



# EVB-Green Champlain at Champlain College- Lennoxville

Midyear report, Fall 2012

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## Introduction

For more information on the changes that have occurred to the building, site and maintenance practices, Mr. Yves Gendron is better placed to inform you.

This document will report on the matters that I have undertaken this term as I transitioned into this new position. Elected Faculty Representative to the Director's Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development (recently renamed Green Champlain and with an adopted logo), it is quite the misnomer as the true nature of the tasks at hand are: to form and chair Green Champlain; to organise, maintain, and report on the EVB status on campus; and promote the EVB values through action on campus. Champlain College - Lennoxville (Champlain-Lennoxville henceforth) opted for the EVB status a couple of years back, as it best parallels the values and direction of Champlain Regional College (as expounded in its Mission, Values and Vision Statement.)<sup>1</sup>

As an EVB-recognized campus (Établissements Verts Brundtland), Champlain-Lennoxville adopted the paradigm of having "*an environmentally friendly, peaceful, united, and democratic world.*"<sup>2</sup>

## Goals for 2012-13

As I took on this position, two key issues were made clear to me by Daniel Duyck, the incumbent representative. First, student involvement was very low, definitely non-committal and non-renewable, and second, the visibility of Green Champlain and EVB status was not very evident within the local college community. We need a presence on campus and buy-in by our community members, namely Champlain students and employees.

It was clear that two major tasks had to be set up for the coming year: (1) a Lennoxville college community awareness campaign and (2) the involvement of community members

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.crc-sher.qc.ca/home/mission.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.evb.csq.qc.net/documents/english-documents/?eID=dam\\_frontend\\_push&docID=54761](http://www.evb.csq.qc.net/documents/english-documents/?eID=dam_frontend_push&docID=54761) provides a descriptive brochure

to the activities. Before undertaking and proposing and receiving ideas from a committee, it was important to assess the resources that EVB-Green Champlain possessed.

## Resources Assessed and Recent Developments

### Financing

Beyond the budget allocated for this committee, I sought out to reclaim the remaining prize money that Green Champlain (the now-defunct project headed by one faculty member and one student a few years back). It was by late November 2012 that the account was located. These monies will offer the possibility of financing the awareness campaign and activities on campus in the Winter 2013 semester.

### Partnerships

As EVB representative, I also contacted PACTE2D (Partenariat, apprentissage, collaboration et transfert en éducation au développement durable) located at the Université de Sherbrooke, and met with their representative Ms. Mélanie Drouin, so as to assess where Champlain-Lennoxville stands on this committee, what services the teaching community at Champlain-Lennoxville can benefit from, as well as to gather information on other resources that may be of importance at a later date. Most important, contact with the representatives was well established and I, with the approval of the Academic Dean and Campus Director, submitted a revised text for our page on their web site.<sup>3</sup>

As Green Champlain pursues its mandate, and now with the added pedagogical role promoted by the recently adopted Policy on Sustainable Development (May 2012), our partnership with PACTE2D with the help of their two pedagogical counselors in sustainable development can be one of many resources beneficial to implementing sustainable development ideas and actions within our program curricula.

### Approaching the Faculty

A survey<sup>4</sup> was setup online and circulated to faculty for 2 weeks in November 2012 so as to assess some of the topics covered by teachers in their courses that relate to the four (4) values of the EVB. This questionnaire asked some key questions, but it also functioned as an introduction to the EVB status of the Champlain-Lennoxville campus for many members of the faculty. The message sent was that : *“EVB is more than being green, it is about education for a sustainable future*

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<sup>3</sup> It can be read at <http://www.pacte2d.ca/le-partenariat/membres/champlain/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SLRSBW8> to access survey. Please do NOT submit answers.

*where ECOLOGY, PEACE, SOLIDARITY, and DEMOCRACY are promoted.”<sup>5</sup>*

The preamble introduced the EVB mandate to faculty, and the subsequent questions asked them to identify topics and issues that they address in their courses. Thirty-nine (39) teachers answered the survey (a third of the faculty) and identified the disciplines or departments in which they teach. The survey covered 9 of the 10 programs and 3 out of the 4 General Education departments at the College, thereby offering a fuller range of areas of study where one to four of the key EVB values are being addressed. The results are promising, and clearly demonstrate that many teachers address these values in and out of class. This survey, possibly with added questions, will be circulated to faculty again in the winter term of 2013, and a detailed summary of the results will appear in the EVB year-end report.

### **Recycling on Campus**

In our classrooms, and in some hallways, recycling bins have been set up for the last few years. I met with the cleaning staff to have a better idea of how the materials gathered in these bins was being processed. Each location has two bins, one for paper and the other for glass, plastic and metal. On average each bin gets emptied once a week. Moreover, no process of sorting takes place, other than at the moment that an individual drops off their rubbish into the appropriate recycle bin. The materials are collected and then picked up by two companies who will recycle them, one for paper and the other for plastic, glass and metal.

Unfortunately, occasionally bin contents are soiled by liquids and therefore all efforts are lost and the contents have to be trashed. It is evident that community members are unclear about what can be accepted into these bins, and that the community would benefit from better identification and information on the bins. This process will be further investigated and solutions will be proposed to the committee shortly.

### **Human Resources**

As part of this mandate, I identified some key Champlain community members to be invited to the committee meetings. It is important to have potential committee members identified as strong contributors who have a desire to get involved, who have previous experience with student involvement, and/or who can be quite resourceful and open to sharing their time and expertise. Some members have been formally identified by their respective bodies (such as management, staff, professionals, and myself), to which we add interested faculty members and student participants. The CSA (Champlain Student Association) will be invited to the upcoming meeting so as to request their help in identifying keen student volunteer leaders.

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<sup>5</sup> Introduction, *EVB College activities survey Fall 2012*, circulated online through SurveyMonkey.

## **EVb identity**

An email address for the EVb was recently setup: [evb@crc-lennox.qc.ca](mailto:evb@crc-lennox.qc.ca) The reasoning behind this was to collect all relevant emails into a transferable mailbox for future representatives. This would offer a list of contacts, a history of correspondence and a collection of relevant data.

Social networking and an online presence will be the next step in making the local and greater communities aware of the presence of Green Champlain and the EVb at Champlain-Lennoxville.

## **Next committee meeting**

The first meeting for this term will be called shortly, as now Green Champlain has identified its participants, its funding, and part of its identity.

Furthermore, last August and September, I had proposed activities for Green Champlain to the Campus Director, followed by discussions with the Dean of Student Services, Ms. Nancy Beattie, and the assistance of the Building manager, Mr. Yves Gendron. These were well received, and will be prepared for presentation to the committee within the next week or so.

For instance, one proposed activities will be a film series in an open lobby location so that passersby can stop and take a seat, listen and learn something new, even if they are there only momentarily. Films will be purchased and benefit from the PPR (Public Performance Rights) of the ACF and NFB licenses that the College already purchased. The DVDs will be collected and made available to the community members so that they may use them as research and pedagogical material for themselves and their students, with the appropriate PPR of course.

I will be seeking the input of the committee members to come up with and help organize activities that can better promote the EVb values for our sustained community. Student generated activities will be sought, as it is important to find a way of securing a passing on of interest, activities, and responsibility from one cohort to the next.

Green Champlain - EVb can look forward to starting its awareness and presence campaigns, and in the process seek interest and involvement within the local College community. ■