



Impact women's lives by changing the system

A Project to Increase Economic Options
for Women of the Magdalen Islands

CEDEC

Project Overview

In 2014, CEDEC initiated a 24-month project to engage women and community organizations in the Magdalen Islands to develop strategies to increase women's access to a broad range of economic options. Working with local partners and stakeholders, discussions were centred on needs and opportunities identified in a gender-based analysis which formed the foundation for a 5-year strategic plan to address the barriers and opportunities for women in the Magdalen Islands.



Phase 1: Engage and establish working partnerships

• 17 partnerships were developed to support this project:

1. Société d'aide au développement de la collectivité (SADC) des Îles-de-la-Madeleine
2. Centre local de développement des Îles-de-la-Madeleine (CLD)
3. Centre local d'emploi Québec (CLE)
4. Carrefour jeunesse emploi des Îles (CJEI)
5. Centre Financier aux Entreprises Desjardins de la Gaspésie et des Îles-de-la-Madeleine
6. Regroupement des femmes La Sentin'Elle
7. Entry Island Future Committee
8. Women on a Mission Cooperative
9. Service d'aide à l'emploi des Îles (SAEI)
10. Groupe Collegia
11. L'Accalmie
12. Centre intégré de Santé et de services sociaux des Îles (CISSS)
13. Chambre de Commerce des Îles-de-la-Madeleine
14. Comité de développement social
15. Cap Dauphin Fishermen's Cooperative
16. Municipality of Grosse-Île
17. Femmessor Gaspésie- Îles-de-la-Madeleine



Advisory Committee

An advisory committee, composed of 10 local women, participated in the needs assessment representing the different experiences and needs of women on the Magdalen Islands. The advisory committee met during each project activity to discuss the barriers women face, their needs, priorities, and shared their viewpoints and potential strategies for addressing issues in their communities.

Phase 2: Identify assets and opportunities

• Results from the Gender based Analysis and Needs Assessment

- 14 obstacles to achieving greater economic autonomy have been identified
- 78 women have indicated that they can identify barriers
- 24 opportunities have been identified through community consultations with women and local stakeholders

Phase 3: Develop and adapt strategies

• 4 Strategies identified:

Strategy 1:

Increase women's self-confidence and reduce their family and domestic workloads.

This strategy has 3 activities.

Strategy 2:

Develop women's networks and increase their awareness of local services and opportunities.

This strategy has 2 activities.

Strategy 3:

Improve English-speaking Women's French language skills.

This strategy has 2 activities.

Strategy 4:

Increase women's employability skills and foster their professional development.

This strategy has 5 activities.





Phase 4: Implement a community-specific approach

Strategy 1:

Increase women's self-confidence and reduce their family and domestic workloads

December 2015: L'Accalmie initiated a series of workshops for young women, 18 and under, focused on building self-esteem, demystifying unequal relationships and dating violence.

Strategy 2:

Develop women's networks and increase their awareness of local services and opportunities

September 2015: A Community Resource Fair was held, hosted by CEDEC, in Grosse-Ile to promote local service organizations to the English-speaking community.

March 2016: Communication tools created, such as a bilingual video series and brochure, featuring local community resources and services.

Strategy 3:

Improve English-speaking women's French language skills

January 2016: Groupe Collegia collaborated with Eastern Shores School Board and Emploi Québec offered a French-English exchange program for adults in Grosse Ile and Grande Entrée to learn a second language.

January 2016: L'Accalmie hosted coffee breaks for French and English-speaking women to practice their second language skills.

Strategy 4:

Increase women's employability skills and foster their professional development

September 2015: Youth Start-Up workshops, hosted by the CEDEC, SADC des Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Coopérative de développement régional du Québec (CDR), to encourage young people to identify and develop their business ideas.

December 2015: Get Connected 5@7 networking event, hosted by CEDEC, brought employers and job seekers together to increase awareness about local jobs and the required qualifications.

April 2015/2016: Service d'aide à l'emploi des Îles host annual workshops to help women find employment.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
OR WANT MORE INFORMATION:

info@cedec.ca
www.cedec.ca
@cedec_qc

CEDEC

**MISE EN VALEUR
DE LA MAIN-D'ŒUVRE**
Workforce Development

Canada

CEDEC is funded by the Enabling Fund for Official Language Minority Communities and by the Government of Canada