

# ARANB News

Volume 3

January 2, 2017

## Anglophone Rights Association of New Brunswick

### 2016 Highlights

#### A year of growth and productivity

2016 far exceeded our hopes and expectations in terms of growth, productivity, and effectiveness.

ARANB had set a goal of 1000 members by end-of-year, and we are pleased to announce that we have not only met, but exceeded that goal, with more than 1100 members as of Dec. 31, 2016.

More than 20 Community meetings were held through the year, several of them by invitation.

In July, our members raised funds and erected a Billboard in Moncton advertising our upcoming local meeting. This Billboard far surpassed our expectations in generating interest as media quickly picked up on it and ran several stories about the "controversy".

As a result of the increased media attention, the Moncton meeting was standing room only with approximately 300 people in attendance, as well as representatives from the French media at CBC, and L'Acadie Nouvelle.

Days after this meeting, ARANB was extended an invitation by the Official Language Branch, Department of Canadian Heritage, to attend the Official Languages Consultation Roundtable in Moncton on August 16, 2016.

This momentum continued with the Saint John meeting drawing approximately 100 people, and Miramichi bringing in approximately 120.

In addition to these larger meetings, a number of smaller community meetings have been held, each having 40-60 people in attendance.

While overcoming pre-conceived and media encouraged perceptions of bigotry remains our biggest challenge, once we get people out to a meeting and they see and hear for themselves, our membership growth has been between 70% and 80% consistently.

In addition, as our support network continues to grow, individuals have reached out to

us with interest in establishing Regional Chapters of ARANB, and we are pleased to announce that Saint John, Fredericton, Moncton, and Miramichi all have teams in place.

Throughout the year, we have continued to obtain information through the Right to Information Act (RTI's), and we now have a very large collection of documents, which are beginning to paint a very clear and alarming picture. These RTI's are currently being reviewed and compiled into an eBook, which will be published and become a living document which will continue to be added to as information is obtained.

2017 is shaping up to be a very busy year, and we look forward to further growing our network and support and continuing to fight for balance, logic, and reason in language laws, policies, and applications that are fair and beneficial to all.

### The Role of the Community in Creating Change

No matter what your viewpoint, concerns, or political leanings may be, enough cannot be said about the role that individual communities, and in fact, provincial ridings will play in our success or failure.

Each community must look at the issues and concerns of their citizens.

In order to identify those priorities and concerns, it is essential that communities get to know and talk with one another.

It is difficult to understand, or even care about the concerns of your neighbors when you don't know them.

For this reason, communities must make the effort to meet and talk with one another.

#### Upcoming Events:

##### **Community Meetings**

**Napan Community Hall**  
Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017  
7:00 pm—9:00 pm

**St. David's United Church**  
7 Gondola Pt. Rd.  
Rothesay, NB  
Saturday, January 28  
6:30 pm—8:30 pm

**Hillsborough/Albert**  
Date and location to be announced

**Wheaton Settlement**  
Date and location to be announced

**Sackville**  
Date and location to be announced

**Petitcodiac**  
Date and location to be announced

**For upcoming meeting information visit:**

[www.anglophonerightsnb.com](http://www.anglophonerightsnb.com)

or

<https://www.facebook.com/anglophonerightnb2015/>



# The Role of the Community in Creating Change (Cont.)

While information meetings such as what ARANB has been holding are helpful, they are not enough.

Attend any local coffee shop, Bingo Hall, or public event, and you will hear what people are talking about, whether it's issues impacting their personal lives, or their thoughts on recent events in the news.

Just hearing about these issues is not enough, however. What are we going to DO about them is the question.

Unfortunately, the answer almost always involves government, and we usually have three options:

- Work with government
- Fight government
- Change government

As we've seen, working with government rarely (although sometimes) works. It should always be an effort to engage in, however when it fails we are left with the latter two options.

Concerned Citizens Of Charlotte County is an excellent example of citizens coming together to fight for their community.

Through their unity and efforts, they have been successful in saving their local hospital among many other efforts—however it took a lot of hard work and effort. A demonstration held this past July drew a crowd of more than 500 in St. Stephen and earned a reversal by Premier Brian Gallant on shutting down the hospital's OR.

The power that each community has cannot be overstated, should they care enough to put forth the effort.

The final option, changing government, is one that seems to be the preferred method of many, but also one of the most difficult to accomplish. It requires the most effort, engagement, and unity of citizens, but is also, without doubt, the most effective.

The first step is probably the easiest one. Become educated. I don't mean go back to school - I mean read, research, ask questions. Don't trust the first source you come across, and don't rely on what others tell you—find out for yourself.

