

# CQN 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



## President's Report

As President and Founder, I've been involved at the heart of Collaboration Quebec Nepal for 19 years. In the eyes of North-Americans like us, this might seem like a long time. I could be tired of it, discouraged, but it's just the opposite, I'm still motivated, still alive and present. I owe this to the magnificent team that we have in Quebec: six women from Quebec and two Nepalese men. We're also inspired to continue from our work with the Nepalese who, in turn, work at the heart of their villages as leaders and this responsibility represents the great success that we've hoped for over the years.

The good news from last year is that Amrit Lama, a young 35-year-old man, has joined the group. He represents the continuity to manage various projects on-site. Formerly working in community health, he has managed to build bridges between older leaders and the new generation of young people still in school, notably organizing work bees.



Amrit Lama

As for projects, the 2018-2019 year was one of the most modest: a water project for four villages that will soon to be completed, the initiation of a snack project in the Sanjkhot school and the continued distribution of workbooks, pencils and first-aid kits in a number of schools.

However, it must be noted that this slowdown in the completion of projects is due to the fact that, following the earthquakes in 2015, Nepal has increased its efforts to better oversee NGOs, demanding reports, photos, regular follow-ups and expense receipts. So this year, all organisations, including ours in Nepal (SPSWO), must conform to these new regulations. During this process, which



demanding a lot of time and energy, bank accounts were frozen for eight months. SPSWO was proud to obtain its recognition and can now continue its activities.

Here in Quebec, our energies were concentrated on administrative work (project evaluations, financial arrangements, Facebook page, etc...), along with our participation in the autumn of 2018 in the MondoKarnaval event, which has grown in popularity, visibility and the number of visitors.

Our principle observation over the past year is that our model of intervention, as modest as it is, manages to make a difference for the people of Nepal. These men and women, with whom we communicate regularly thanks to new technologies, and who willingly work hard and who are resilient, rise to the challenges of their villages and their country, notably for reconstruction after the earthquakes, to restore democracy and meet climate change. This represents our main motivation to continue year after year and will once again in 2019- 2020.

My final comment is for you, private donors and institutions who, year after year, generously donate and show your confidence in Collaboration Quebec Nepal. Thank you, thank you!



Michèle Legault  
President

## 2018 Governance Report - Changes in Nepal

Changes put in motion by the promulgation of the Constitution in 2015 and the elections in 2017 are slowly being put in place. NGOs working in the country are better overseen by government bodies and must comply with the new standards, which comes with a lots and lots of paperwork that didn't need to be done before. Each NGO must now have its projects and programs approved by the SWC (Social Welfare Council) before they can begin working on them. Once the project or program is finished, they must provide a report with bills and photos. SPSWO already does this for CQN but having to provide the government with the papers within a prescribed time frame makes the process more serious and rigorous. These processes were put into place so that the SWC was aware of the projects done in the country and to avoid corruption and abuse of the system. We believe that these changes are positive.

Of course, this way of working increases the administrative red tape. This was very obvious this past year when all of the NGO's were simultaneously scrambling to meet the new requirements. For example, SPSWO's bank account was frozen for eight months while they waited for their application to be accepted.

Moreover, many of those newly elected did not have the knowledge that their new position requires and have had to take several trainings to be able to do their new job. This meant delays in meeting these new people to discuss new projects.



## CQN Board of Directors 2018-2019



The members of the 2018-2019 Board of Directors are:

Shyam Suwal (administrator - resigned in October 2018), Anna Van Ermengen (Treasurer), Renée Champagne (administrator), Michèle Legault (President), Lyse Ferland (administrator), Doris Fréchette (Secretary), Caroline Boucher (administrator), Uttam Shrestha (administrator), Achut Parajuli (administrator - insert).

Please note that SPSWO was to hold its AGM this past spring, but because the villagers were working so hard to finish their big water project, they asked for it to be postponed.

## CQN Committees

### Finance-administration Committee

Lyse Ferland, Michèle Legault, Anna Van Ermengen

### Fundraising Committee

Lyse Ferland, Renée Champagne, Michèle Legault, Caroline Boucher

### Education Committee

Michèle Legault, Lucie Legault

### Projects Committee

Michèle Legault, Anna Van Ermengen

### Communication-Promotion Committee

Patricia Stewart, Anna Van Ermengen, Jean-Louis Pâquet, Doris Fréchette

## Projects Committee - 2018 Accomplishments

Eleven schools received funding for the Pencil & paper project, which helps children from poorer families attend school. Three schools also received first-aid boxes. Three children continue to receive sponsorships to allow them to go to school.

Several schools were badly damaged following the 2015 earthquakes. These were rebuilt by UNICEF but the schools still needed supplies and furniture. CQN provided six schools with cleaning products, round tables with cushions to sit on and carpets for the floor.

The earthquakes also greatly damaged the village of Sanjshot, located high up in the Middle Mountains. Most of the houses in this village, already very poor before the earthquakes, were totally destroyed. Many of its inhabitants are still living in temporary shelters while they are rebuilding their houses.

Only thirty students attend the village's primary school, but they are well supervised. The population is quite poor, earning very little money, which is why we decided to offer the children "snacks" at lunchtime to increase the number of children attending school and to improve the students' concentration. The snacks are made up of dried rice flakes called "chiura" eaten with a mix of spices.

It goes without saying that the villagers' biggest project by far this year is a water project for four villages. Since the 2015



earthquakes, these villages (and many others) lack water. That is why the villages of Syauri and Pangu Besi decided to go and access their water by gravity from a high output water source located 5.1 km from the villages, and to connect it to the existing

distribution system. It's a long distance but it is important to choose a water source that is upstream from the last houses in order to ensure that the water is potable. Two other villages along the pipeline trajectory, Patwaal and Sano Bhugdeu that also lack water, asked to join the project. It should be noted that these three pipelines share the same trench, with connections at the appropriate places for the different villages. The project consists of water intake works to divert part of the water source, construction of an intake tank and construction of a 5.1 km pipeline.



## Treasurer's Report

Collaboration Québec Népal ended the 2018-2019 year with 26,973\$ in revenues and 29,284\$ in expenses, resulting in a net loss of 2,312\$.

The share of the budget dedicated to projects remains the largest expense, this being 97.6% of all expenses.

At the end of the year there is a deferred sum of 2,546\$ for projects that are carried forward into the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

We are left at the end of the year with a balance of \$ 4,604, which includes the deferred sum.

Private donors were generous, as always, with 12,597\$ donated in 2018-2019. We thank Fondation 3% Tiers-Monde who donated 13,400\$ for a big water project for four villages. We also thank Secours Tiers Monde who donated 900\$ towards a project to provide snacks for students of a primary school in a poor village. Thank you also to Claude Martel and Saint-Barthélemy school who have supported us for so many years by collecting funds to help schools in Nepal.



Anna Van Ermengen  
Treasurer

## A heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors and donors.

Collaboration Québec Népal wishes to thank all its members, individuals, foundations, sponsors and organisations who, through their generosity, help us carry out our mission.



Fondation 3% Tiers-Monde

Secours Tiers-Monde



École Saint-Barthélemy

## THE MISSION OF COLLABORATION QUÉBEC-NÉPAL

Work in collaboration with Nepalese communities to improve the quality of their lives via various projects and initiatives in areas of infrastructure, education, health, agriculture and the environment.



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