

# CULTURAL POLICY

Dreaming of a culture  
that brings us together  
and reflects who we are

Photo : A&B Photo en Gaspésie - Festival BleuBleu



January 2022





# CULTURAL POLICY

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# A WORD FROM THE PREFECT

**M** It is with great pride that the MRC Avignon presents its first cultural policy, now belonging to the entire community of its territory.

As the outcome of a collective thought process, this policy gives us a long-term vision and strategy in terms of local cultural development. It will help us better define our cultural identity, it will support our efforts in affirming the importance of culture for our communities, and it will help us acknowledge the role culture plays as an avenue for economic vitality and development.

During the elaboration process of this cultural policy, we had to figure out what were our values and intentions, and the general principles, guidelines and objectives they entail in order to implement a cultural intervention program that can reach all members of our communities. The cultural diversity we enjoy in the MRC will help us build bridges across communities. It will also support the development of a new cultural citizenship: in other words, it will help foster greater cultural access and participation for all, no matter how culturally, socially and economically diverse we may be.

Following this line of thought, the MRC acknowledges the ancestral presence of Mi'gmaq communities in the territories it presently occupies. We wish to create and sustain healthy and constructive relationships with these communities, by working in partnership with them.

The outcome of the present initiative is meant to be a gesture of public recognition of the importance of culture in the global development of our MRC, which is an essential part of securing a better future for our communities.

In the name of the MRC's Council, I'd like to thank all the people who took part in this consultation initiative and who contributed to making this important achievement possible.

**Mathieu Lapointe**  
PREFECT, MRC AVIGNON



# A WORD FROM THE MRC'S CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE

I am grateful to the MRC's Council for putting their trust in my abilities as the active elected representative of the 11 mayors of MRC Avignon at the Territorial Committee for a Cultural Policy.

The first time MRC Avignon's Cultural Committee met was in June 2020; it was made of 17 members representing artistic, cultural and heritage stakeholders as well as both Anglophone and Mi'gmaq communities.

This process necessitated more than 18 months of brainstorming and consultation involving a large number of people representing various sectors that are directly or indirectly associated with cultural development. It has been a great honor for me to take part in this initiative.

**I'D LIKE TO EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THIS CREATIVE PROCESS POSSIBLE. IT IS NOW UP TO US – ALL OF US – TO MAKE SURE IT IS IMPLEMENTED PROPERLY.**

**Nicole Lagacé**  
MAYOR, MATAPEDIA



# INTRODUCTION

## CONTEXT

### MRC AVIGNON'S APPROACH

The creation of MRC Avignon's cultural policy is in line with the Community Territorial Wellbeing Plan. This strategy is meant to bring together the topics addressing Avignon's community wellbeing into a single, global consultation and engagement initiative that can ensure better social cohesion and harmony.

The initiative was made possible thanks to the work of a territorial committee that was put in charge of elaborating our cultural policy, starting in September 2020. This committee was made up of:

- Seven representatives of cultural stakeholders;
- One representative of the Anglophone community;
- One member of Listuguj Mi'gmaw Community;
- Four MRC staff members;
- One cultural representative from the MRC's Council;
- Three invited members of Direction régionale du ministère de la Culture et des Communications et de Culture Gaspésie

Thanks to this committee's work, issues were identified and then addressed by the same committee in preparation for the public consultation rounds aimed at cultural stakeholders that were held in the spring of 2021.

