Annual Report 2025-2026

UPA Outaouais-Laurentides Federation



L'Union des producteurs agricoles
Outaouais-Laurentides

Summary

3 President’s message

4 Director’s message

5 Board members

6 Federation team

8 Portrait of our regions

10 Union life

15 Territorial planning

18 Communications and public affairs

22 Agri-environment

25 Agricultural Employment Center

27 SCF Conseils Outaouais-Laurentides

29 Services of your Federation



President’s Message

Dear producers,

The challenges of the past year remind us that more than ever, we need to get back to basics : **protect our farmland, keep our rural areas alive, and secure the future of our agriculture.**

For some of us, the past year hasn’t been easy, especially for those affected by the potential HSR route. This infrastructure project impacts all of agriculture in Quebec, but particularly farmers in our Laval and Laurentides regions. Our Federation has put a lot of effort into opposing this project, which would cut through hundreds of farmland plots. While the TGV doesn’t affect all producers in our regions, it’s precisely for situations like this that the UPA exists. **When our agriculture is hit right in the heart: we all need to show solidarity and step up to protect it.**

Agriculture is at the heart of our lives. It feeds people, supports our villages, and contributes to our food independence and regional vitality. Our farms, rural communities, and regions are living environments, with families, businesses, and skills that make our territory rich. We need to keep **working to ensure they remain places where people can work in agriculture, showcase local products, and build a sustainable future for our children.**

It can be exhausting to have to reiterate these principles that are obvious to us, but sometimes forgotten by the general public. Yet, **these efforts to promote our agricultural profession are just as essential as our work in the fields.** It is thanks to the involvement of all the female and male administrators within local and specialized unions that our realities are brought out of the field of our farms and can reach the citizens, who, moreover, consume our food on a daily basis.



Stéphane Alary



Regional President
Fédération UPA
Outaouais-Laurentides

On my side, my participation in various national bodies allows me to directly bring your issues to other regions and to the Confederation. Conversely, it allows me to have a national perspective that I can share with you afterwards.

The uniqueness of our beautiful and large Federation, which stretches over 4 regions, is also a huge strength. More than 40% of Quebec's population lives in our territory. That represents thousands of **opportunities to show that agriculture is a national priority.**

Investing in agriculture means investing in our farmers, our future generations, our knowledge, and our expertise. It also means supporting innovation so that our businesses stay competitive and we can keep producing quality food, while allowing farmers to make a decent living from their work.

That's why **our union strength is essential.** Together, we can defend our land, our family businesses, our profession, and the well-being of our communities.

The challenges of tomorrow will be many, but we don’t have to face them alone. Our strength is our solidarity. **Our future will be prosperous thanks to our ability to act together today.**

Director's Message

Dear members,

The annual meeting gives us a chance to reflect on the progress we've made and to recognize the work done over the past few months. After a period of restructuring that forced us to face many challenges, we can now look at what we've achieved with pride. **We've continued our efforts to strengthen our organization, improve our practices, and lay solid foundations for the future.** These advancements are the result of a collective effort: the members, the board, and the staff.

If last year's achievements are many and worth highlighting, we know that numerous challenges lie ahead. Starting with the HSR ALTO, pressures on agricultural land, administrative burdens, the economic issues our industries face, and the evolving expectations of society will demand vigilance, commitment, and adaptability from us. On top of these challenges are those specific to our organization: continuing to consolidate our achievements, optimizing our resources, and evolving our practices to better meet the needs of our members. **We will need to stay the course, exercise judgment in our choices, and seize opportunities as they arise to strengthen our collective action.**

After the restructuring, we're moving on to redeployment. We have the skills, experience, and determination needed to carry on our mission. **Now more than ever, our ability to collaborate, get organized, and stay attentive to our members will be key to protecting our agricultural zone.** Our strength comes from this shared commitment and our desire to make a real difference for those who feed our world.

I want to sincerely thank the entire Federation team for their dedication and the quality of their work, as well as our board members and executive committee members for their involvement and trust. I also want to express my appreciation to our president, Stéphane Alary, and our vice president, Audrey Lemaire, for their leadership and valuable collaboration.



Simon Durand

Regional Director
Fédération UPA
Outaouais-Laurentides

Board members

EXECUTIVE

Stéphane Alary, president
Audrey Lemaire, vice-President
Guy Sabourin, executive member
Vanessa Bowes, executive member
Stanley Christensen, executive member

LOCAL UNION REPRESENTATIVES

Alexandre Perreault, UPA Laurentides - Pays-d'en-Haut
Benoit Legault, UPA La Lièvre
Céline Tremblay, UPA Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
Cheryl Layer, UPA Collines de l'Outaouais
Christian Couvrette, UPA Ste-Scholastique - Mirabel
Audrey Lemaire, UPA Basses-Laurentides
Claude Lefebvre, UPA Papineau
Claude Vallière, UPA Pontiac
Louis Forget, UPA Laval
Sébastien Peeters, UPA Argenteuil
Frédéric Marinier, UPA Deux-Montagnes

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPECIALTIES

Félix Meunier	Specialty - Local farm
Frédéric Tremblay-Carle	Specialty - Maple Syrup
Jean-Marc Rochon	Specialty - Apple
Jeffrey Clarke	Specialty - Other plant products
Martin Turcot	Specialty - Other plant products
Mathieu Lemonnier	Specialty - Greenhouse
Matis Marineau	Specialty - Agricultural succession
Michel Sauriol	Specialty - Strawberry & Raspberry
Philip Gauthier	Specialty - Milk
Stanley Christensen	Specialty - Bovine
Sylvain Leduc	Specialty - Ovine
Robert Ladouceur	Specialty - Grain
Vanessa Bowes	Specialty - Women Farmers



