NEWS OF QUEBEC

Fall 2025

Fires, floods and wars

These are the recurring themes on the news since we came out of the Coronavirus pandemic. Fires are destroying millions of hectares of forest around the world. Flash floods are taking away homes like shoe boxes, and images of war are filling our screens with atrocities we thought we would never see again since WWII. Over the last two years Quebec got its fair share of forest fires and floods like the rest of our beautiful country and the only war we know of is a commercial one. Not so bad.

However, as a Church in the land of the True North strong and free, we know of another war raging on: A spiritual war. Above and beyond all these horrible catastrophes people keep forgetting a greater danger they all face if they leave this life without Christ. For this the Quebec mission field needs to remain very much alive and combat-ready at all times. Our front line workers need much encouragement and support at this hour of the fight.

A new generation is rising through our ranks and three new full time workers have recently been commended by their local assemblies. Resources and yearly events like conferences, leaders' congresses and retreats are key moments that uplift the moral of our troops. Support from *Missionary Service Committee Canada, the Corporation of Christian Brethren churches in Quebec*, and *Groupe Réseau* are also crucial to our mission. Finally, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of support Quebec missionaries have been blessed with from across the country; what an encouragement! For all these we remain grateful to our one and only supreme leader, the Lord Jesus Christ. The fight to win souls for Christ must continue in Quebec until His return!

Stéphane Demers
Chairman of the board of *News of Quebec*

A Word from the Board

The last edition of our newsletter dates back to the spring of 2023. We think it's time to catch up with news from the Quebec mission field. In this issue, we want to introduce you to one of the new workers and tell you about a growth project from the Quebec City area. These are very exciting times as we witness growing changes amongst our assemblies with regard to ethnic diversity and leadership turnovers. As a committee we have continued to meet on a regular basis to assess and continue with the distribution of funds to more than 35 workers across the province. Much of that work was administered by our secretary **Vicky Paquin** to whom we are grateful for her diligence, professionalism and love for the mission in Quebec. We also want to underline the contribution of her husband **Danny Virgint** who is currently writing up a completely new accounting program to replace the one that served the Foundation for over 20 years!

In the presence of his Lord and Saviour

We cannot ignore the passing of our beloved brother **William Roy Buttery** on August 1st, 2025, at the age of 100, at Grace Village in Sherbrooke, Quebec. He left this world to finally be with his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. For decades Mr. Buttery faithfully ministered within the Chicoutimi Evangelical Church and Camp Brochet. We will devote the next issue of our newsletter to Mr. Buttery's fruitful ministry.

Hello, my name is Maxime Boucher.

I am 36 years old, married to Émilie Mathieu (Roy Buttery's granddaughter) for 11 years, and we have three wonderful children: Irène, 5; Henri, 3; and Aurèle, 1 month old. I have been a full-time worker at the Église Évangélique de Chicoutimi (EEC) since March 2025. Here is a brief description of who I am and how the Lord Jesus led me here.

I was born in Montreal, but since the age of 8, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean has been my home, and the place where the Lord has called me to serve Him. I understood and accepted the good news of Jesus in 1997, at the age of 8, at Camp Brochet. The proclaiming of the gospel during my stay there was the turning point that made me understand my sinful state and my need for Jesus Christ to forgive my sins. I love the camp and have been involved in various ways since I was 14. It was also there that I met my wife in 2009.

My walk with the Lord has seen some ups and downs. Thinking I could live the Christian life my own way, I drifted away during my teenage years, only to return and devote myself entirely to Jesus at the age of 18, while studying at Parole de Vie Bethel. It became clear to me during that time that my life would only have meaning and satisfaction if I lived it entirely for Jesus, with everything He had given me.

When I returned to Saguenay, I got involved with the EEC youth group and trained as a civil engineering technologist. I worked in this field for nearly 14 years, while also serving in the church as a youth leader and deacon, and getting involved in camps and other evangelism activities with Camp Brochet and Parole de Vie.

