

**For immediate release**

## **QCGN Members Strongly Endorse Battle Against Laws and Policies Eroding the Rights of English-speaking Quebecers**

**Montreal, October 14, 2022** – The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) emerged from its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting Thursday evening equipped with a strengthened advocacy mandate, as members pledged to continue battling provincial and federal legislation that erodes the rights of English-speaking Quebecers.

Members resolved unanimously to demand the Government of Canada withdraw Bill C-13, which dramatically alters the Official Languages Act in ways that would profoundly damage the vitality of English-speaking Quebec. Should the federal government prove unable or unwilling to quash the proposed legislation, QCGN members demanded it be significantly overhauled to ensure that language rights in federally regulated businesses apply to both English-speakers and French-speakers. This would ensure equity between French and English and safeguard linguistic duality as a national value. (Read the [resolution](#).)

Members also instructed the Board of Directors to bring forward a resolution demanding the Government of Quebec to immediately suspend application of Bill 96 and refer it to the Quebec Court of Appeal so that its legality and constitutionality can be duly examined.

“Both of these egregious bills would have lasting negative impacts on our community, our province, and our country,” commented Eva Ludvig, who was confirmed as QCGN President after having served on an interim basis since the spring: “We must ensure that the modernization of Canada’s Official Languages Act fairly addresses the deep-rooted concerns of English-speaking Quebecers. We must also continue to expand our broad coalition to oppose the Quebec government’s reinforcement of the Charter of the French Language.”

QCGN member organizations strongly endorsed the ongoing renewal of the organization, under way for the past two years. With amended By-laws based on feedback during a wide consultation process, QCGN’s governance structure has been made more transparent, open, and democratic, Ludvig said.

“This has not just been institutional renewal, but also a process to ensure a renewed relationship with our members and our community,” Ludvig said. A new collaborative vision consists of working with a wider range of partners and stakeholders to achieve common community objectives, she added.

“With inclusion at the heart of our vision, we look ahead to providing voice to a broader range of individuals and groups within our evolving Community of Communities,” she said. “In the coming year, individual members will bring even more diversity to the QCGN – one that better reflects the community we serve.”

“Fortified with a clear sense of our collective concerns, our needs, and our aspirations, the QCGN is moving forward with a more compelling community voice,” Ludvig stated: “Working together with our members and partners, we can truly achieve together what we cannot do on our own.”

The Quebec Community Groups Network ([www.qcgn.ca](http://www.qcgn.ca)) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together English-language community organizations across Quebec. As a centre of evidence-based expertise and collective action it identifies, explores, and addresses strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of the English-speaking community of Quebec and encourages dialogue and collaboration among its member organizations, individuals, community groups, institutions, and leaders.

**For further information:**

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