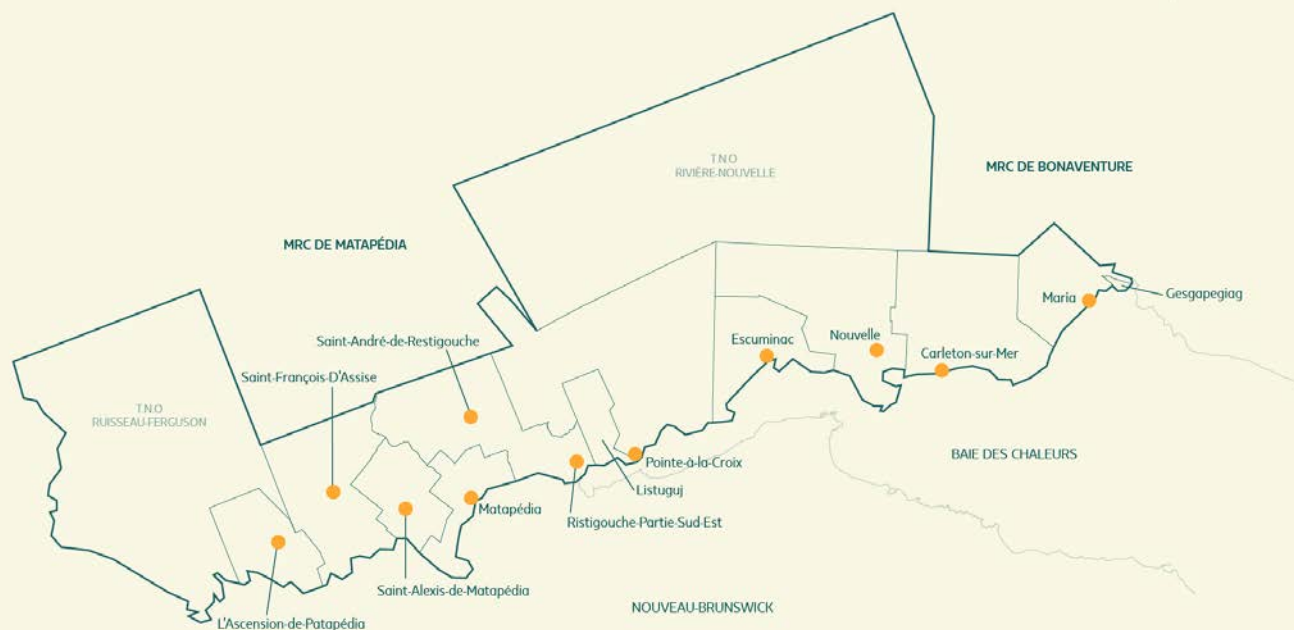
The creation of this cultural policy and related action plan is the first step in the negotiation and adoption of an agreement with Ministère de la Culture et des Communications. Such an agreement will then allow the MRC to financially support its culture and heritage.



# PROFILE OF MRC AVIGNON

The following statistical data was collected and analyzed by CIRADD in 2020 at the request of the MRC1.<sup>1</sup>

1. Jean-Daniel GLAZER ALLARD, Sandrine LEBLANC-FLORENT and Nicolas ROY, Portrait statistique de la population de la MRC Avignon, CIRADD, 2020. p. 5.



## TERRITORY

MRC Avignon is located in the administrative region of Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, with neighboring MRCs being Matapédia in the North, Bonaventure in the East, La Mitis in the West, and with the Ristigouche River and Chaleur Bay acting as its southern border. This territory is comprised of eleven municipalities, two non-organized territories (TNO), as well as the two Mi'gmaq communities of Gesgapegiag and Listuguj that do not fall under the MRC's jurisdiction.



Photo : MRC Avignon

The MRC spans a total area of 3 443.88 km<sup>2</sup>. There are close to 120 km of road between the eastern and western corners of the MRC, meaning many community members must drive long distances on a regular basis.

The MRC's territory is characterized by both forested – with mountainous hillsides, plateaus and rivers – and maritime landscapes – with the Chaleur Bay bordering it in the south.

Located in the heart of this territory, the town of Pointe-à-la-Croix acts as the main port of entry into the Maritime Provinces, the J.C. Van Horne Bridge acting as the main connection with the city of Campbellton located in New-Brunswick.

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The MRC experienced a demographic decline between 1996 and 2018, going from 16 082 to 14 703 inhabitants over that period of time. According to the most recent data (2018), the MRC's total population is now 14 736 inhabitants.

The vast majority of the MRC's inhabitants and activities are located in the low-lying coastal strip that is in-between the Chaleur Bay and the Appalachian hills of the interior. This is part of the reason why a significant section of the MRC's population lives in the towns of Carleton-sur-Mer, Maria, Nouvelle and to some extent Pointe-à-la-Croix.

The municipalities of Escuminac, Restigouche Part Southeast and the Matapédia-et-les-Plateaux sector, more to the west, grouping together several small municipalities, have a low population density, and a greater proportion of their population is aging, since at least 30% of the population is 65 and over.

