

For immediate release

English-speaking Quebecers show high levels of distrust with Coalition Avenir Québec government

Montreal, Sept. 20, 2019 – A recent poll concludes that a strong majority of English-speaking Quebecers have far greater trust in their own institutions than in the Quebec government to address the concerns of Quebec's English-speaking communities.

When asked who they trust more to ensure English-language services are provided to the public, including services in health, education, and employment, only eight per cent responded that they trust the Quebec government. A total of 78 per cent responded that they place their trust in community organizations to provide them with services in their first language.

The vast majority say they trust English-language school boards (81 per cent) and English-language media (82 per cent). Nearly three of every four (74 per cent) trust English-language advocacy groups such as the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN). A total of 58 per cent say they trust the business community.

Two-thirds of English-speaking Quebecers believe the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) government does not understand the concerns of the English-speaking community and nearly 70 per cent do not trust the CAQ government.

“These results demonstrate very clearly that English-speaking Quebecers feel Premier François Legault and his party do not understand English-speaking Quebecers and are not committed to defending our rights and institutions,” QCGN President Geoffrey Chambers noted. “Many also believe the government is undermining the English community and that it only defends the interests of French-speaking Quebecers.”

English-speaking Quebecers say they disagree with the positions, ideas, and legislative agenda of the CAQ. Some say the party supports French-language communities and the French language and culture over others. Some also describe members of the CAQ as nationalists or “separatists-in-disguise”.

A majority of English-speaking Quebecers report they often or sometimes have problems obtaining services in English from the provincial government (59 per cent); in health care services (51 per cent); as well as in retail and hospitality services (60 per cent). One-quarter of

English-speaking respondents report difficulties obtaining services in English from the federal government.

Conducted by Léger Marketing for the Quebec Community Groups Network, the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS), the survey was conducted via web panel between Aug. 29 and Sept. 4, 2019. The poll sampled 1,936 Quebecers. This included 1,019 Quebecers with English as their first language, 773 Quebecers with French as their first language and 144 persons whose first language is neither English nor French. The survey has a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 60 English-language community organizations 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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