



TALQ Monthly Newsletter - The Accent, Edition #5.2026

From TALQ <info+talq.ca@em.yapla.org>

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LOOKING AHEAD WITH PURPOSE

BY EVA LUDVIG

It has been an eventful spring and early summer for our community, and as TALQ's 30th anniversary celebrations come to a close, our work continues with renewed energy and purpose. As we look ahead, I am delighted to welcome our new Board members—Jordan Black, David Gillespie, Beny Masella, and Alaina Gross—who join our returning directors: Katherine Korakakis (Vice-President), Eleni Bakopanos

(Secretary), Grant Myers (Treasurer), Gerry Cutting, Rob Braide, Alix Adrien, Chelsea Craig, and Peter Starr. Our Board members are tireless in their commitment to our community, and I look forward to another year of thoughtful leadership, fresh ideas, constructive debate, and unwavering dedication as we continue to strengthen Quebec's English-speaking community together.

As I noted at our Annual General Meeting on June 11, three decades of advocacy have taught us that progress is rarely linear. While the challenges evolve, our purpose remains remarkably consistent: to ensure Quebec's English-speaking community is recognized and respected and has equitable access to the opportunities and services it needs to thrive within a proudly French Quebec.

Our work is rooted in advocacy, but it is equally about building relationships and creating opportunities for meaningful dialogue. That was evident during TALQ's Signature Series event on June 12, when we welcomed Canada's new Commissioner of Official Languages, Kelly Burke, for her first official visit to Quebec since taking office. Her willingness to listen, engage openly, and recognize the place of Quebec's English-speaking community within the province reinforced an important truth: tone matters. Respectful conversations create space for understanding, collaboration, and better public policy. Equally significant was the presence of Quebec's French Language Commissioner, Benoît Dubreuil. Having both commissioners in the room sent a powerful message that our community is an integral part of Quebec's future and that constructive dialogue across linguistic communities is not only possible, but essential.

That spirit of dialogue must now be matched by meaningful action. While the end of the National Assembly session brought a temporary reprieve as several controversial bills died on the order paper, we expect many to return. Recent proposals, including Bill 8, are a reminder that progress cannot be taken for granted. TALQ will continue to advocate firmly, constructively, and with practical solutions that strengthen both our community and Quebec as a whole.

I am confident we are well positioned for the work ahead. Our transition to TALQ has marked an important step forward. Over the past year, we have strengthened our role as a trusted voice in public policy, launched our first Strategic Plan, renewed our governance, and welcomed more than 100 new individual members from across Quebec. Together, these milestones reflect a growing, engaged community and a stronger organization—one ready to ensure that Quebec's English-speaking community remains an integral part of Quebec's future.

THE WORK BEHIND THE PROGRESS

BY SYLVIA MARTIN-LAFORGE

July 1 can be considered a fresh start – a moment fueled by high motivation and optimism. Certainly, a time for Canadians from coast to coast to coast to reflect on the country's greatness and its future!

I take that cue to consider both a personal and professional mid-year audit. I will not bore you with the personal resolutions I have kept or abandoned, but rather I want to unabashedly promote the work of TALQ. We have been true to our mission which is to provide leadership and representation through dialogue, public awareness and advocacy for English-speaking Quebecers and their diverse institutions, organizations, and communities. In that context and by many accounts, TALQ has been very successful in the last year in mobilizing English-speaking Quebecers to speak up against legislation and measures that are harmful to our community vitality. I invite you to read our [latest annual report](#) I would love to hear from you with any comments or questions.

This report highlights the hard work, creativity, and collaboration of TALQ staff. It is because of their commitment and dedication that we can make a difference. So, to celebrate the teamwork, we spent time

together just having fun.

It was an honour to be on the organizing committee for the Marlene Jennings Service Award, as the representative for TALQ and the [Notre Home Foundation](#). We at TALQ were delighted to be part of a celebration that honoured our former President and her living legacy; and to be able to facilitate the Foundation's role in sponsoring the event. What a ceremony! The celebration was all the organizers could have hoped for: a packed room full of people who admire Marlene, as well as a video from former Prime Minister Chrétien; an incredible program during which several members of this committee shared powerful testimonies; three deserving recipients who were properly honoured in Marlene's name.

One highlight I'd like to share is TALQ's Time Capsule, unveiled during our recent Signature Series event (more on that below). Filled with milestones from TALQ's recent history and contributions from our member organizations, it captures a moment in the life of our community—its achievements, challenges, and aspirations. Sealed until our 50th anniversary, it is a reminder that the work we do today is helping shape the legacy future generations will inherit.