In 2021, the Lord called me to serve the church as an elder. Over time, my civil engineering work became increasingly demanding, my family grew, and my responsibilities at church increased. At a certain point, I was struggling to balance everything, and my heart couldn't bring itself to reduce my involvement in the church. My desire to serve the Lord and the congregation only grew.

This brought me to a point where full-time service became a pressing desire. This calling was then confirmed by the elders and members of the congregation, who offered me their full support. So, I left my secular job in March 2025 to serve the Lord and His Church full-time.

My wife and I are happy with this decision, and we are more than blessed by the Lord's provision and the support of brothers and sisters in this step of faith. I would also like to thank the donors who, through News of Quebec, help workers to serve full-time.

To those who are reading these lines and who are hesitating, although feeling called by the Lord and confirmed by the leadership of your church and congregation, I encourage you to trust the Lord and commit yourselves to His service. The Lord is faithful, and He will provide for your needs so that you may fulfill His calling.

Thank you for your support in prayer, and may the Lord bless you.

Maxime Boucher
In the service of the Lord Jesus,
in his Church in Chicoutimi.

Expansion project for the South Shore Assemblée Évangélique de la Rive-Sud in the suburbs of Quebec City

Assemblée évangélique de la Rive-Sud

Our history

The Assemblée Évangélique de la Rive-Sud (AeRS) was founded over 40 years ago. It grew out of the Assemblée Évangélique de Sainte-Foy, where pioneer Jean-Paul Berney worked. The daughter church was born out of the desire of motivated believers to establish a witness on the south shore of Quebec City. The AeRS spent its early years moving from one rented location to another. Slow but steady growth continued over time by the grace of God. In 1992, the current building of approximately 500 m² (2,700 ft²) was erected.

The mission of AeRS is to make mature disciples of Jesus Christ based on the Word of God. Through its activities, it seeks to glorify the Lord, build up the Church, and evangelize.

Growing excitement

We have been experiencing steady growth over the past few years. We are seeing a small revival, with several people being saved. Among other things, we have had several contacts from the TV program L'Heure de la Bonne Nouvelle. We also regularly welcome Christians from other places, many of whom are immigrants.

We have nearly 200 members and about 85 children. This does not include visitors. Our current premises are no longer suitable. The children are crammed into small classrooms in the basement. We are forced to hold two worship services every Sunday to accommodate everyone. Our need is becoming increasingly urgent.

Growth Project

For several years, AeRS leaders have been evaluating options for managing growth. We already expanded into the Lotbinière region less than ten years ago, and another expansion is not currently planned.

It became clear that new premises were needed. Since expansion was not possible, a search was undertaken to find land or an existing building to move into. After much searching and several failed attempts, the Lord led us to a property located at 1091 Taniata Avenue in Lévis, very close to our current location. The building is 1,232 m² (13,266 ft²). It meets our short- and long-term needs. A conditional offer to purchase, contingent on a zoning change, was accepted for $2.15 million. We already have more than half of this amount. We also need to set aside a significant amount for upgrades and renovations. The members of AeRS are counting on God's providence and the generosity of Christians to help us realize this project, which is very important to us. After more than six months of waiting, we still have not heard from the city regarding the zoning change.

The acquisition of a multifunctional building will enable AeRS to welcome more members and, above all, to enhance its mission and influence, to the glory of our great God in our region.

Acknowledgements and prayer requests

Thank you for your interest in God's work here in the Quebec City area. Thank you for taking our project to heart and praying that God will open the floodgates of heaven. May God soften the hearts of city leaders so that we may obtain the necessary permits.

NEWS OF QUEBEC is a vehicle for making known the work of the Christian Brethren assemblies among the French speaking population, primarily in the Canadian province of Québec. A small committee of seasoned brethren and sisters is responsible for its activities which include a newsletter and the channeling of financial gifts to commended workers. Committee members keep in close contact with the work and workers in order to adequately report on what is going on as well as provide encouragement.

Your prayers and contributions are greatly appreciated.

To send your donation to News of Quebec or to a specific worker, please send your check to the following address OR for a donation by credit card or bank transfer, please visit our website : **www.newsofqc.org**.

NEWS OF QUEBEC

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