Federation Team

MANAGEMENT

Simon Durand, MBA, régional director
Alexandra Lavallée-Galipeau, operations & administration director
Alexandra Lauzon, director of union and local affairs
Ingrid Francoeur, CRHA, director of the Centre d'emploi agricole
Benoît Fullum, director of the SCF Conseils Outaouais-Laurentides inc.
Laurence Sarrazin-Turgeon, assistant to the regional director

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

Daniela De Rezende, accountant
Julie Beaudin, accounting technician to the administration

UNION & LOCAL AFFAIRS

Francis Riendeau, agr., affiliated unions advisor
Marie-Rose Alepin, affiliated unions advisor
Philippe Duguay, affiliated unions advisor
Tanya Léonard-Cusson, affiliated unions advisor
Karine Ladouceur, administrative assistant
Gabrielle Lemonde, administrative assistant

TERRITORIAL PLANNING ADVISOR

Jean-François Gendron, territorial planning advisor
Alexandra Carrière, territorial planning advisor



Agro-environment

Maria José Maezo, agri-environment advisor and ALUS coordinator
Stephanie Hedrei, agri-environment advisor and ALUS coordinator
Casey Himbeault, Agro-environment Agent
Sabrina Pilet, administrative assistant

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Noémie Laurendeau, communication and public affairs advisor

CENTRE D'EMPLOI AGRICOLE

Catherine Whitehead, human resources advisor
Stéphanie Beaulieu, human resources advisor
Céline Labonté, foreign labor case manager
Joannie Perron, foreign labor technician
Sonia Viviana Ardila Ochoa, human resources technician
Carolina Mencia Castro, agricultural workforce development manager

SCF CONSEILS INC.

Alexandra Angelescu, CPA, quality and continuous improvement manager
Catherine Bretherton, accountant
Stéphanie Yam, accountant
Sandra Fernandes, file manager
Chantal Léveillé, Administrative Technician – Tax and Agricultural Services
Marie-France Chemin, accounting technician
Julie Lefebvre, payroll accounting technician
Myriam Kingsbury, accounting intern

New faces



From left to right: Sonia Viviana Ardila Ochoa, human resources technician, Carolina Mencia Castro, agricultural workforce development manager, Laurence Sarrazin-Turgeon, assistant to the regional director, Myriam Kingsbury, accounting intern, Tanya Léonard-Cusson, affiliated unions advisor, Marie-Rose Alepin, affiliated unions advisor, and Noémie Laurendeau, communications and public affairs advisor.

Portrait of our regions

The UPA Outaouais-Laurentides Federation, which covers Montreal, Laval, the Laurentians, and Outaouais, has seen 43 new farms in its area since 2024-2025**.** There are now a total of 2,519 active farms. Of these, 2,085 are UPA members, representing a membership rate of 84%.

2519

Farming businesses

2085

Member companies of the UPA

43

New businesses in our area

4

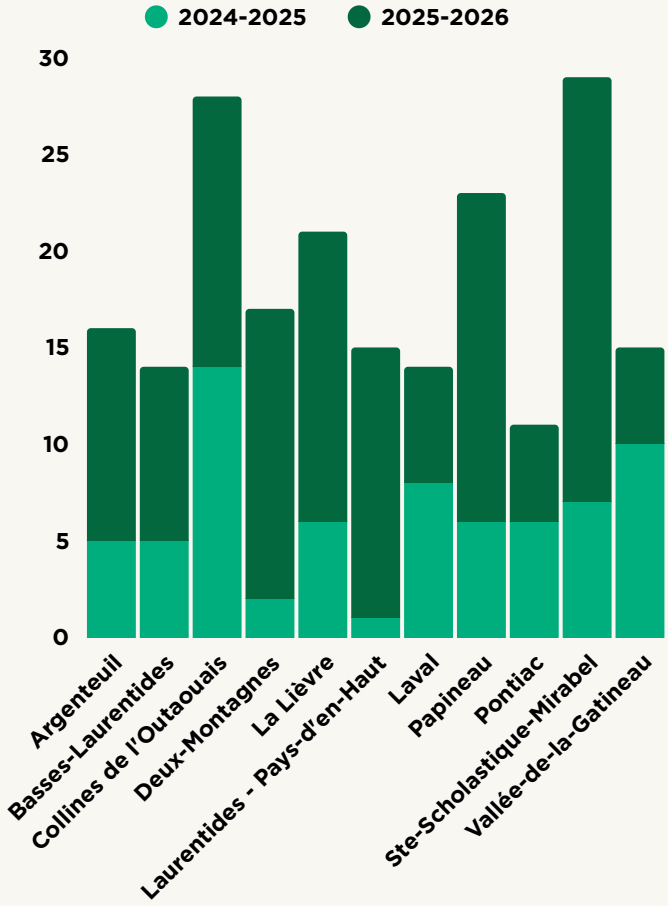
Administrative regions

Montreal, Laval, Laurentians and Outaouais

40 %

Population of Quebec that lives on the territory of the Federation.

Welcoming of new members done



The Fédération de l'UPA Outaouais-Laurentides and its local unions **officially welcomed 32% of new members** in the past year. Due to this **31% decrease compared to 2024-2025 in the number of welcomes carried out**, the union life committee decided to **review the method** for carrying out and counting these welcomes.

