

For immediate release

Bill 15 petition gathers 6,400 signatures in 16 days

Legislation is more about command and control than care and compassion

Montreal, December 4 – The Quebec Community Groups Network thanks the more than 6,400 Quebecers who signed a petition demanding the provincial government put the brakes on Bill 15 – a hefty and complex piece of legislation that will massively centralize our health and social services networks.

“We know the government wants to ram this bill through the National Assembly by the end of the week, so we had to move fast to make sure the Minister realized just how disappointed Quebecers are with this proposed legislation,” said QCGN President Eva Ludvig. “It is clear Quebecers are upset at having their voices silenced in the management of their local health-care institutions like hospitals.”

“We also want to thank Westmount MNA Jennifer Maccarone for sponsoring this petition on the National Assembly’s website,” Ludvig added. The petition is expected to be presented in the National Assembly on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

“We strenuously object to the imposition of closure to steamroll this bill through the Assembly,” Ludvig continued. “The government itself has proposed hundreds of amendments, which shows the bill was ill thought out and not ready for prime time. Health and social services are vitally important to all Quebecers and deserve more than cavalier treatment by a government focused more on command and control than care and compassion.”

At a recent [QCGN webinar on Bill 15](#), experts explained that the bill will do nothing to address the crises in our emergency rooms, delays in surgeries or the lack of family doctors. What it will do is centralize government control under a Crown corporation called Santé Québec, while abolishing the Boards of local institutions, and removing any management role from patients, families, volunteers, and communities – people the health-care system exists to serve.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.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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