The Accent will be on hiatus for July, but you can look forward to timely bulletins as issues pop up.

Please have a happy, relaxing and safe summer.



TALQ 2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Back Row: Grant Myers (Treasurer), Gerald Cutting, Peter Starr, Rob Braide, Joe Ortona, Jordan Black, Beny Masella

Front Row: David Gillespie, Alaina Gross, Eleni Bakopanos (Secretary), Eva Ludvig (President), Chelsea Craig

Missing: Katherine Korakakis (Vice-President), Alix Adrien



OUR 31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING; OUR FIRST AS TALQ

TALQ held its FIRST Annual General Meeting on Thursday June 11. Yes, this was the 31st meeting for our organization, but the very first under our new branding as TALQ. And while it was sweltering outdoors, the mood within the business meeting space was jovial and personable. With approximately 70 people in attendance, both in person and via video conferencing, we proceeded to attend to all the general business commitments required by an AGM.

As with all non-profit organizations, we value our board members – new and returning – and we are grateful to our members for joining us not only to ensure we have quorum but also to bring their questions and concerns to light during this annual review.

The AGM was followed by a small cocktail to allow those who'd made the trip the opportunity to mingle and catch up with each other. Also joining us to connect with members were our staff and special guest Commissioner Kelly Burke, accompanied by her Quebec Representative, Charles Taker. We thank everyone for attending, for being part of our own business meeting and for all that you contribute to the wider English-speaking community. It is because of your efforts that our community thrives.



A CONVERSATION ON COMMUNITY VITALITY - WELCOMING COMMISSIONER BURKE

The second event in TALQ's Signature Series, held the morning following our AGM, brought together nearly 100 participants from across Quebec for a timely discussion on the vitality and future of the province's English-speaking community.

Following opening remarks by TALQ President Eva Ludvig, Commissioner of Official Languages Kelly Burke delivered her first public address in Quebec since assuming office. Acknowledging the unique realities of Quebec's English-speaking community, Commissioner Burke affirmed that "[the English-Speaking community] are an integral part of Quebec society, and your concerns must be heard." She also stressed the importance of understanding how new legislation (Part VII of the Official Languages Act) affects communities on the ground and committed to raising awareness of emerging challenges with federal decision-makers throughout her mandate.

The keynote was followed by a panel discussion exploring two central questions: How healthy is Quebec's English-speaking community today? and What does its future look like? Thoughtful perspectives were shared by Katherine Korakakis (EPCA), Paulina Abarca-Cantin (Seniors Action Quebec), John Buck (CEDEC), Dave Meloche (QESBA), Jennifer Johnson (CHSSN), and Miranda Castravelli (ELAN).

While each speaker reflected a different sector, a common message emerged: Quebec's English-speaking community remains resilient, innovative, and deeply committed to the province's future, but its vitality cannot be taken for granted.

Katherine Korakakis noted that a series of recent legislative changes has left many English-speaking Quebecers feeling increasingly uncertain about their future. While the community remains resilient, she argued that "vitality is measured by confidence"—the confidence that families and young people can continue to build their lives in Quebec. This is particularly notable in education, where growing uncertainty resulting from recent legislation and policy changes is placing increasing pressure on families and institutions. Jennifer Johnson echoed that concern, describing a community whose vitality continues to grow despite having to constantly defend itself and calling for a deeper conversation with the federal government on protecting French while also strengthening English-speaking communities.

Several panelists highlighted the importance of recognizing the community's diversity and the distinct realities experienced across Quebec. Speaking on behalf of seniors, Paulina Abarca-Cantin reminded participants that "words matter," explaining that vulnerability is often most visible outside Montreal, where English-speaking seniors face greater isolation and more limited access to services. From the arts and culture sector, Miranda Castravelli urged participants to confront difficult realities directly, noting persistent economic disparities faced by English-speaking artists. "Just because French is threatened in Quebec," she said, "doesn't mean that English isn't."

Looking ahead, the discussion turned to the community's role in Quebec's future. John Buck emphasized that English-speaking Quebecers are "key contributors rather than observers," while warning that the next five to ten years will be critical for the community. Building on that theme, Dave Meloche called for greater transparency, stronger partnerships, and a renewed commitment to "myth-busting" around English-language education. "We can protect French and strengthen the English school system," he said, arguing that English-speaking Quebecers are among the strongest allies in promoting French while contributing to Quebec's economic, social, and cultural life.

