

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Busting myths: Report shows English-speaking Quebecers are key part of a national-unity solution**

**MONTREAL – June 18, 2024** – There is a lot of good news in a new report from the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages (OCOL) that confirms two key things about the English-speaking community of Quebec (ESCQ), Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) President Eva Ludvig said today.

“First, the report shows clearly that on an individual basis, English- and French-speaking Quebecers get along, far better than discourse in the chattering classes would have us believe,” she said. “Second, it is very clear that there is an important role for the ESCQ to play in building bridges, not only within Quebec, with our Francophone friends and neighbours, but with the rest of Canada, even in helping promote the importance and value of French to the rest of the country.

“These conclusions reflect what our organization has been saying for a long time,” Ludvig said. “We are heartened to see this confirmation of the positive role we play in promoting the historic rights and access to services our community of 1.3 million Quebecers has enjoyed as well as in our steadfast position in support of the protection and promotion of the French language in Quebec and Canada, so long as those rights and that access are not diminished.”

The QCGN is also glad to see some solid numbers that help distance the modern ESCQ from old stereotypes that, unfortunately, are still relied upon in some media and political discourse to denigrate anglophones and the contributions they make on a daily basis to Quebec, Ludvig said.

Today’s English-speaking Quebecers are more than likely able to speak French (71 per cent) and use it regularly at work (65 per cent), the report says. Most of their school-aged children who have English as a mother tongue have French as a language of instruction at school, meaning a language that is used to teach a variety of subjects, such as science, history or geography.

And according to the 2021 Census, the report notes, 87 per cent of people in Quebec who have both English and French as their mother tongues regularly speak French at home.

“We use and embrace French far more than we are often given credit for,” Ludvig said. “It has been a significant source of frustration for us, especially when we are blamed for a perceived decline in French in Quebec.

“We are not the problem. We are part of the solution.”

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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