

## **Introduction**

Keeping in mind the hobby of amateur radio is both technical and social, what is a five-year plan? Is it a set of marching orders like a to-do list? And why 5 years? Why not 2 years or 20 years?

Good questions! A five-year plan is a means to an end. The "five" in the five-year plan could be replaced by any convenient number. A five-year plan should be done regularly. When there is a change in administration of the group, do a 5-year plan because a five-year plan is based on the input from all the members of a group. Sometimes the information is collected as a group. In this five-year plan, the information was collected individually in what has been referred to as a *semi-directed interview*.

In a semi-directed interview, a *starting statement* is issued. The interviewer (me) transcribes all the information provided by the interviewee. Sometimes, this information gets off track from the main premise. This is when the process becomes directed. Other times, there may be a need to proceed a little deeper into the statement. Again, the directed part steps in.

After the ideas have been written down, they are read back so the interviewee can clarify or correct. Also, the interviewer reminds the interviewee they can always communicate additional ideas as they come up.

The starting statement for this five-year plan is:

"Given the club has unlimited resources of money, time and energy, where is the club in 5 years?"

Alternatively,

"What should the club be doing that it isn't? What should the club stop doing that it is currently doing?"

Alternatively,

"What is your vision of CRADI in 5 years?"

Ideas about how to raise money or how to implement visions are not part of the five-year plan. Remember, the club in this scenario has an abundance of all the resources it needs to accomplish anything. Otherwise, there are no right or wrong responses.

This summary of the five-year plan serves to suggest the common desires and visions of the group. With common visions supported by the majority in hand, we can then move to a strategic plan. That is, "how do we get to there from here?" On the other hand, there are some gems of ideas expressed by only a few people. These ideas must not be discounted. Thus, everything recorded in these interviews appears in this summary.

### **The Comments from the Membership**

17 people were interviewed from March 10, 2018, to April 21, 2018 . Here is what they said.

1. Have more meetings where people can gather.
2. Have more members.
3. Have activities where there is a guest speaker.
4. Have a gathering place at a convenient location to everyone with a hall for larger meetings.
5. Develop associations with such groups as the SIUCQ.
6. Develop the skills to do emergency communications.
7. Have more collaboration with other clubs.
8. Look for shared activities with other clubs like picnics.
9. We could alternate months for the bricolage projects.
10. Regarding equipment, we know what we have, where it is and its general condition.
11. The club is recognized for starting something new in the Province of Quebec. Like a new technology, a new service or a new activity.
12. People talk about us because we are known for something.
13. We have pioneered something.
14. We have an active social component in our club.
15. We know we can go somewhere and spend some time with people.
16. We bring people into the club who like technical stuff.
17. Organize days of bricolage.
18. We have an organizational structure larger than the CA in place.
19. The number of members is not more than 60.
20. We have sub-structures that are accepting of each group and not competitive.

21. The club has a better defined presence in the times of emergencies.
22. More active members who participate.
23. In five years, we have 40 members.
24. We are better integrated with the SIUCQ.
25. There are lots of radio amateurs in Drummondville who are not in the club. We seek to include them in CRADI.
26. Our club is integrated with groups who do more in the way of electronics and computers.
27. More social activities like breakfasts.
28. CRADI could serve as an important relay of information between Montreal and Quebec.
29. A digital mode is installed in the repeater.
30. We install a second repeater - digital.
31. DMR is the future but we must preserve the analog mode as well in case we lose the internet.
32. Having DMR will lead to more members in CRADI.
33. In five years, we could have 70 members (10 new members a year).
34. Have more visibility.
35. Find other groups we can connect with.
36. Keep the bricolage activity going.
37. Find a place where we can do the bricolage.
38. Have a flea market on the website.
39. Make more use of the repeater.
40. Have an open house where we can get acquainted with potential members.
41. Approach the town for a space.

42. Have a cabane a sucre event.
43. Have a recherche au tresor activity.
44. Wake up the radio amateurs in the town who are not members of the club.
45. Share what we know.
46. In 5 years, we have 45 members.
47. Do other fundraisers like car washes.
48. Have a flea market that is not only for amateur radio.
49. Participate in festivals like the fetes du quartier to have a presence in the community.
50. Have a spaghetti supper 2-3 times a year.
51. Get the women involved in the activities.
52. Maintain a well-functioning repeater.
53. Have social events like eplichette du ble d'inde,
54. Have social events like cabane a sucre.
55. Return to the days of autonomous field days.
56. In 5 years, have 50 members.
57. Have a club space that is not expensive and is antenna-friendly.
58. Be ready for emergency communications.
59. Be one of the first clubs with a system that can link every digital mode (fusion, Dstar and DMR).
60. Have at least twice as many members; i.e., 50.
61. Have another repeater installed in another location.
62. Let's find all of our stuff and use it. If we don't plan to or can't use it, let's sell this stuff.
63. Include radio activities with the scouts during their camps.

