



## VIVRE ENSEMBLE À L'ÉCOLE

### OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The mission of the Fondation Monique-Fitz-Back is to promote education for sustainable development. Although the Foundation is best known for its environmental projects, its mission espouses the four values of the network of 1500 Brundtland Green Establishments (EVB-CSQ): ecology, solidarity, democracy and pacifism.

*Vivre ensemble à l'école* is a project that we are undertaking to contribute to the much-needed construction of an integrated and cohesive society that encourages intercultural understanding.

This document provides an overview of the project's guiding principles and goals to promote diversity and inclusion in society, in the school context and through activities deemed pertinent to this end.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### 1. Context

Our society is characterized by ever-present communication, yet ignorance, contempt and intolerance are also pervasive. Clearly, ease of access to means of communication does not undermine the importance of the role of education in the matter.

Learning to coexist peacefully is a necessity, both in society and at school. Since education is a powerful force behind peaceful coexistence in general, supporting schools takes on added importance in the achievement of action to encourage learning to coexist peacefully. The purpose of our project is to support a broad movement towards open dialogue through the creation of opportunities to meet and exchange.

#### 2. Specific Goals

Basically, the aim is to fight ignorance, contempt and intolerance of others by encouraging the development of empathy<sup>1</sup>.

Because of the nature of the *Vivre ensemble à l'école* project, the Foundation is closely associated with schools and communities during all steps of its achievement; co-creation, co-production and cross-organizational cooperation are instrumental to our approach.

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<sup>1</sup>The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

More specifically, the project seeks to:

- Identify and engage volunteer schools and communities;
- Collect and publicize singular accomplishments;
- Develop an ECR (ethics and religious culture) resource database;
- Propose ideas for learning activities adapted to each level of elementary and high school, as well as extracurricular activities;
- Offer training and coaching to organizations seeking to commit to the project.

The teaching approach and activities proposed focus on developing empathy, valuing diversity and fostering cooperation. Students will also be encouraged to share their dreams and experiences. We want to develop a movement truly open to dialogue.

### **3. Means to Achieve the Goals**

The Fondation Monique-Fitz-Back, instigator and project leader, has solid expertise in the production and dissemination of educational material and experience in the organization of major campaigns in schools. The Foundation is active across Quebec and has developed close ties in the Québec region to validate and experiment with its projects.

Through the Fonds d'Appui aux Initiatives du Réseau des Établissements verts Brundtland (FAIRE), the Foundation banks on expertise to endorse a range of initiatives in schools, from the selection of applications for funding to coaching in the achievement of targeted projects. Initiatives funded by FAIRE must promote at least one EVB value: ecology, solidarity, democracy or peaceful coexistence. In addition to its presence in schools and since its creation, the Foundation has developed a broad network of relevant partnerships with organizations that share its values.

To achieve its targeted goals, the Foundation will use the following means:

- Establish an advisory committee made up of education and community stakeholders to supervise and support the achievement of different phases of the project;
- Conduct an inventory of existing practices and resources committed to peaceful coexistence in schools and communities;
- Develop a website to publicize different aspects of the project and encourage networking.
- Develop a pilot project in the Québec region in cooperation with schools. It will serve to heighten youth awareness of local cultural diversity through school and extracurricular activities held in partnership with volunteer schools and relevant local organizations, as well as the production of pedagogical worksheets and an accompanying information guide for teachers. Different approaches might be suggested in these guides: role playing, match ups, mentoring, meetings, visits, etc.;
- Develop a "Peaceful Coexistence" component of the Foundation's FAIRE to offer financial support to school projects (note: support offered to other projects generally ranges from \$200 to \$500). This item includes the search for partners, the establishment of project selection criteria, promotion, setting up of a selection committee, remittance of the assistance to selected establishments and follow-up of projects undertaken;
- Develop training for teachers to support peaceful coexistence initiatives in schools in the Québec region;
- Develop a plan to deploy the project in other regions.

#### 4. Content Validation Method

The Foundation's educational material is validated in cooperation with teachers, community organizations and recognized educational and teaching experts. Validation in the classroom and school will also take place.

An advisory committee is active at the present time to accompany and guide the project. Currently, the committee has ten members;

- UQTR professor specializing in ethics education;
- Retired high school teacher;
- Spiritual life and community engagement facilitator;
- Project manager with R.I.R.E 2000;
- Coordinator from the Centre multiculturel de Québec;
- Ethics and religious culture pedagogical advisor;
- Culture, leisure activities and community life counsellor from the City of Québec;
- Retired union advisor;
- Director of the Fondation Monique-Fitz-Back
- Project instigator and director on the Foundation's Board of Directors.

#### 5. Provisional Timetable – Project Completion

Confirm projects retained for the financial assistance program (1<sup>st</sup> call): Dec. 2019

Recruit teachers and education stakeholders to complete a pilot project in the classroom: January-February 2020

Launch a 2<sup>nd</sup> call for potential projects for the financial assistance program: January 2020

Confirm projects retained for the financial assistance program (2<sup>nd</sup> call): March 2020

Place online the website with the directory of online resources: March 31, 2020

Complete pilot activities in the classroom: March-April 2020

Complete projects funded by the financial assistance program: January to October 2020

#### 6. Project Funding

This project is funded in part by:

 Canada

Québec 

With the financial participation of the City of Québec.