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QCGN Statement on the Quebec Government's Immigration Bill 84

MONTREAL 30 JANUARY, 2025 – The **Government of Quebec** has introduced a vague bill at the **Assemblée Nationale** that will reshape integration policy and place a strong emphasis on Quebec's nationhood and assimilation, without providing clear details as to how this will be accomplished, the Quebec Community Groups Network said today.

"The law at this stage is deceptively benign, opening up a range of questions about unspecified details," said QCGN President Eva Ludvig. "How far will the government go? We don't know. Will the use of the notwithstanding clause be required once the regulations and accompanying policies are brought forward? We don't know. How will the fact of this bill's primacy affect Quebec's legal framework? We don't know. Who decides what is acceptable and what is not? We don't know."

A primary concern is that the bill also modifies the **Québec Charter of Rights**, in order that integration with so-called Quebecois values be prioritized over the protection of other fundamental rights.

Ludvig raised three questions: "Why did M. Roberge feel it necessary to make this law superior to Quebec's Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms? That remains unclear.

"How will the government use the potentially coercive provisions regarding the financing of groups and activities to determine adherence to the law – and the rules and policies we have yet to see?

"And we are not being facetious when we ask whether, in addition to the so-called Language Police that enforce provisions of the French Language Charter, Quebec will now add the Culture Police to enforce the eventual rules and policies," Ludvig said.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) has for 30 years advocated and intervened against legislative efforts of this sort, aid **Director General Sylvia Martin-Laforge**. "We will continue to do so to ensure the same respect, dignity and place in civil society is accorded all Quebecers, regardless of their background. We expect to be involved in any consultation to follow.

"This bill is vague and while it does a fair bit of hand-waving at cultural values and the French language," **Martin-Laforge**, said. "We fear that the vagueness is intentional and that in it is the real danger to our community."

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