The morning finished with a fireside conversation between Commissioner Burke and Eva Ludvig, where they reflected on many of the themes raised during the panel. While remaining appropriately non-partisan, the Commissioner reiterated her commitment to listening, learning, and ensuring that the realities of Quebec's English-speaking community are understood by federal decision-makers. Include a quote from Eva here.

Closing the event, Commissioner Burke reminded participants that "Our official languages, both English and French, are at the heart of our Canadian identity, our cultural and economic sovereignty, and our national unity. We have a responsibility to do everything in our power to promote and protect them." Her remarks echoed one of the day's central messages: education, health, employability, culture, and regional development cannot be treated as separate priorities—they are part of one ecosystem that determines the long-term vitality of Quebec's English-speaking community.

TALQ WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We're very happy to welcome two new staff members, Kevin & Léah. Kevin Dobie has been hired in the role of Director of Public Affairs. Kevin brings with him a wealth of experience in communications, public affairs & government relations in a variety of different sectors including IT, non-profit and education. Kevin has a thoughtful and well-rounded perspective which will be integral to our work, especially at a time when the political front begins to get busy.

And our Justice group also has a new member; Léah Suissa-Rochelleau joins TALQ as a Legal and Policy Researcher, currently researching wealth inequities between the English and French speaking communities in Quebec. She is in her final year of study in the BCL/JD program at McGill University, planning on qualifying and working as a lawyer. Prior to law, she studied psychology at McGill University and worked in academic research, authoring several papers in cognitive neuroscience.

These two hard-working individuals will be a wealth of know-how and experience that will benefit our community in many ways.



TURNING OFFICIAL LANGUAGES COMMITMENTS INTO ACTION

The modernized *Official Languages Act* was meant to make Part VII more than a statement of principle. It now requires federal institutions to take concrete steps to support official language minority communities, including English-speaking Quebec, and to consider community needs, evidence, possible harms, and measurable results when making decisions. The proposed regulations to implement these new duties were studied by both the House of Commons Official Languages Committee and the Senate Official Languages Committee after TALQ helped bring English-speaking Quebec's concerns to Parliament. Both committees reached a similar conclusion: the regulations need to be clearer, stronger, and easier to apply. For English-speaking Quebec, the key point is simple: Part VII must shape real federal decisions — including funding, consultations, agreements with governments, accountability, and outcomes for the community.

These changes matter because they will shape how the federal government supports the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking community for years to come. Strong, enforceable regulations will help ensure that community priorities are reflected in federal decisions and investments—not simply acknowledged in

principle. As the community's federal interlocutor on such matters, TALQ will continue working with Parliament, federal institutions, and community partners to help shape a regulatory framework that delivers meaningful outcomes for English-speaking Quebecers.

TALQ REMAINS ACTIVE ON THE FEDERAL SCENE



On Tuesday, June 9, Eva Ludvig, President of TALQ, travelled to Ottawa to appear before the Standing Committee on Official Languages (LANG), where she presented TALQ's assessment of the draft Regulations under the *Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act* (FFRB).

During her testimony, Eva reaffirmed TALQ's support for the protection and promotion of French in Canada, while emphasizing that implementation of the Regulations must also respect Canada's commitment to linguistic duality and take into account the realities of Quebec's English-speaking community. TALQ stressed that, without appropriate transparency, monitoring, and mitigation measures, potential impacts on employment access, service availability, and community vitality may go unnoticed and unaddressed. [To hear our presentation, use this link and find us at the 16:50 minute mark.](#)

On Thursday, June 11, TALQ's Director General, Sylvia Martin-Laforge, appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (FINA) as part of its pre-budget consultations in advance of the 2026 federal budget.

In her presentation, Sylvia underscored the importance of aligning federal spending with the commitments set out in the modernized Official Languages Act. Drawing on TALQ's pre-budget submission, she called for renewed investments in official languages initiatives, greater accountability for federal funding intended to benefit Quebec's English-speaking community, and measures to ensure that federal programs deliver tangible results for official language minority communities across the country. [Our short presentation to the committee begins at the 8:36:52 mark.](#)



Together, these two parliamentary appearances reflect the importance of ensuring Quebec's English-speaking community has a strong and credible voice where federal policy is developed. By participating directly in committee proceedings, TALQ helps ensure that the community's realities are considered before decisions are made—whether on official languages legislation or federal spending priorities. This ongoing engagement strengthens accountability, reinforces Canada's commitment to linguistic duality, and helps

ensure that federal policies and investments translate into meaningful benefits for English-speaking Quebecers.

