

For immediate release

QCGN/Community pleased with funding from Secretariat

Montreal – April 23, 2018 – The Quebec Community Groups Network is pleased that the new Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers is investing \$950,000 in projects to support the vitality of Quebec’s English-speaking communities.

Kathleen Weil, the Minister responsible for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions and Minister responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, announced the funding on Monday. The money will flow through Concordia and the Quebec English-speaking Communities Research Network (QUESCREN), a collaborative network of researchers, stakeholders, educational and other institutions housed at Concordia’s School of Community and Public Affairs.

Some \$350,000 will remain at QUESCREN to support research related to English-speaking communities and support outreach activities. These include the biennial forum of QUESCREN’s Inter-Level Educational Table titled “Minority Community Vitality through Education”, scheduled for the fall. A feasibility study that explores the possibility of establishing a Centre for Excellence in Social Economy will also be conducted in collaboration with Concordia’s partners.

The remaining \$600,000 will be distributed to community partners including the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), which will receive \$230,000 to develop and maintain expertise in public policy analysis and research in areas of provincial jurisdiction.

“Our multi-faceted project will support research and policy activities related to the vitality of the English-speaking community of Quebec -- especially under-developed sectors and in support of vulnerable communities,” said QCGN President James Shea. He noted that he is pleased that the fledgling Secretariat is gaining a foothold in government and has begun supporting community development initiatives.

In the last provincial budget, the Secretariat was granted funding of \$25 million over six years to consolidate ties with English-speaking Quebecers and stimulate the vitality of our communities. This initial contribution will implement some recommendations brought forward during Minister Weil’s recent consultations with representatives of English-speaking communities.

“As always, the QCGN’s main goal is to strengthen the institutional, political and service infrastructures supporting English-speaking Quebec to build the capacity of our Network and Community organizations to work effectively on the issues affecting the development and vitality of our Community of Communities,” said Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General of the QCGN. “After years of relying almost entirely on federal support to accomplish these important goals we are thrilled that the government of Quebec is stepping up to the plate to support its English-speaking minority communities.”

“Working with the Secretariat and the community, QCGN will produce a comprehensive demographic and socio-economic portrait of English-speaking Quebec as well as a gaps analysis to map community stakeholders as well as government and civil society partners with a view to understanding critical areas that require provincial government support,” explained Martin-Laforge. As part of these activities, the QCGN will host dialogues between key government and community leaders in priority areas including employment and skills development, regional economic development and institutional vitality.

Funds are also being provided to the English-Language Arts Network (ELAN) for five pilot projects to help create increased and sustainable connections between communities and artists; to the Eastern Townships Resource Centre (ETRC) to promote the rich and unique history of the Eastern Townships and offer educational materials focusing on the region’s Anglophone history; and to the Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI) to develop a social economy organization that will lead to job creation, youth retention and community vitality for the English-speaking community of the Magdalen Islands.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 56 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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