseau FADOQ has a total of 255 696 members distributed in the sixteen regions of the province of Quebec; Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Bas-St-Laurent, Centre-du-Québec, Côte-Nord, Estrie, Gaspésie Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Île de Montréal, Lanaudière, Laurentides, Laval, Mauricie, Outaouais , Québec-Chaudière-Appalaches, Richelieu-Yamaska, Rive-Sud-Suroît and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean-Ungava. All regional organizations are interdependent and their administrators work in collaboration to represent the interests of their members.

See document attached that indicates the total number of members per region (membership FADOQ).

A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization

See document attached (by-laws FADOQ)