Welcoming new producers is an **essential act** for an organization like ours. Above all, it shows that the UPA exists thanks to its members for all agricultural producers.

Local unions

Argenteuil	**183** enterprises	**85%** are members
Basses-Laurentides	**135** enterprises	**88%** are members
Collines de l'Outaouais	**314** enterprises	**79%** are members
Deux-Montagnes	**271** enterprises	**87%** are members
La Lièvre	**252** enterprises	**85%** are members
Laurentides - Pays-d'en-Haut	**120** enterprises	**85%** are membres
Laval	**190** enterprises	**74%** are membres
Papineau	**253** enterprises	**87%** are membres
Pontiac	**253** enterprises	**77%** are membres
Ste-Scholastique - Mirabel	**363** enterprises	**89%** are membres
Vallée-de-la-Gatineau	**162** enterprises	**81%** are membres

Specialized unions

Maple Syrup	**348** enterprises
Bovine	**714** enterprises
Grain	**797** enterprises
Milk	**161** enterprises
Ovine	**127** enterprises
Apple	**154** enterprises
Agricultural succession	**99** members
Women Farmers (LLO)	**98** members



Union life

Union life is at the heart of the Federation's actions. Thanks to the involvement of the 196 local and specialized board members, the **UPA Outaouais-Laurentides Federation has a vibrant democratic life**, that reflects the field and is rooted in its territory.

In the past year, **the work to restructure the various committees of the Federation has been launched**. The committees formed include finance, union life, agro-environment, agrotourism, SCF Conseils, governance and policies, as well as a committee on territorial planning.

This committee-based governance is meant to **make it easier to discuss** specific topics, **go further** by bringing together officials interested in the committee's theme, and better **share responsibilities** among the different officials of the Federation.

In the past year, major issues have forced us to **work together and to mobilize**. This commitment has demonstrated our collective ability to defend agriculture in our regions.





196
Administrators

11
Local unions

7
Affiliated unions

6
Executive committee meetings

5
Boards of the Federation

56
Boards of local unions

22
Boards of specialized unions

Local Unions in Action in the Field

Exchanges and meetings with municipal officials

Several local unions have held discussions and meetings with **mayors of municipalities and prefects of regional county municipalities** (RCM) over the past year to discuss agricultural issues.

This is particularly true of the unions in Laval, Deux-Montagnes, Ste-Scholastique–Mirabel, Argenteuil, Papineau, and La Lièvre. Among the topics discussed at these meetings were various issues specific to each sector, land-use planning, and the Alto high-speed rail project.





Outaouais Sector Congress

The four local unions in the Outaouais region held their joint sector congress on October 4, 2025, in the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau area. The event saw excellent attendance, with nearly **65 producers participating**, as well as numerous stakeholders from the agricultural sector, including MAPAQ and La Financière agricole du Québec.

Sophie Chatel, the federal representative for the Pontiac—Kitigan Zibi district, who was then Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, also joined us and delivered a speech at the event.

Financial Support

Once again this year, local unions have been generous and have provided financial support for **agricultural events in their communities**. Among the events supported:

- Lachute Fair
- Draveurs Gala
- Mirabel Public Market
- UPA Open Doors
- Shawville Fair

Many local unions have also provided financial support to the Federation's **agri-environmental department**, which facilitates the implementation of environmental projects on farms, particularly through the ALUS-Outaouais and ALUS-Laurentides initiatives.





Caravans of Soils and Pastures

The MAPAQ Soil and Pasture Caravan made several stops in our regions over the past year. This provided an opportunity for producers **to come together and expand their knowledge and skills regarding their soils**. The collaboration of various local unions was crucial to the success of these events. The Caravan made stops at the following locations, among others:

- **July 10, 2025,** at the Legault Fournel Gardens in Laval
- **September 30, 2025**, at Ferme la Longeraie in Saint-André d'Argenteuil
- **October 17, 2025,** at Ferme TOP in Saint-André-Avellin

Agri-environmental Project in the Antoine-Labelle RCM

Several local unions have collaborated with our agro-environmental department on projects at various farms last year.

This is the case with a flagship project in the Antoine-Labelle RCM, a collaborative effort with the **COBALI organization and UPA La Lièvre**. This initiative also received an honorable mention at the Laurentians Conservation Gala in November 2025, highlighting the involvement of **more than 10 producers** in efforts related to water, soil, and biodiversity. Two farms implemented ALUS projects in 2025, and in the spring of 2026, more than 2 km of **riparian strips** were established on three other farms.







Roundtable discussion organized by Deputy Sophie Chatel

Sophie Chatel, the federal deputy for the Pontiac—Kitigan Zibi riding, who was then Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, organized a roundtable discussion on June 5, 2026. The meeting brought together **dozens of local agricultural producers and processing companies, with our president, Stéphane Alary, in attendance.** The purpose of the meeting was to gather the concerns and recommendations of stakeholders in the agricultural sector in preparation for the development of **Canada's future National Food Security Strategy and the upcoming Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agricultural Policy Framework.** The discussions highlighted the strategic importance of agriculture to food security and the Canadian economy.

2026: Year of Women in Agriculture

The United Nations (UN) has designated 2026 as the Year of Women in Agriculture. Various events and initiatives have taken this opportunity in recent months to **recognize the significant contributions women make to agriculture** in our regions and around the world.

