



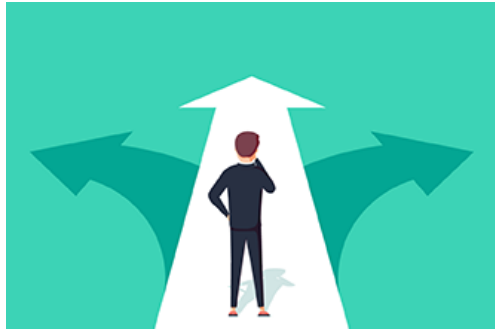
# Working Together to Strengthen the Voice of English-speaking Quebec

# Key Findings

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- The report is divided up into **three sections**:
  1. Community
    - The face of English-speaking Quebec is changing. It is no longer primarily white and Anglo-Saxon. This change must be reflected in the leadership of organizations that purport to speak on behalf of English-speaking Quebec.
  2. The QCGN
    - Our strength is in our reliance to provide evidenced-based public policy. This capacity should continue and be strengthened.
    - We must work to improve closing the gap between policy work and public understanding of English-speaking Quebec's challenges.
  3. The Future
    - The same challenges the English-speaking community has faced in the past will be there in the years ahead.
    - Changing landscapes, including impacts of COVID-19, will pose challenges for accessing services. Adapting to evolving needs and threats must be a critical priority.



# Methodology

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- The QCGN's Renewal Committee conducted 60 interviews during the summer of 2020
  - 40% of respondents were women
  - 25% of respondents lived off island
  - 11% of respondents were visible minorities, including Indigenous Peoples.
- Interviews were done primarily over Zoom, although a few took place over the phone.
- Most interviews were conducted by a QCGN staff member and a member of the Renewal Committee.



# 1. Our Community, today

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- The English-speaking community is multi-faceted and thus difficult to define.
  - Many refer to it as a *community of communities* with the English language being the common thread
- Work is needed to ensure that our community can speak with one voice, respondents largely say this is possible.
- Unity and strong, collaborative leadership are needed.
- Areas of concern include:
  - The future of English-language school boards, the control and management
  - Access to health care and social services, in English
  - Employment opportunities for young Quebecers, retention.

# The Younger Generation

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- Young Quebecers leaving the province taking their skills and education and experience with them.
- It was emphasized that our young people often have difficulty finding employment despite having strong French-language skills.
- The younger generation is more bilingual than older generations and may not necessarily identify with the English-speaking minority. Especially if they didn't attend English-language schools.
- Young Quebecers tend to be more concerned about global issues such as climate change, racism, personal respect.

**“Language is less of an issue for the younger generation. They don't make a difference between English or French. They think of themselves as Quebecers first.”**

# Vital yet Fragile

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- Progress has been made over the years, but it is not necessarily known or appreciated. Too often when the community is in the news, it is because of conflict.
- The vitality of the community largely depends on where you live in the province.
- In order to ensure the vitality of the English-speaking community, young people who could run for office and participate in community leadership need to be identified, recruited and supported.

**“Vitality means diverse, confident, recognized and respected”**

## 2. The QCGN

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- Consensus emerged that the QCGN has a critical role to play and at times may be the only organization with the leeway to speak out.
  - Advocacy should be a critical focus
  - A “how can we help you,” approach is needed
  - Be more inclusive, build future leaders
  - Identify the common goals and challenges of English-speaking Quebec and invest in outreach efforts.
- Time needs to be spent working alongside Francophones on common issues.

**“We need a real listening tour to understand the priorities and concerns of the regions. Drink a lot of coffee. Sit in a lot of kitchens.”**

# 3. The Future

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The future of our community relies on

Providing young people with opportunities to develop a strong sense of belonging to the province, and with assurances that they can have a fulfilling future here.

Ensuring that English-speaking new arrivals to the province are aware of their rights for services, attach to the community and support its priorities.

- Recognizing that diversity is experienced in many ways. The urban-rural divide, socio-economic stratification, race and ethnicity are challenges that bedevil leadership of a unified English-speaking community.
- Responding to the agenda of the current government of Quebec with a sense of urgency and determination - creating a climate of working together and a unified voice.

**“As a parent, I want to know that there is a future for my daughter in Quebec”**



# Thank you for participating!