

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM MUST BE “BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE”

TALQ warns that without broad consultation and consensus, CAQ’s constitution cannot be legitimate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTREAL, October 9, 2025 – Premier François Legault’s proposal for a Quebec Constitution has raised widespread skepticism across the political spectrum and concern within the English-speaking community of Quebec.

“This feels more like a political manoeuvre than a genuine effort to strengthen democracy,” says Eva Ludvig, TALQ President. “Quebecers are grappling with serious challenges in health care, education, housing, and the cost of living. Reopening constitutional debates risks dividing Quebecers and distracting from urgent priorities.”

At a time when Quebecers face urgent challenges in health care, education, housing, infrastructure, and the cost of living, reopening constitutional debates risks distracting from real priorities and deepening social polarization. Economic uncertainty and trade tensions with the United States are already straining the province.

Quebec, like all provinces, already has a functioning constitutional framework rooted in the *Constitution Act, 1867* and developed through laws, traditions, and conventions that define how provincial governments operate. Any new constitutional initiative must be shaped through an open, democratic process that includes all Quebecers.

“The constitution belongs to the people — not the government,” Ludvig states. “It protects our rights, freedoms, and the balance of power in a democracy. Changing it without meaningful public input risks eroding trust and weakening those safeguards.”

While we acknowledge Premier Legault’s recent comments about protecting English-speaking institutions, our calls to be included at the table remain unanswered. The government’s current approach risks sidelining meaningful public participation by advancing administrative or legislative changes that shift power without transparency or accountability. This turns constitutional reform into a political instrument rather than an expression of shared values and democratic consent — actions that erode public confidence in institutions and weaken the protection of fundamental rights.

Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General of TALQ said, “We are calling on Premier Legault to defer this initiative and instead begin broad consultations with civil society, First Nations, linguistic minorities, and all Quebecers. Martin-Laforge added, “TALQ remains committed to constructive constitutional reflection when the time is right — one that is open, democratic, and focused on strengthening both rights and unity across Quebec.”



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TALQ (www.talq.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together English-language community organizations and individuals across Quebec. Its mission is to identify, explore, and address strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of English-speaking Quebec and to encourage dialogue and collaboration.

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