The two Mi'gmaq communities have a much younger population than the rest of the MRC, Quebec and Canada. 32.86% of Listuguj community members are under 24 years old, with only 13.75% being 65 or older. In Gesgapegiag, local youth represent an even larger part of the community, with 42.47% of community members being 24 or under, and only 6.02% being 65 or older.





# MRC AVIGNON'S<sup>2</sup> CULTURAL HISTORY

## A HISTORY GOING BACK MILLENNIA

MRC Avignon is located on the ancestral and contemporary territories of the Mi'gmaq people. Archeological finds, linguistic studies, and oral traditions that have been passed down generations are all testimonies to the millennia-old history of the Mi'gmaq presence on these lands. The Mi'gmaq and their ancestors have been living throughout the entire Gaspé peninsula, otherwise known as *Gespe'gewa'gi* in Mi'kmaw'simk (meaning *the last lands to be acquired*) for the last 10 000 years approximately. They arrived here coming from the west during what could be called the actual discovery of the Americas. Continually adapting, they've developed a variety of techniques, technologies and types of knowledge to master the elements making up these territories. Stories, legends and tales all account for the strong and deep connections and knowledge Mi'gmaq people possess regarding *Gespe'gewa'gi*.

## A DIVERSE AREA

The Great Cascapedia River and the Matapedia plateau delineate a vast territory. The Chaleur Bay, a calm and quiet bay, is also part of the area. But this region also bears a certain number of peculiar geographical features not found anywhere else in the peninsula. Landscapes change dramatically on its western side; there, the Chaleur Bay – named this way by explorer Jacques Cartier in the summer of 1534 – narrows toward the mouth of the Ristigouche River. Yet, it is the Mi'gmaq who first named this area and they chose to name the bay *Mawi Pôgtapei*, the Great Bay.

Making stops in each successive village, a wide range of features becomes easily noticeable: delightful local tales, colorful accents, a diverse built heritage, contrasted landscapes, two Mi'gmaq communities (Listuguj and Gesgapegiag), as well as French-speaking and English-speaking communities.

2. Marie-Claude HÉBERT and Sonya MALABORZA, *Nta'tugwaqanminen – Our story: Evolution of the Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq*, Columbia University Press, 2018, 256 p.; Paul LAROCQUE and Jean LARRIVÉE (dir.), *Parcours historiques dans la région touristique de la Gaspésie*, Université du Québec à Rimouski, 1998, 481 p.; Pascal ALAIN and Pierre LAHOUD, *Curiosités de la Baie-des-Chaleurs*, Éditions GID, 2018, 223 p.



Photo : Jean-François Côté – Gare de Matapédia

The territory is delimited by rich rivers where the salmon king shaped his fame. The sea and the mountains coexist with fertile plateaus suitable for agriculture and the forestry industry, making the area a welcoming place over time for people from all over.

## EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

The first permanent European settlement in MRC Avignon dates back to the British War of Conquest (1754-1760). Acadian families on the run tried to escape from the 1755 Deportation by taking refuge in the village of La Petite-Rochelle. The Ristigouche naval battle of July 1760 between France and Great-Britain sealed the fate of New-France and confirmed the victory of British troops on the North-American continent. Some Acadian refugees then settled down in Mi'gmau territory. Some Anglophones started doing the same after the Conquest and the American Revolutionary War (1776-1783), with loyalists settling down in the area. Meanwhile, Irish and Scottish newcomers also settled down close by. All these new settlements put pressure on Mi'gmaq lifestyles and traditions by encroaching on Mi'gmaq territories like never before. Thus was created a particular type of multicultural set-up in the area, which is still observable today.

## REMNANTS FROM YESTERDAY TO TODAY

The area usually experiences milder winters than the rest of the peninsula. Visitors and vacationers have been staying in this part of the bay since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in search of natural landscapes and beautiful shorelines. This area is also home to historical, ethnological, archeological and fossiliferous sites, with Miguasha National Park recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage treasure where 360 million-year-old specimens can be observed alongside the Battle of the Restigouche National Historic Site showcasing 18<sup>th</sup>-century material culture.