PREPARING FOR THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION AHEAD

With Quebec's general election set for October 5, TALQ has begun its election preparedness efforts to ensure the priorities of English-speaking Quebecers are part of the conversation.

Immediately following the [announcement](#) that there will be no English-language leaders' debate during this election campaign, TALQ wrote to the leaders of Quebec's major political parties urging them to reconsider, and engage directly with English-speaking voters. Our message was clear: this is not simply a question of language, but of democratic participation. Our community deserves the opportunity to hear directly from those seeking to govern and to make informed choices on issues that affect us.

Throughout the campaign, TALQ will continue to advocate for the interests of English-speaking Quebecers, engage with political leaders, and keep members informed of key election developments.



As part of TALQ's ongoing government relations and election preparedness efforts, representatives attended a series of political leader conferences hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal and the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations throughout May and June.

The events provided an opportunity to hear directly from party leaders as they outlined their priorities and vision for Quebec ahead of the next provincial election. TALQ representatives attended presentations by Premier Christine Fréchette of the Coalition Avenir Québec, Quebec Liberal Party leader Charles Milliard, Conservative Party of Quebec leader Éric Duhaime, and Parti Québécois leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon.

These engagements are part of TALQ's broader effort to better understand the priorities and policy proposals shaping each party's platform while ensuring Quebec's English-speaking community remains informed and engaged as the province approaches the next provincial election.

At a time when opportunities for English-speaking Quebecers to hear directly from all party leaders may be limited, maintaining dialogue across the political spectrum is more important than ever.

CANADIAN HERITAGE: 2026 CROSS-CANADA CONSULTATIONS

The Government of Canada has launched its 2026 Cross-Canada Official Languages Consultations, inviting Canadians to help shape the next federal strategy for official languages. Running from June to November, the consultations will help set priorities for supporting English- and French-speaking minority communities across the country.

For Quebec's English-speaking community, this tool matters. Federal investments help fund community organizations, improve access to services, support economic development, and strengthen the programs that contribute to our community's vitality. And the results of this survey, in part, help determine where those investments go.

For more than 30 years, TALQ has worked with and on behalf of Quebec's English-speaking community to ensure our voices are heard. The more community members who participate in this survey, the stronger that collective voice becomes. Drawing on three decades of experience working directly with key federal partners, including Canadian Heritage and the Treasury Board Secretariat, TALQ helps ensure that the priorities of Quebec's English-speaking community are taken seriously and that the Action Plan's official languages investments reflect our community's needs and priorities.

We encourage all Quebec citizens to [fill out this survey](#), which will be available until November 2026.

In the coming weeks and months, TALQ will share more information about the consultations and how members of our community can participate in meaningful ways. Together, we can help shape a stronger future for Quebec's English-speaking community

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SUPPORTING THE VITALITY OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITIES THROUGH PROVINCIAL CONSULTATION

Again this year, Quebec's English-speaking community sector came together to shape the future of community development across the province. Through a province-wide consultation process led by TALQ, organizations identified the most pressing challenges, emerging needs, and key priorities facing English-speaking minority communities throughout Quebec. These priorities are communicated to the Government of Canada and help inform recommendations on annual federal community funding allocations.

Mandated by the Department of Canadian Heritage, TALQ serves as the official interlocutor for these annual consultations with Official Language Minority Community (OLMC) stakeholders across Quebec. And—this year we are expanding our outreach to collect feedback from English-speaking individuals across the province, creating a broader opportunity for community voices to help shape decisions that impact the vitality and future of English-speaking Quebecers.

The community survey is now open, and TALQ is encouraging English-speaking Quebecers from all regions of the province to participate. By sharing your perspectives, and priorities, you can help ensure that future community development initiatives and funding decisions reflect the realities and needs of English-speaking communities.

Your voice matters. Whether you live in a rural, remote, or urban community, your input will contribute to a stronger understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing English-speaking Quebecers today. **We invite you spend 10 minutes or so [by taking the survey here](#).**



HONOURING A CHAMPION OF QUEBEC'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

We were delighted to learn that Michael Goldbloom—one of Quebec's most respected champions of the English-speaking community—has been appointed a Knight of the National Order of Quebec. Awarded annually by the Premier of Quebec, the honour recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the province. Since its creation in 1985, more than 1,200 Quebecers have received this distinction.

