



CANTON DE HATLEY
UN ENDROIT À DÉCOUVRIR

A rural community proud of its history, its land, and its people.

Municipality of Canton de Hatley

CULTURAL POLICY



Adopted at a public meeting on May 5, 2026 / Resolution: 26-05-05.18

CULTURAL POLICY



BACKGROUND

Canton de Hatley's cultural policy is rooted in a citizen-centred vision aligned with the objectives of Québec's Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and the MRC Memphrémagog, which encourage municipalities to recognize their cultural distinctiveness and implement structuring initiatives that foster access to, participation in, and the visibility of culture.

Accordingly, through the work of its cultural committee, Canton de Hatley has identified several essential elements to consider:

- Its vast territory is part of a long history rooted in the presence of the W8banaki (Abenaki) Nation, whose heritage remains alive, notably through place names (Lake Massawippi, the Coaticook River, etc.) and its relationship with the land.
- Its pride in being a municipality with bilingual status! This cultural diversity strongly influences its vision and helps shape an inclusive and dynamic identity.
- Located in an exceptional rural setting, Canton de Hatley stands out for the richness of its landscapes, the quality of its built and natural heritage, and the vitality of its community. Its territory, characterized by farmland, forests, historic farms, and remarkable views of Lake Massawippi, forms a strong foundation for its identity.

This policy therefore aims to structure and support the cultural development of Canton de Hatley by highlighting its distinctive strengths and mobilizing its community around a shared vision.





DEFINITION

“Culture is the memory of the people, the collective consciousness of historical continuity, the way of thinking and living.” (Milan Kundera)

“Culture, in its broadest sense, may be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group. It encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, fundamental human rights, value systems, traditions and beliefs.” (Unesco, 1982)

The culture of Canton de Hatley is the living expression of its territory, its history, and its community. It is reflected in our landscapes, our heritage, our traditions and ways of life, as well as in the creativity of our artists, artisans, and residents. It takes shape through our various activities and gatherings, and in the way we inhabit and share our surroundings.

Rooted in our heritage and shaped by the meeting of Francophone and Anglophone cultures, culture helps strengthen social cohesion, a sense of belonging, and collective pride. It evolves over time, connecting the past, present, and future.

VISION

Canton de Hatley envisions a vibrant rural community where culture is valued, shared, and accessible to all. Through cultural initiatives, support for local artists, and community engagement, the Canton seeks to strengthen local identity by celebrating its heritage, landscapes, and people, thereby fostering genuine pride and a strong sense of belonging to the municipality while enhancing its presence throughout the MRC Memphrémagog.



MISSION

Through the establishment of its cultural policy, Canton de Hatley's mission is to create the conditions needed to support and encourage cultural and social development, foster strong community roots, and contribute to the municipality's cultural vitality and dynamism.

DIRECTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Support:

Canton de Hatley is committed to supporting its residents in their cultural initiatives.

- a) Share relevant information to support the development of cultural projects and events.
- b) Make certain resources and infrastructure available (financial assistance, grants, rooms and venues, physical and natural spaces, technical support, etc.).

2. Promote:

Canton de Hatley is committed to showcasing its cultural assets.

- a) Inventory the cultural resources within its territory.
- b) Inform the public about its cultural resources.
- c) Protect and promote its heritage and infrastructure.

3. Energize:

Canton de Hatley is committed to fostering cultural vitality throughout its territory.

- a) Develop various partnerships (MRC, other municipalities, organizations, businesses, institutions, etc.).
- b) Create rich and varied cultural programming throughout the year.
- c) Encourage public participation in the various cultural activities and events.
- d) Position culture as a distinctive feature of the Canton.

References:

- Guide d'élaboration d'une politique culturelle municipale
- Politique culturelle de la MRC Memphrémagog
- Politique culturelle du Québec