

For immediate release

Most Quebecers, English and French, Want Ottawa to Protect Rights of English-speaking Quebecers: Poll

Montreal, November 25, 2022 – English-speaking Quebecers strongly believe the federal government must do more to support and safeguard their rights. This is underscored by recent polling conducted for the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN). It is further supported by more than 1,600 signatures on an open letter opposed to proposed sweeping changes to the Official Languages Act that would severely erode the rights of English-speaking Quebecers.

The open letter, addressed to federal Justice Minister David Lametti, concludes that the government's plan to modernize the Official Languages Act does not reflect the vision of Canada for which linguistic duality – the equality of our two official languages – and the protection of minority rights are intrinsic values. And it urges Parliamentarians to amend Bill C-13 to remove all references to the Charter of the French Language and to ensure that all language rights created by Parliament are equitably extended to both official languages, English and French.

In recent polling commissioned by the QCGN, a clear majority of Quebecers (81%) said they believe the federal government should be doing at least as much as it is now to support and protect the rights of English-speaking Quebecers. Of this group, 41 per cent indicated the Government of Canada should do more to protect these rights, and 39 per cent felt that Ottawa should do no more or no less than before. Fewer than one in five (19 %) of respondents indicated they wanted the federal government to scale back its involvement in protecting the rights of English speakers.

The English-speaking community is unambiguous on this point. The overwhelming majority of English-speaking Quebecers (87 per cent) said the federal government should do more to support and protect their rights. More than two thirds (69%) said **much** more should be done.

“This is not a divisive issue,” points out Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General of the QCGN. “In fact, there is a clear consensus uniting French- and English-speaking Quebecers.”

More than three quarters – 77 per cent – of French-speaking respondents said the federal government should continue to support and protect the rights of their fellow citizens. Of this group, almost one third (30%) said Ottawa should be doing more.

View poll results [here](#). The [open letter](#) can be viewed and signed on the QCGN website. To learn more about C-13, read the [QCGN's brief](#) to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (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.

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