64. Have more activities with more people involved.
65. In five years, have 30 members.
66. Have more activities.
67. Have a theme for the breakfasts at Stratos.
68. Have short term projects.
69. Have morse code classes.
70. Collaborate with other groups so radio amateurs can be better known.
71. Have a Christmas brunch.
72. Have a chasse au tresor.
73. Have guest presenters.
74. Have a cabane a sucre activity at the Village d'Antan or at Wickham.
75. Plan a "Voyage d'une journee" with the Club Voyages.
76. Have a night social event at a hockey match where it's more fun at the beginning of the season.
77. Have a phone patch for the repeater.
78. Leave Drummondville and set up a satellite club elsewhere.
79. In 5 years, we have 70 members.
80. Improve the 2m communications between Drummondville and Victoriaville.
81. Find ways to connect with other clubs.
82. Set up an HF station accessible to all members.
83. Buy some land and setup a clubhouse.
84. Have an Elmer who can explain on-the-air voice procedures.
85. Have a club house.
86. In five years, have between 100 and 200 members.

87. Do a fox hunt.
88. Have an expedition like a SOTA.
89. Include solar panels in our stations.
90. Do some emergency preparedness.
91. Get instruction on how to setup mobile operations.
92. Have more members and more repeaters.
93. Get more women on the air.
94. Have an active social component.
95. Have the events well-organized.
96. Do 2-3 events per year.
97. Have our own place as a club where people can come and operate a station all set up.
98. Do 2-3 times per year a SOTA.
99. We become a known entity as radio amateurs and are recognized for our importance.
100. We have 50 people in the club.
101. Have remote antennas which are accessible by the internet.
102. Continue to be visible.
103. Continue to provide classes.
104. We have our own space as a club.
105. In 5 years, we have 50 members.
106. We continue to develop partnerships with the town such as Cogeco, CCRSJB and Scouts Drummondville.
107. We exchange with others clubs and help each other.
108. Have a younger membership.

109. Announce the club info in the schools
110. Have 5 new members per year (i.e., we have 70 members in 5 years).
111. Have a ham radio contact in the schools.
112. Have a space to meet with test gear and with working radio stations.
113. Start an open source Linux group
114. Start an Arduino, raspberry PI programming group.
115. Open a one-stop fabrication house like they have at "la fabrique" in Sherbrooke.
116. Have an open house at least once a year.
117. Ask the town for a place to open a one-stop fab house.
118. Have a space.
119. Have full-time operation on the repeater. Whenever you open your radio, there's an encouraging presence on VE2CRD.
120. In 5 years we have 75 members.

## **Some Observations**

Fascinating stuff these interview comments. There are several recurring themes.

### *Technical Activities*

12% of the responses related to the technical nature of our hobby. Such items as having remote antennas we can access by the Internet, linking with additional repeaters, exploring additional technologies for communications, operating autonomously during Field Day, participating in Summit On the Air (SOTA) and having guest presentations on technical topics as well as Morse code classes.

### *Club Space*

Having a club space with an installed radio station or having a place of our own where we can meet is important to 11 out of 17 people. This is a place where we can invite guest speakers, have regular meetings and do bricolage activities.

### *Social Activities*

Having more well-organized social activities is a strong suggestion from the membership. These activities include doing a fox hunt, having a social night at a Voltigeur hockey game early in the season, organizing a voyage d'une journee avec Club Voyages, organizing a cabane a sucre activity au Village d'Antan or at Wickham, conducting a chasse au tresor, holding a Christmas brunch and a spaghetti supper, participating in festivals and fetes du quartier, having a theme for the breakfasts at Stratos and organizing an epichette de ble d'inde.

More than 30% of all the comments were related to the social component.

### *Emergency Preparedness*

Comments related to learning protocol, getting training and practicing for emergency preparedness. This is a significant 15% of the comments.

### *Number of Members*

When asked how many members we could/should have in 5 years, the typical answer is that we've doubled the membership.

Please read through all the comments. Some you will recognize as your own. Other comments you will recognize as being similar to yours. Perhaps the best comments are the ones which get us thinking. Because, "if we can think it, we can do it."

The CA will study these comments, select some goals and provide strategies for how we can achieve these goals. All the membership is invited to suggest additional comments and to help shape the CRADI strategic plan. Please communicate with members of your CA: VA2AWL Charles, VE2BZO Andre, VE2OWL Stephane, VE2SBR Benoit and VA2GLU Gerald

73 de VA2GLU  
Gerald