This was particularly the case during **SRALO's Young Farmers' Day, held in partnership with Agricultrices Lanaudière Laurentides Outaouais (ALLO)**. The attached photo was taken during ALLO's annual general meeting, which took place in the fall of 2025.



ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE DES
AGRICULTRICES
2026



The Outaouais region is celebrating!

The Pontiac local union has been active on the ground at various events this year. In particular, the board members participated in the **Open Houses on Quebec Farms** and ran their union's booth for five days at the **2025 Shawville Fair**. They also organized a dinner on November 7, 2025, attended by **60 producers.**

For its part, the Collines de l'Outaouais local union of the UPA organized a barbecue on June 24, 2026. The event brought together more than **65 farmers**.



Land Use Planning

The UPA Outaouais-Laurentides Federation has hired a second land-use planning advisor to address the steady increase in requests received by the CPTAQ and the numerous land-use planning needs. Over the past year, the Federation has **continued to provide recommendations to the CPTAQ,** in collaboration with local unions. **The number of requests has been rising for the fourth consecutive year**. Agricultural areas in metropolitan regions continue to see the highest demand.

The Federation's Board of Directors appointed new members to renew the composition of the Land Use Planning Committee. The committee held three meetings, primarily to work on **revising the Federation's land use planning and agricultural land protection policy, as well as on the changes made by the government to the regulation governing the authorization to dispose of or use a lot without the CPTAQ's approval**. Regulation 1.1 expands the permissions regarding agritourism.

212

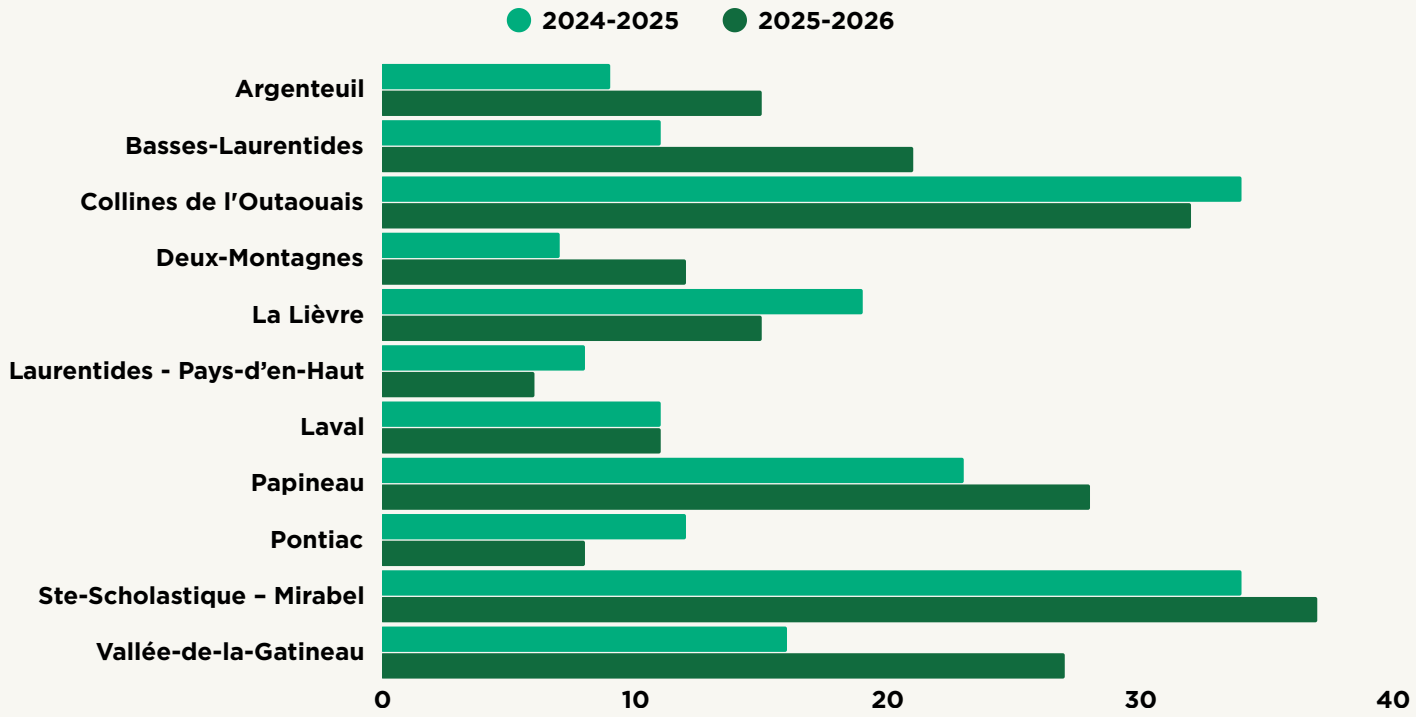
files of CPTAQ authorization applications received and processed by the Federation

+ 28 (2024-2025)

202

recommendations made by the Federation in collaboration with local unions

Cases by Local Union



Memorable Representations

PLAISANCE NATIONAL PARK

Despite an outcome that ran against our recommendations, the Federation has repeatedly lobbied on behalf of the 158 hectares of agricultural land that will be used to expand Plaisance National Park.

WILDLIFE REFUGE

We are working to protect the agricultural use of more than 900 hectares that are earmarked for the creation of the Grandes-Baies-de-l'Outaouais Wildlife Refuge. This proposal aims to create the largest wildlife refuge in Quebec.