This area is home to deep-rooted traditions and a community life evolving day by day. Fests, shows and events of all types celebrate our differences as much as what brings us together. Our communities' cultural vitality is doing well, and it speaks to a variety of audiences while being a central aspect of local life.

# FACTS AND DATA REGARDING CULTURE AND HERITAGE OF THE MRC



Photo : Arts, lettres et communications – CEGEP GIM – Campus Carleton, Caroline Barriault



Photo : Jocelyne Gallant – 15 août, St-Alexis

Being internally diverse and remote from big cities does not stop MRC Avignon from being filled with cultural happenings. In fact, it is home to many cultural organizations, events, heritage elements, artists, crafters and workers, as well as many volunteers who greatly contribute to keeping the whole MRC culturally vibrant.

One of MRC Avignon's many obvious facets is its cultural diversity, thanks to the presence and coexistence of French-speaking, English-speaking and Mi'gmaq communities. The MRC Avignon wishes to contribute to the development of this cultural synergy through partnerships with local stakeholders.





Photo : A&B Photo en Gaspésie – Expo Violaine Lafortune



Photo : Noël au Village – Nouvelle

The most recent review of local cultural and heritage stakeholders confirms the essential presence of:

- more than 80 artists, crafters, and authors;
- broadcasters and indoor/outdoor venues;
- community halls in every village where cultural activities are available;
- museums, interpretation centers, heritage sites and historical societies;
- many studios, art galleries, art stores and centers throughout the area;
- festivals and cultural events all year round;
- some public artwork;
- literary circles;
- theatre and drama groups;
- choirs and singing ensembles;
- thematic tours;
- libraries, schools, and various programs contributing to cultural outreach;
- many local art and cultural organizations, groups and committees;
- regional media.

We should also note the presence of a region-wide cultural organization, Culture Gaspésie.



Photo : Estelle Marcoux - La Virée Trad 2019 – La veillée de danse

## HERITAGE

The MRC's territory is filled with many examples and types of heritage: buildings and heritage sites (built heritage), among which 77 buildings were classified in 1998<sup>3</sup>; documents and objects (movable heritage), such as Battle of the Restigouche National Historic Site and Miguasha National Park, with one fossiliferous cliff registered on the prestigious UNESCO's World Heritage list; intangible heritage; cultural heritage landscapes; historical figures as well as historic sites and events.

One priority for action to be undertaken in the course of this policy's implementation will be to create a comprehensive review of this local heritage wealth.

## JOBS IN THE CULTURAL SECTOR

One of MRC Avignon's proper strengths lies in the number of people involved in the cultural sector. Out of a total local population of nearly 15 000 people, more than 500 people work (as paid employees or volunteers) in the art, cultural and heritage sectors (festivals, cultural events, and self-employed management, creation, production and distribution).

3. Conseil de la culture régional de la Gaspésie, *Plan directeur en patrimoine – Inventaire du patrimoine architectural de la Gaspésie – MRC Avignon, tome V, Maria à l'Ascension-de-Patapédia*.

# BASIS FOR OUR CULTURAL POLICY

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Accessibility:** Accessibility and participation of all in culture by promoting a variety of types of dissemination.

**Acknowledgement** of the role played locally by artists, cultural stakeholders and culture itself.

**Intervening everywhere:** acknowledging territorial disparities in the implementation of fairer interventions.

**Inclusion of, collaboration with, and bringing together** the three local communities (Francophone, Anglophone, Mi'gmaq) for healthier collective partnerships.

**Contributing to the development of a regional cultural vitality.**

## MRC'S COMMITMENTS

1. Acknowledging the essential role played by culture as a collective and identity-bearing project which contributes to socioeconomic development.
2. Making sure at least one staff member is dedicated to the MRC Avignon's cultural development.
3. Making sure the action plan stemming from the Cultural Policy and the Cultural Development Agreement reached with Ministère de la Culture et des Communications is implemented properly through the mobilization of cultural stakeholders.
4. Supporting the development of a cultural citizenship: access and participation to culture for all people in all their cultural, social, and economic diversity.
5. Building and maintaining constructive relationships with local Mi'gmaq communities, by working in partnership with them.