For decades, Mr. Goldbloom has helped shape and strengthen Quebec's English-speaking community through leadership, advocacy, and public service. As a founder and President of Alliance Quebec, he played a defining role in advancing the rights and interests of English-speaking Quebecers during a pivotal period in the province's history. His commitment to community continued as CEO of the YMCA of Montreal, President and Publisher of the *Montreal Gazette*, Vice-President of Government Relations at McGill University, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Bishop's University, Chair of CBC/Radio-Canada, and through advisory work with the Canadian Armed Forces. In recognition of his many contributions to Canada, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 2013.

Today, he is helping inspire a new generation through his work mentoring emerging leaders with the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation.

His family's legacy is deeply intertwined with TALQ's own history. His parents, Sheila and Victor Goldbloom, are the namesakes of TALQ's distinguished awards, reflecting generations of public service that extend back nearly 150 years in Quebec.

"Mr. Goldbloom has devoted his career to strengthening the institutions, organizations, and communities that have helped English-speaking Quebecers thrive while contributing to Quebec as a whole," said Eva Ludvig, President of TALQ. "From his leadership at Alliance Quebec to his service across education,

media, community organizations, and public life, his contributions have left a lasting mark on our community and our province. Michael's experience across so many sectors has been invaluable."



LONGEVITY DESERVES RECOGNITION!

As TALQ celebrates its 30th anniversary, we want to recognize several of the community organizations who are part of our membership and who are also celebrating a milestone anniversary in 2025-2025.

Indeed, TALQ would also like to acknowledge the hard-working organizations around the province who are not part of our membership, but valuable in their contributions to the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking community. We congratulate these organizations **under RDN** who are celebrating all their achievements: **4Korners** (20th anniversary), **Connexions** (15th anniversary), **MCDC** (25th anniversary), **NSCA** (25th anniversary) and **ARC** who will be celebrating their 15th anniversary in 2026.

In this fast-paced and ever-changing world, we believe it's important to recognize the hard work and dedication staff, boards and leaders have put in to make these important community resources a success. We heartily acknowledge these efforts and celebrate the success each of these milestones represents. Here's to many more milestones ahead! Congratulations!!

MARJORIE GOODFELLOW CHAIR AT BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY

This story did not begin with a donation, or even with a university announcement. It began, as many lasting legacies do, with a quiet conviction: that a community's story matters – and that if no one studies it, it risks being forgotten.

That conviction guided Marjorie Elizabeth Goodfellow throughout a lifetime of public service and advocacy, and today it lives on through the creation of the **Marjorie Elizabeth Goodfellow Chair in English Quebec Studies** at bishop's university, supported by an estimated \$2 million gift from her estate.

Long before her name was attached to a research chair, goodfellow was already preserving the history and strengthening the future of Quebec's English-speaking communities. Beginning her career in library science in the 1960s, she developed a lifelong passion for genealogy, local history, and community service. She served on the Sherbrooke historical society, helped found the eastern townships heritage foundation, the Sherbrooke and district university women's club, and the Sherbrooke library board, and became a trustee of bishop's university in 1985. In 1993, Bishop's awarded her an honorary Doctor of Civil Law.

Her influence extended far beyond the eastern townships. A co-founder and later president of the Townshippers' Association, Goodfellow also served as the first vice-president of alliance Quebec and chaired the provincial committee for the delivery of health and social services in English, advising Quebec's minister of health. During 13 years on the board of the *Centre*

universitaire de santé de l'Estrée, she championed improved access to English-language health and social services.

Across every role, she worked to preserve the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking community while building understanding between Quebec's two linguistic communities.

"I've always tried to build bridges between the French and English communities," goodfellow said in 2009, when she was recognized as one of the inaugural recipients of the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom distinguished community service award. "If we want to survive and thrive, we have to participate in the majority community."

The new chair carries that vision forward.

"Marjorie devoted much of her life to her community and to English-speaking communities across Quebec," said Scott Stevenson, executor of the goodfellow estate. "Her decision to create this chair for English Quebec studies at bishop's university carries on her life's work for the benefit of all Quebecers today and in the future."

Dedicated to advancing research, teaching, and public engagement, the chair will serve as a centre for interdisciplinary scholarship on Quebec's English-speaking communities, bringing together expertise from history, sociology, literature, political science, education, and linguistics. Through conferences, public lectures, and partnerships with community organizations, it will connect academic research with lived experience.