CMM's 2026–2046 PMAD

The 2026–2046 Metropolitan Land Use and Development Plan (PMAD) has taken effect. This planning document covers 3 regions, 5 RCMs, 31 municipalities, 4 local agricultural associations, and 883 agricultural businesses within our territory.

Representation on Hydro-Québec Projects

The Federation monitors developments and advocates on behalf of local unions regarding **four Hydro-Québec projects.**

These include the project to rebuild the transmission line connecting the Quyon and Wyman substations in the municipalities of Pontiac and Bristol, the project to build a new substation and two feeder lines in the municipalities of Lachute and Saint-André-d'Argenteuil; the project to rebuild the Rolland substation and construct a new feeder line in the municipalities of Saint-Jérôme and Mirabel; and the project to expand the Grand-Brûlé substation and make modifications to transmission lines in the Mont-Tremblant area.





Consensus-building on Protected Areas on Continental Public Lands

In line with the Government of Quebec's commitment to conserve 30% of the province's territory by 2030, the MELCCFP has tasked the regional environmental councils (CREs) with coordinating regional consultations aimed at **proposing protected area projects on public land to the Quebec's government.**

The Federation is involved in evaluating the proposed projects; it advocates, in particular, for **maintaining the potential for agricultural use of the targeted sites**, especially those located in agricultural zones. Initiatives have been undertaken in the Laurentians, the Outaouais, and Laval, led by the Laurentides CRE, CREDDO, and the Laval CRE.



Negotiations regarding the City of Mirabel's first collective bargaining request

Following a collective request filed by the City of Mirabel, the Federation submitted its comments to the CPTAQ and participated in an initial **three-party negotiation meeting on September 18, 2025**. The meeting went well overall, with **only a small number of isolated issues on which no consensus was reached**. A second negotiation meeting was held on May 27, 2026, to attempt to reach a consensus that will be the subject of a CPTAQ decision.

A collective request is filed when an RCM wishes to determine in which cases and under what **conditions new residential uses could be established in an agricultural zone.**

The Humanized Landscape of the Monteregian Hills

The project launched by the CMM aims to recognize and protect the Monteregian hills by securing "humanized landscape" status. This status makes it possible to create a protected area within populated areas; **the only existing humanized landscape in Quebec is located on the Federation's territory in L'Île-Bizard.**

The Outaouais-Laurentides Federation is the region most affected, both in terms of the number of farms and the size of its agricultural area. It has therefore advocated for **the interests of the agricultural community by participating in various consultative** bodies involved in the development of the conservation plan, including an agricultural advisory committee.



A series of implications

BIRD SCARING

The project to discourage migratory birds from agricultural areas in the Outaouais region was renewed and implemented in the spring of 2026. This project is funded by MAPAQ.

INNOVATIVE ACQUISITION

Thanks to our collaboration, the "Fiducie agricole UPA-Fondaction et Conservation de la nature Québec" has acquired farmland in L'Île-Bizard. New generation of farmers will be able to cultivate the land while protecting its natural habitats.

MUNICIPAL TAXATION

The Federation's president participated in a working group on municipal agricultural taxation, land-use planning, and regional development.

Communications and Public Affairs

Communications and public affairs are a **key part of an organization like ours**. The democratic process among our administrators must be highlighted, and the political positions we adopt must reach beyond our ecosystem so that they are heard and then led by our governments.

The arrival of a **new communications and public affairs advisor** at the Federation in late February made it possible to update the tools used to enhance the efficiency of communications and public affairs operations. Among the initiatives launched:

- Creating a **photo library** of farms in our regions;
- Compiling **contact lists** of journalists, media outlets, elected officials from all three levels of government, and their staff;
- Standardizing **media tools and visual templates** in accordance with the UPA's graphic guidelines;
- Updating the various pages of the **Federation's website**;
- Creating a new **YouTube** channel.





Communications and public affairs are effective when **strategies are aligned with communication objectives** and take into account the content of the information and the target audiences. Various strategies have therefore been used, among other things, to:

- Publishing an **open letter in the daily newspaper La Presse** to highlight the contribution of TETs;
- Coordinating **coverage of our financial support for Écoute Agricole** in connection with the high-speed rail project in the Journal de Montréal;
- Promoting the **digital distribution of short videos opposing the high-speed rail project** on social media;
- Sending personalized letters and requesting **meetings with elected officials** to advance certain issues.

Highlights of the Past Year

9	**+25%**	**6**
Video clips for two digital campaigns	**Facebook page followers**	**Press Releases Issued**

Open House on Quebec Farms 2026

This year's open house event took place on Sunday, September 13. There was a **record number of new farms eager** to open their doors to the public. In our region, seven farms ended up participating across our four administrative regions.



Unstable weather and rain in many areas certainly dampened the enthusiasm of many residents and their families this year. Nevertheless, it is estimated that there were nearly **3,500 visitors across the seven participating farms.**

Agneaux de Laval: 1,000 visitors
Coronation Hall Cider Mills : 100 visitors
Ferme Desrosiers: 1,000 visitors
Ferme Macdonald: 700 visitors
Ferme Sage: 100 visitors
Pépinière de Messines: 100 visitors
Ferme aux Petits oignons: 375 visitors



In Montreal, several urban farms have also opened their doors thanks to a collaboration with the organization Laboratoire sur l'agriculture urbaine (AU/LAB).