## MRC'S ROLES

This way, the MRC wishes to:

1. Encourage people to get involved in artistic or cultural activities in their most diverse forms, and to help make culture more accessible.
2. Support local cultural actors in the development of arts, humanities and literature.
3. Maximize the distribution and promotion of local cultural action.
4. Participate in the cultural development of local municipalities while taking into account the specific local realities they experience.
5. Mobilize and consult cultural stakeholders, community members and municipalities.
6. Enhance major heritage and identity elements.
7. In partnership with municipalities, to make sure to preserve and enhance cultural equipment already available in our communities.



# PRINCIPLES ORIENTATIONS | OBJECTIVES

## 1<sup>ST</sup> PRINCIPLE: PROMOTING CULTURAL VITALITY

### 1<sup>st</sup> Orientation. Promote citizen participation of all age groups

1<sup>ST</sup> OBJECTIVE: Collaborate with existing festivals that compensate artists and showcase intergenerational line-ups

#### Courses of action:

- Support promising festival activities that support this objective for our communities, starting in 2022.
- Support two projects each year.

2<sup>ND</sup> OBJECTIVE: Build an inclusive program in partnership with cultural stakeholders in order to develop a variety of innovative and accessible activities

#### Courses of action:

- Contribute to projects aimed at promoting reading, cultural outreach and digital activities.
- Support cultural activities offered for and by local community members.
- Support implementing activities with social development stakeholders (literacy, digital culture projects, activities about social and personal development).

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Orientation. Recognize and support the contribution of artists and cultural organizations**

**1<sup>ST</sup> OBJECTIVE:** Create a profile of the current situation regarding cultural programs in the MRC

**Courses of action:**

- Create a directory of local distribution platforms and venues and assess the potential for post-COVID-19 distribution.
- Consulte with targeted organizations and propose innovative avenues for action.
- Support the implementation of a cultural program stemming from the action plan in order to maximize its distribution among targeted clientele.
- Contribute to the analysis of issues stemming from the close proximity of the western corner of the MRC to New Brunswick, and assess potential partnerships with this province.

**2<sup>ND</sup> OBJECTIVE:** Enhance the potential of cultural, educational, and community stakeholders to develop innovative cultural outreach activities for a broader audience

**Courses of action:**

- Support, encourage, propose:
  - Cultural outreach activities. e.g : “write a slice of life” activity for seniors at Centre d’action bénévole Ascension–Escuminac;
  - Activities in various locations such as arenas, community halls, outdoor locations, churches, etc.;
  - Art tours in various settings: schools, private senior residences, etc.;
  - Dissemination of school creations.

**3<sup>RD</sup> OBJECTIVE:** Initiate and develop partnerships between local cultural organizations

**Courses of action:**

- Offer and encourage networking activities: leadership role of well-known local organizations.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> PRINCIPLE: ENSURING CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TERRITORY ARE LINKED

### 1<sup>st</sup> Orientation. Support the protection and promotion of local heritage

1<sup>ST</sup> OBJECTIVE: Make good use of collaborative intervention opportunities related to our built heritage

#### Courses of action:

- Create a comprehensive directory of local built heritage
- Plan interventions meant to enhance the MRC's built heritage.
- Implement information and promotion tools to help raise awareness about conservation and enhancement initiatives for our built heritage.

2<sup>ND</sup> OBJECTIVE: List and highlight cultural heritage in our three communities, and raise awareness on the importance of cultural heritage

#### Courses of action:

- Assess which heritage categories are most prevalent in the MRC (intangible [living], archeological, movable, built, landscape, etc.).
- Itemize elements pertaining to selected heritage categories.
- Implement two heritage-related prioritized actions in 2023.
- Deploy a community approach to various heritage-related topics: select actions meant to protect or enhance heritage (through the MRC's community platform), protection of little villages, development of "hearts of villages", land use, architecture, landscapes, etc.