"This new research chair in English Quebec studies represents an exceptional opportunity for our institution," said dr. Kerry hull, vice-principal academic and research at bishop's university. "It will create a privileged space for dialogue that brings together faculty, students, and community partners."

Bishop's principal and vice-chancellor Sébastien Lebel-Grenier said the chair reflects the university's longstanding relationship with Quebec's English-speaking communities and its unique position at the intersection of the province's two linguistic cultures.

For TALQ president Eva Ludvig, the chair is a fitting tribute to a remarkable advocate.

"Marjorie Goodfellow was a tireless advocate and someone for whom I had much respect and admiration," Ludvig said. "We congratulate bishop's university on this important chair focused on English-speaking Quebec communities."

For more than half a century, goodfellow worked to ensure Quebec's English-speaking communities would not be overlooked. Through this chair, her commitment to preserving, understanding, and strengthening those communities will continue for generations to come. And in that sense, her work continues – quietly, steadily – just as it always has.



QCNA AWARDS BANQUET + COLLABORATION WITH YES

QCNA was pleased to host its 46th AGM and Annual Awards Gala on June 12th at the Chateau Cartier hotel in Aylmer. This year, instead of conference activities in the afternoon, QCNA was able to host a first-ever community media career and networking event thanks to a grant from YES Entrepreneurship and the Government of Canada. 28 out of our 30 member publications were in attendance as well as local community radio stations. The event featured "booths" from representing media, two panel discussions with journalist and educational professionals, and the event was sold out to the public. In partnership with The Equity newspaper, the career and networking event was live-streamed, which is a good thing because the event was a sold-out success! If you are interested, you can [check it out here](#)

This year's QCNA awards showcased remarkable community storytelling, and we celebrate all the contributors who keep the English language communities of Quebec informed, connected and entertained. For a full list of winners, please visit QCNA's website here: <https://qcna.qc.ca/awards/>



BISHOP'S FORUM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS – BE PART OF THE EXCITEMENT!

Applications are now open for the 10th edition of the Bishop's Forum!

English-speaking Quebecers aged 18–26 are [encouraged to apply before July 6](#) to secure their spot.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2026, the Bishop's Forum is a civic leadership institute that brings together young English-speaking Quebecers from across the province to explore leadership, public policy, civic

engagement, and community building. Through seminars, interactive workshops, and networking opportunities, participants gain the knowledge, skills, and connections to become the next generation of community leaders. This milestone edition promises to continue that tradition.

TALQ is proud to support this initiative. In 2025, TALQ hosted a panel discussion on **Building Policy Capacity for Quebec's English-speaking Community**, where four sector experts explored the advocacy efforts that led to the creation of APPELE-Québec. The discussion highlighted how parents, education leaders, and civil society organizations successfully worked together to preserve the English-speaking community's right to govern its educational institutions through elected school boards.

The conversation resonated strongly with participants, who remained engaged well beyond the scheduled session—even through lunch. Their enthusiasm underscored both the importance of these issues and the value of creating spaces where young people can engage directly with experienced community leaders.

That vision is exactly what TALQ Director General **Sylvia Martin-Laforge** and **Dr. Marie-Josée Berger**, then Dean of the School of Education and Associate Vice-President of Continuing Education at Bishop's University, set out to achieve a decade ago. Recognizing the need to engage youth in civic leadership, they created the Bishop's Forum to foster a stronger sense of belonging within Quebec's English-speaking community while encouraging young people to participate fully in the province's social and civic life.

The first Bishop's Forum was launched with funding from the Government of Quebec through its *Stratégie d'action jeunesse 2016–2021*. In subsequent years, the initiative has continued with support from the *Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise*.

As the Bishop's Forum celebrates ten years of empowering young leaders, TALQ extends its sincere congratulations to everyone who has helped shape its success and growth—from its founders and organizers to its many partners, speakers, alumni, and participants. The Forum has become a cornerstone of civic leadership development for Quebec's English-speaking youth, and we look forward to seeing its impact continue for years to come.

If you know someone between the ages of 18 and 26, encourage them to apply before **July 6**. And stay tuned for the release of the 2026 Forum itinerary—this landmark edition is one you won't want to miss.

Follow us



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TALQ, 1819 René-Lévesque W. Suite 400, , Montreal, Québec, Canada, H3H 2P5, +15148689044

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