Opposition to the Alto HSR

The federal government's high-speed rail project came as a shock to our regions. **The announcement of a 10-kilometer corridor under consideration for the route—which runs through Montreal, Laval, and the Laurentians, right in the heart of our farmland—has shaken our community to its core.**

February 24 Rally

The Federation listened to producers following the resolution submitted at last year's AGM. It therefore acted quickly to defend its members. Our team organized a **protest and a press conference on February 24**, on the sidelines of an Alto consultation in Mirabel, to oppose this infrastructure project, which would have major impacts on agricultural businesses.

The show of force brought together **hundreds of farmers, their families, and members of the public, as well as a convoy of 113 tractors and farm machinery**. The stance taken by the UPA Outaouais-Laurentides and the region's farmers **made headlines in virtually all national and regional media outlets.**







Political Meetings

This mobilization was just the beginning of many advocacy efforts to make our voices heard. The Federation's president, Stéphane Alary, and vice president, Audrey Lemaire, met with **several federal lawmakers from the Liberal Party representing ridings in the Laurentians. Their message: the high-speed rail project is not a priority, and it would have irreversible effects on agricultural land.**

They also met with **Steven MacKinnon, the federal Minister of Transport,** in his district of Gatineau.

Letters were also sent to the mayors and **municipal officials of the municipalities affected** by the high-speed rail project.

The **Quebec election campaign** also provided an opportunity to emphasize our opposition to the high-speed rail project to candidates from the major political parties.

Mobilization and Consultation





A poster campaign organized by the UPA in collaboration with the affected regional federations has been launched in Quebec. **More than 900 posters were distributed to the five affected local unions and put up throughout our region.**

Local unions also created their own designs and had several dozen posters printed to display throughout our regions.

In April, the farmers elected to the board of directors of the UPA Outaouais-Laurentides Federation—representing all local unions—announced **a $10,000 grant to the mental health support organization Écoute Agricole.** As Alto began its field studies, farmers located along the high-speed rail project corridor expressed their psychological distress. **The media announcement of this funding allowed us to reiterate our Federation's opposition** to the high-speed rail project in various national and regional media outlets.

The Federation has also worked continuously to **seize every opportunity for media coverage** and to reiterate our opposition to the high-speed rail project.





The UPA Outaouais-Laurentides Federation maintained constant communication with producers located along the proposed route by sending **monthly newsletters and establishing a working committee.** The Federation also recommended that producers refuse Alto's requests for access to their land. We provided a template letter so they could clearly refuse the access request.

Finally, the real threat posed by the high-speed rail project to the vitality of agriculture in our regions has fostered **collaboration among the various local unions affected**. Their mobilization and coordination have been truly impressive, particularly in their support for organizing the citizen protest in Ottawa.



Agri-environment

The agri-environment department of the UPA Outaouais-Laurentides is made up of **environmental, biological, and agricultural specialists**. These professionals develop partnerships between farmers, RCMs, municipalities, and regions to carry out **agri-environmental projects on farms**. Farmers play an essential role in implementing solutions to environmental challenges, in addition to their role as land managers. Thanks to the various initiatives underway in our regions, new nature-based solutions can be implemented on local farms.

Outcome of the Project on Endangered Species (2023–2026)

The Habitat Conservation Project for Endangered Species in Agricultural Areas across our four regions has been instrumental in rolling out ALUS initiatives and collaborating with more than 30 partners, and has demonstrated that the **Federation is a key player in the protection of endangered species.** Funding obtained from Environment and Climate Change Canada made it possible to **identify 36 species at risk across the region**, and the tools developed enable tailored awareness-raising efforts for each property. The projects therefore meet both producers' priorities and regional environmental objectives.





Outaouais Agri-Environmental Listening and Action Project

Nearly 80 farms have benefited from the agri-environmental advisory service, thanks to funding from the Outaouais Bio-Food Sector Agreement. This project was launched to **encourage producers to participate in available programs and to strengthen regional partnerships.** In particular, this has enabled a project on cover crops, a project on overseeding grasslands or pastures, and three projects focused on biodiversity.

ALUS Programs

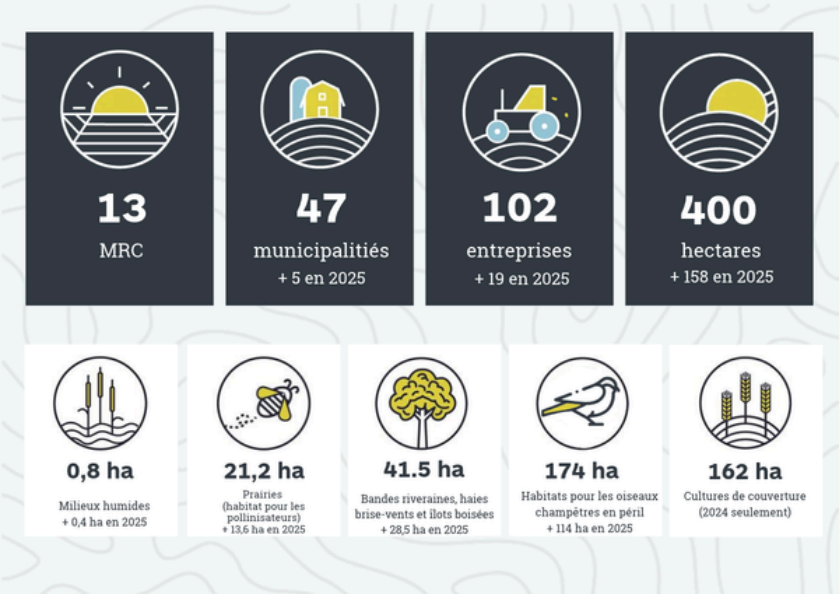
In 2025, **102 producers signed an ALUS contract,** officially recognizing their role as providers of ecosystem services. Together, these agreements supported the establishment, management, or maintenance of nearly **237 hectares of natural habitats and 162 hectares of cover crops.** A total of **$55,350 was paid to ALUS-participating farmers** for ecosystem services provided in 2025.

