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Rep. Tom Stevens,

I have known Kim Chase for a number of years, and in that time Kim has continually provided the Winooski Historical Society with invaluable consultation, in addition to collaboration on important projects to promote awareness of the Franco-American presence in our region. Her perspective from years as an educator and her work with the Vermont Folklore Center has brought unique insights to our endeavors.

One major project Kim was able to realize for the Society is a printed translation of *Histoire de la Congregation Canadienne de Winooski au Vermont*. The text originally published in 1906 documents the establishment of the French-speaking immigrant community that flourished at Winooski Falls in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> c. This primary source material which reveals so much about the attitudes and struggles of the era was previously only accessible to scholars with a strong command of the archaic expressions used. Kim's knowledge of the writing's historical context and subtle nuances of the language unlocked this resource for future generations to draw upon.

On another occasion, when approached by the Vermont French Canadian Genealogical Society, Kim and I presented a talk we prepared on Winooski's French Canadian heritage for the Society's annual meeting. The presentation prompted a renewal of interest in Winooski's position as a central hub for Franco-American migration throughout New England.

On a more personal level, as an individual of Franco-American ancestry myself, I am continually moved by the profound sensitivity that Kim employs when approaching the study of our collective cultural heritage. Long before ever meeting Kim, I felt a deep connection with her upon reading the essay "French Winooski, le p'tit Canada" which she authored that was published in *The Mills at Winooski Falls* by Onion River Press. Although our family stories are different in many ways, Kim is able to bring to light the common values we share.

I am confident that Kim can bring the same thoughtful approach to the discussions which will work to acknowledge the scars left by the Vermont Eugenics Survey's efforts. I am pleased to hear that she will be engaged in meaningful dialogue on this painful topic, and the lasting effects of the underlying ideologies which prompted the Survey.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Perron  
Winooski Historical Society, President