**3<sup>RD</sup> OBJECTIVE:** Promote and discover the richness of Mi'gmaw culture

**Courses of action:**

- Index and promote Mi'gmaw toponymy in partnership with Mi'gmawei Mawiomí Secretariat, through a toponymic policy project under completion (signage, awareness material, partnership with MRC Bonaventure's initiative).
- Create tools to raise awareness about the MRC's history and Mi'gmaw ancestral presence, as well as the recognition and acknowledgment of unceded territories.
- Promote Mi'gmaw gatherings and the interpretation of rituals.
- Support networking activities that showcase traditional medicine, sweat lodge activities and traditional art (basketry, jewelry), with the help of local experts.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Orientation. Acknowledge local artists' work in terms of land use**

**1<sup>ST</sup> OBJECTIVE:** Contribute to the development of a strategy for the acquisition of public artwork

**Courses of action:**

- Create a directory of public artwork, in partnership with regional cultural stakeholders.
- Raise awareness about the existence of these artworks.
- Encourage local partners to purchase public artwork.

### **3<sup>RD</sup> PRINCIPLE: ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT CULTURAL TOURISM FOR ITS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Orientation. Facilitate consultations between cultural, tourism and economic stakeholders**

1<sup>ST</sup> OBJECTIVE: Promote the richness of our territory's three cultures and cultural offer

##### **Courses of action:**

- Create a directory of significant activities and events in partnership with local organizations.
- Contribute to a promotion plan that includes the three local communities, in partnership with relevant stakeholders.
- Encourage partnership initiatives between already existing networks.
- Make sure the local and regional cultural offer stemming from our three communities is included in promotional materials, with the intention of sharing existing tools and material, starting in 2023.
- Translate titles, texts or portions of texts in Mi'kmawí'simk and English when planned events and activities are meant to bring the three communities together.
- Reflect on the possibility of creating a proof of accessibility for our three communities to be used for events and activities, in partnership with MRC Bonaventure.

2<sup>ND</sup> OBJECTIVE: Integrate the concept of cultural tourism into our communities by working with cultural and tourism companies and organizations.

##### **Courses of action:**

- Work in partnership with Association touristique régionale de la Gaspésie (ATRG) for them to give a more detailed account of local history and heritage during their Client Experience training sessions.
- Participate in consultation meetings with tourism, economic and cultural stakeholders about cultural tourism development.
- Act as a facilitator for artists and cultural organizations in order to help them work in partnership with other stakeholders, notably those in the economic sector.

# THANKS

The MRC Avignon would particularly like to thank all the members of the Cultural Policy Committee, as well as staff members, for their important contributions in this initiative, which required more than 12 months of work.

## THANK YOU:

Nicole Lagacé, Mayor, Municipality of Matapédia	Cultural Representative – MRC Council
Jérôme Bolduc, Coordination, Territoire Solidaire	Local Representative for Matapédia-et-Les-Plateaux
Samuel Téguel, Director, Maximum 90	Performing Arts Representative, Events and Show Distribution
David Felker, Community Development Consultant	Representative for the English-speaking community
Paige Isaac, Listuguj Tourism Development Officer	Representative for the Mi'gmaq communities
Pascal Alain, Director, Recreation and Culture Department, City of Carleton-sur-Mer	Representative for municipal stakeholders/ Culture, History, Heritage
Julien Cyr, Student life Facilitator, Centre de services scolaire René-Lévesque	Representative for educational stakeholders and libraries
Sylvie Gallant, Artist, performing arts	Citizen Representative
Caroline Barriault, Teacher in the Arts, Literature and Communication program, Cégep de Gaspésie et des Îles	Representative for college stakeholders and visual arts
Aude Buévoz, Strategic Development Officer, MRC Avignon	Representative for MRC Avignon
Simon Pineault, Tourism Development Officer, MRC Bonaventure	Tourism Representatives, Baie-des-Chaleurs
Samuelle Fugère Morin, Tourism Development Officer, MRC Avignon	
Céline Breton and Jessie Blaquière, Culture Gaspésie	Staff members
Sophie LeBlanc, Cultural Development Advisor, Direction régionale du Bas-Saint-Laurent et de la Gaspésie – Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Ministère de la Culture et des Communications	Staff member
Lisa Guérette and Johanne Poulin, MRC Avignon	Project Manager, MRC Avignon



Photo : Rencontres internationales de la photo en Gaspésie – Renata Poljiak Partenza



Photo : MRC Avignon

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Benoit Trépanier, Cultural Policy Consultations Manager;

Lisa Armishaw, Recreation Advisor, Unité régionale loisir et sport Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine;

Pascal Alain, Historian, and Donald Jeannotte-Anglehart, from Mi'gmawei Mawiommi Secretariat, for the content of the policy's Cultural History section;

All members of this great cultural community who participated in the consultation process;

MRC Avignon's dynamic team which supported the present initiative, shared knowledge and validated the policy's orientations and objectives.