The ALUS program **draws on the expertise of several regional partners** to maximize results and the financial support offered to farmers. The projects carried out **respond to local and regional priorities while strengthening the resilience of farms.**



Cumulative Summary of Achievements for 2021–2026

The ALUS-Outaouais and ALUS-Laurentians programs **continue to expand their positive impact** on the environment and biodiversity in agricultural areas.





5 Years of ALUS-Outaouais

During its first five years, the program supported **69 farmers in creating 200 hectares of natural areas within agricultural landscapes.** To mark this important milestone, ALUS-Outaouais recognized **five participating farms** whose achievements illustrate the many benefits of conservation in agricultural settings. Each award highlighted an ecosystem service provided by the farm that contributes to the vitality of the Outaouais region.

Collaboration with the student community

A series of farm visits allowed 15 agroforestry students from ISFORT (UQO) to explore agroforestry **projects at various stages of development** at the Chapeau Melon and Brylee farms, as well as the challenges and benefits associated with their management.



Finding volunteers to carry out agri-environmental projects on farms is always a challenge. Collaborating with students has therefore been an approach taken over the past year. This was the case for a planting **activity carried out at Pure Conscience Farm** in the Pontiac region, in collaboration with students in the Forest Environment and Wildlife Technology program at La Cité College in Ottawa.



A series of projects

Biodiversity in Agricultural Settings

Three projects funded by the Biodiversity and Wildlife Foundation are currently underway. On seven farms, 96 bird species—including seven at risk—have been observed. Two projects also aim to enhance the Gatineau–Outaouais and Plaisance–Tremblant ecological corridors through windbreaks and riparian strips.

Collective Action for Water

Funded by the Canadian Water Agency for 2025–2028, this project aims to improve water quality in the Laurentians by restoring riparian zones and protecting aquatic ecosystems. Farmers, families, and volunteers are contributing to these efforts, particularly through the ALUS program.

Riparian strips in Gatineau

A five-year agreement with the City of Gatineau calls for the establishment of riparian buffer strips to protect agricultural waterways. Two projects were completed in 2025. In 2026, meetings were held regarding the Smith Creek watershed to identify necessary improvements, and a maintenance request was submitted to the City.

The activities of the Agroenvironment Department at UPA Outaouais-Laurentides are funded primarily through grants and contributions from various financial partners.

Thank you to our 2025–2026 partners

Éco-corridors Laurentiens, Profiteausol, Groupe Pleine Terre, Nature-Action Québec (NAQ), Fédération Canadienne de la faune (FCF), Institut des Sciences de la Forêt Tempérée (ISFORT-UQO), Développement ornithique Argenteuil (DOA), Coopérative Terra- Bois, Conservation de la nature Canada (CNC), Canards Illimités Canada (CIC), Club ornithologique de l'Outaouais (COO), RPNS, COBALI, ABRINORD, CREDDO, Collège La Cité.

Thank you to our 2025–2026 funders

Environnement Changement Climatique Canada, Ressources Naturelles Canada, Entente sectorielle bioalimentaire de l'Outaouais, Banque TD, Fondation de la biodiversité et de la faune du Québec, Ville de Gatineau, MRC Antoine-Labelle, MRC Argenteuil, MRC Papineau, MRC Pontiac, Municipalité de La Pêche, Député de Papineau (Mathieu Lacombe).



Agricultural Employment Center

A year full of training sessions and workshops

The CEA Outaouais-Laurentides has provided numerous opportunities for farmers in our regions to receive training and acquire the tools they need. Among the services provided and **key events of the past year were**:

November 2025: Deployment of a three-person team to support an employer in its recruitment efforts in Peru.

January and March 2026: Five co-development workshops on best practices in human resources management with agricultural producers.

January and March 2026: The Outaouais Human Resources Leaders Cohort, aimed at strengthening agricultural producers' skills to foster a sustainable workforce and promote the agricultural profession in the Outaouais region.

February 2026: More than 40 agricultural producers attended the annual Agricarrières conference in Saint-Eustache.

March 2026: Conference on foreign labor for TET employers in Blainville.





4000
Number of foreign workers in demand in our regions

600
Workforce impact studies prepared to facilitate the hiring of TETs

50
Local job placements for seasonal and permanent positions

45
Visits to members of the mutual prevention

“*Grande Virée 2026*”: A Successful 4th Edition

For the fourth consecutive year, the CEA helped organize a “Grande Virée” on August 13 and 14, in collaboration with the Deux-Montagnes RCM. The event aims to **introduce agricultural job opportunities to retirees interested in seasonal work.** Employers from six businesses—primarily orchards—shared the history of their farms and their hiring needs with about 50 job seekers.





Recognition for FermEmploi Participants

Participating agricultural businesses and candidates in the **FermEmploi program who had completed the 24-week training** program were invited to attend a recognition evening. The event was held on November 6, 2025, in Grenville and brought together about 50 people. It was also an opportunity to bring together a **panel of three agricultural producers who shared best practices in marketing**. The participants in attendance received letters of recognition from their employers during the evening.

