

Taschereau residents get involved in their community by signing petitions and by making cash donations

The survey on the New Rural Economy carried out in the summer 2001 revealed that the residents of Taschereau get actively involved in their community. During the 12 months prior to June 2001, 72% of Taschereau residents made at least one personal gesture for the improvement of their community, a number which closely matches the results obtained elsewhere in Quebec (75%) and Canada (79%).

Types of actions posed in the community

In order to find out more on their capacity of adaptation to change, Taschereau residents were questioned on the way in which they express themselves and are involved in the issues that are of concern to their community. The results showed that 42% of the respondents signed a petition, 41% gave money for an emergency intervention or a specific action of a group in Taschereau and 35% attended a public assembly. They also showed that the residents of Taschereau write letters to the mayor of the municipality in greater numbers than elsewhere in the province or in

the country (20% vs. 10% in Quebec and 13% in Canada). As in the other surveyed communities, very few Taschereau residents write letters to the editor of a newspaper (2%) or take part in radio call-in shows (2%).

Involvement according to gender

Involvement in the community is different for men and women.



For men, the preferred personal actions are petitions (51%), participation in public assemblies (49%) and cash donations (41%). For women, these same actions appear in a different order, that is to say cash donations (42%), petitions (37%) and participation in public assemblies (27%). Overall, 70% of women and 77% of men posed at least one gesture in their community during the year prior to June 2001.

Involvement according to age

By comparing the situation of Taschereau with that of the other Québec and Canadian communities, one notes that the level of participation varies little between the various age groups. In Taschereau, 71% of residents aged 18 to 34 posed at least one personal action in their community, just like 74% of those aged 35 to 49, 78% of those aged 50 to 64 and 57% of those aged 65 and more. This last finding concerning the group aged 65 and more represents the only important variation in the results.

On a national scale, the proportion of the respondents having posed a concrete gesture towards the improvement of their community is 74% for those aged 18 to 34, 81% for those aged 35 to 49, 84% for those aged 50 to 64 and finally, 74% for those aged 65 and more. Whether it be in Taschereau or in the other Québec and Canadian municipalities, older respondents aged 50 to 64 always have a slightly greater level of involvement.

Judy-Ann Connely
and Patrice LeBlanc

Contact the NRE2 project by email at nre@vax2.concordia.ca or on the Web at nre.concordia.ca