Educate yourself on the issues, and on the

positions of your various government officials and parties. Here's the catch, - it is key to understand that while individual party members or MLA's might "appear" to support you, there are two things to watch for.

First, is your MLA sincere? Do they truly support you, or are they simply telling you what they think you want to hear at that moment? Do they follow their words with actions?

Secondly, does your MLA have the support of their party to address your concerns? We see all too often where an MLA who genuinely "wants" to serve their community is prevented from doing so by party policy, or by lack of support.

Do you even know who the various party candidates in your riding are, and are they candidates that you recognize and respect from your community? Too often, our candidates are not even from our communities, they are "placed" there by the party based on having a candidate who will meet the party's preferences (example, a bilingual or French candidate in a predominantly English community).

In order to have candidates that you trust and respect, it is advisable to get involved in their selection, or better yet, encourage someone you do trust and respect to run for office.

Finally, don't be fooled, or intimidated into going against your gut.

Talk of "vote-splitting" is one that causes great concern, and prevents voters from feeling free to vote their beliefs.

First, recognize who truly benefits from our fear of vote-splitting? You're right, the two ruling powers, who through embedding this fear into the public, have ensured that no other political entity can gain support and upset their apple-cart.

Secondly, if your community unites, then the candidates you elect, regardless of party, will be candidates who represent and support YOU. If you vote for one of the leading parties—so be it. If you choose not to, and instead, while still united, vote to support another party or independent, then you have one seat in government representing you, which in

some cases is more than you had before. Bottom line, your choices for government DO matter.

If you believe in and support one of the two major parties, that's fine, so long as it's your united choice. If you have educated yourself, and ensured that you believe, trust, and respect them—then they should serve you well.

If you choose to support a smaller party, or even an independent candidate, one of two things will happen.

- You end up with a voice in government that represents your concerns and is not afraid to speak up for them.
- Your candidate doesn't win, but receives strong support, which sends a clear message to government that the will of the people is changing, and that they need to change too.

The power is yours—use it wisely. There are 32 predominantly English Ridings, and another 8 with strong English populations. Regardless of your decision, support it. If you expect your candidate/party to support you, you must show them that you support them as well. Get involved.

## United we Stand—Divided we Fall

Sharon Buchanan  
President



**"If you don't stand up when it matters, then don't expect it to matter when you decide to stand up."**

# A Message of Thanks

We want to thank each and every person, too numerous to name, who have donated endless hours of time volunteering this year, supporting us physically, materially, and financially. We also wish to extend thanks to those members of the media who have chosen to hear us, and give us a voice, those who refuse to be intimidated into silence, and those who support us in the background, out of the public eye. We couldn't do this without each and every one of you!

Special thanks to Ron Bubar, Kim Barrett, and their team for the endless hours of effort they have put in across the board, and especially with membership growth..

To not only meet, but eclipse the goal of 1000 members in a relatively short period of time is an incredible feat, and a strong indication that together, we can achieve fairness and equality for both the French and English communities of New Brunswick.

For ARANB, this means adjusting laws, acts, and policies in a manner that allow us to offer service to both linguistic communities in their language, while at the same time, does not disadvantage or place unreasonable burden on either. It also means that balance, reason, and logic be used to ensure fair treatment of both communities with regards to funding, services, proportional representation and employment/advancement opportunities.

With every new member, a new voice joins the rising cry for fairness in our province. Every day it becomes harder for politicians to ignore this cry. It is not only our future, but those of our children, and grandchildren that we fight to protect. The current situation is simply unsustainable.

Now, on to our next goals, 2000 members, and victory in 2018!

Rex Tracy

Vice President

HOME | SOCIETY

## A meeting on the rights of English NB gathers 300 people in Moncton

RELEASED TODAY AT 16 H 46



More than 300 people attended the meeting of the Association of English rights NB PHOTO: CBC / PIERRE-ALEXANDRE BOLDUC

**The Association for the Rights of New Brunswick anglophone met Thursday night in Moncton. More than 300 people attended.**

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SHARES



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## Our Mission

Anglophone Rights Association of New Brunswick Inc. is a non-profit, incorporated organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the rights of Anglophones in New Brunswick, while respecting other linguistic communities.

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# Let your voice be heard

## Join or donate today!

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[www.anglophonerightsnb.com](http://www.anglophonerightsnb.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/anglophonerightnb2015/>

For the many who have reached out to us asking for a way to donate anonymously, a  
**GoFundMe** account has been created.

<https://www.gofundme.com/anglophone-rights-2umc5kt4>