MRC Avignon would also like to thank the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and their Regional Direction for Bas-Saint-Laurent – Gaspésie – Îles-de-la-Madeleine for their contribution in terms of human resources and funding for the initiative that led to the creation of the current policy and the implementation of the Cultural Development Agreement that stems from it.



Entente de développement culturel



# APPENDIX 1

## CONSULTATIONS WITH CULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS

This report was completed in the spring of 2021 by Benoit Trépanier, Regional Development Consultant<sup>4</sup>

### CONSULTATION PROCESS WORKING METHOD

(Report pp. 8-9)

#### Personalized connection and use of technology

Reaching out to cultural stakeholders in MRC Avignon necessitated updating the then-available directory of cultural organizations and stakeholders, which had 125 entries originally. The updated list now has 160 entries, with added modes of contact (email and phone numbers). It lists the majority of known cultural actors in MRC Avignon.

#### One-on-one interviews

A total of 16 interviews with specific cultural stakeholders were conducted by phone between March 22nd and May 7th 2021. The interviews were 45 minute-long on average and comprised of between 5 and 8 questions on specific topics.

The purpose of these interviews was to lay down the guidelines and questions for the group workshops, or to validate or delve a little more into some statements issued during the workshops.

Themes that were covered:

- Land development and heritage conservation
- Arts and education
- Visual arts
- Culture and municipalities
- Culture and tourism
- Dance
- History and heritage
- Culture in Matapédia-et-les-Plateaux
- Culture in the school environment (primary and secondary)
- Regional festivals
- Arts and crafts
- Connections between college and cultural stakeholders
- Archeological heritage
- Heritage protection and enhancement
- Rural professional theatre

4. Benoit TRÉPANIÉ, *Rapport des consultations des milieux culturels de la MRC*, Carleton-sur-Mer, 2021, 101 p.

## Group workshops

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, some 40 people took part in two hour-long group workshops hosted in French. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, around fifteen people from the English and Mi'gmaq communities took part in similar discussions hosted in English. These discussions were held online with the help of videoconferencing tool Zoom due to COVID-19 public restrictions.

The following themes and subthemes were covered:

### **May 4th: Culture for all**

- Subgroup A – Promotion and access to culture for all
- Subgroup B – Promoting access for the youth, elders, and all community members
- Subgroup C – Recognizing and supporting artists and organizations

### **May 5th: One history, one heritage, three communities**

- Subgroup A – Identity, history and heritage, and the contribution of the three communities, Mi'gmaq, English and French
- Subgroup B – Listing, protecting and enhancing heritage

### **May 11th: Culture as a source of social and economic development**

- Subgroup A – Supporting cultural stakeholders
- Subgroup B – The contribution of culture to development
- Subgroup C – Culture within tourism

### **June 7th: Subgroup A and subgroup B:**

- *Promoting and access to culture for all*
- *Recognizing and supporting artists and organizations*
- *History and heritage, and the three communities, Mi'gmaq, English and French*
- *The contribution of culture to development, culture and tourism.*

Each subgroup was facilitated by one host, with one co-host in charge of taking note. Each subgroup had 50 to 75 minutes to discuss and exchange on questions related to the topic of the day. The questions had been prepared in advance by the consultant.

## Participation to the consultation process

(Report pp. 10-11)

**Total participation rate:** A third of local cultural stakeholders in MRC Avignon took part in the consultation process, for a total amount of roughly 57 people.

**Number of people reached:** 172 people were sent email invites. The consultant talked to 57 of them over the phone.

**Number of people for one-on-one interviews:** 16 people participated in one-on-one phone interviews with the consultant.

*Out of these 16 individuals, 11 also participated in the online workshops. These 11 individuals have been counted only once in the total participation number indicated above.*

**Number of participants to online consultation rounds:** 57 people.



Photo : Estelle Marcoux – La Virée Trad 2021