Over the past year, **42 agricultural producers** have hired and trained 74 participants through FermEmploi.

Recognizing the Contribution of Temporary Foreign Workers



The CEA launched **a digital campaign featuring five short videos** for social media and an **open letter published in the daily newspaper La Presse** to highlight the contributions of temporary foreign workers. The project, which received financial support from Services Québec, Agricarrières, and the Confederation, showcased agricultural producers and temporary foreign workers from our regions.



More than **300 temporary foreign workers** were also honored at a **recognition event held in their honor in September 2025** in Saint-Benoît de Mirabel. The event, which included a Mass followed by a dinner, was intended to thank them for their work and recognize **the invaluable contribution these workers make to our agricultural businesses** and communities.



SCF Conseils Outaouais-Laurentides

The **Accounting and Tax Services Department** of the UPA Outaouais-Laurentides (SCF Conseils Outaouais-Laurentides Inc.) is part of the **largest network of professional services specializing in agriculture in Quebec**. The network's cooperative model enables a greater number of farmers to access a full range of specialized expertise. **SCF Conseils employs Certified Public Accountants (CPAs)** and tax specialists who provide services tailored to the needs of agricultural businesses in the Montreal, Laval, Outaouais, and Laurentians regions.



SCF Conseils' mission is to offer a comprehensive range of affordable professional services to make a significant **contribution to the prosperity and growth of Quebec's agricultural sector,** all in line with the values of the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA).

Expertise	Services
Accounting	• Tax Returns for Farmers and Businesses (Tax Reports) • Preparation of Financial Statements
Transactional Tax Services	• Business Transfer • Change in Legal Structure • Business Acquisition and Sale • Succession
Payroll and Bookkeeping Services	• Bookkeeping • Tax Reporting • Payroll Processing • T4 and Statement 1 Filing
Agri Programs	• Complete and submit information to Financière Agricole du Québec

900
Tax Returns for Producers

110
Tax Returns for Businesses

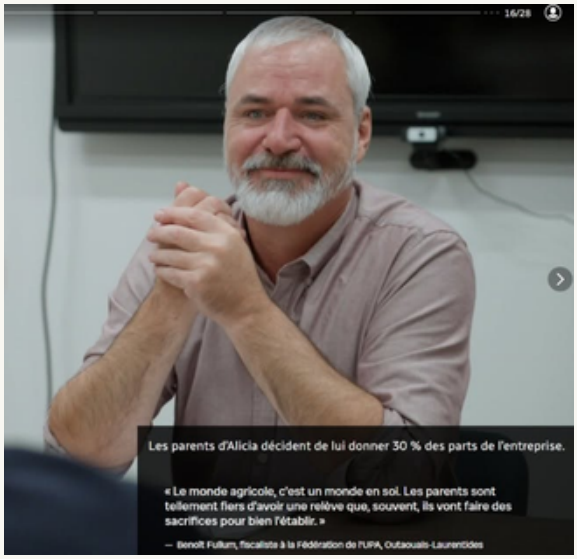
170
Financial Statements Prepared

The SCF in Action

Over the past year, the SCF Outaouais-Laurentides team has been involved in several activities aimed at showcasing its expertise, acquiring new skills through training, and supporting the agricultural community. SCF Conseils participated in a **Réseau Agriconseils webinar** on business transfers. Director Benoit Fullum also appeared on **Radio-Canada's program La Semaine Verte**, where he worked with parents looking to transfer their business to their daughter. The team also gave a **presentation on legal structures** at an event organized by MAPAQ in Wakefield.



The SCF Conseils team also **participates in continuing education to keep their expertise up to date**. Thanks to the SCF Conseils network, team members participated in two days of training in Quebec City and met with professionals from across the province. Finally, the SCF Conseils team also met with **aspiring professionals in the fall and winter to inform them about job opportunities in accounting and taxation within the agricultural sector.**



Modernization of Practices

SCF Conseils Outaouais-Laurentides is modernizing its practices through the ethical and secure use of artificial intelligence. In addition, the team is participating in **efforts to standardize and share best practices** at the provincial level within the SCF Conseils network. Since last year, the team has been using the secure CCH iFirm portal, which ensures **greater confidentiality and more efficient information management.**

Finally, the SCF Conseils team has gained **maturity thanks to the fact that its professionals have been working there for several years**. They can therefore devote time to **training new staff** internally and to strengthening their collective expertise.

Services Provided by Your Federation

Union & Territorial Affairs

- Land Use Planning
- Communications and Public Affairs
- Regional Development
- Agri-Environment
- Union Activities
- Protection of farmland and agricultural activities
- Recruitment of the next generation of farmers
- Promotion of the profession

Agricultural Employment Center

- Worker Skills Development
- Human Resources Management (HRM)
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Skills Development
- Training
- Local and Foreign Workforce
- Staffing

Accounting and Tax Services

- Tax Planning and Business Restructuring
- Planning for the Purchase, Sale, and Transfer of Businesses
- Preparation of Tax Returns
- Preparation of Financial Statements
- Preparation and submission of financial data for Agri programs
- Bookkeeping
- Payroll services for employers

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Fiscalité
États financiers
Impôts
Programmes AGRI
Tenue de livres
Gestion de la paie

L'Union des producteurs agricoles
Outaouais-Laurentides



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