

Statement by Marlene Jennings
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A recent tweet that I posted seems to have struck a nerve. I tweeted:

I have to ask myself how does @francoislegault square his awesome support for Ukraine's democratic society while at the same time his gov't wants w/#96 to suspend all charter rights/freedoms of all Quebecers? Just asking 🤔🤔

So, let's be clear. The QCGN and I stand with the Premier and all Quebecers in support of the Ukrainian people and in opposition to the Russian invasion.

While linking the situation in Ukraine and Bill 96 is perhaps clumsy, it is important to emphasize that for months the QCGN has been calling on Premier Legault to justify measures limiting our rights and freedoms that are imbedded in Bill 96. While we are united in our commitment to promoting the use of French in Quebec, among the questions we have repeatedly posed for which we and all Quebecers have yet to receive an adequate response.

1. Why is Quebec poised to depart both from its proud tradition of protecting human rights, and from the international human rights standards to which Quebec has bound itself by pre-emptively using the Notwithstanding Clause to override the Quebec and Canadian Charters of Rights and Freedoms necessary?
2. Why is Quebec adding a number of new executive powers to the Charter of the French Language, including new search and monitoring powers that will not be subject to the prohibition on unreasonable search and seizure found in both the Canadian and Quebec Charters?
3. Why is Bill 96 adding new disclosure protections that will not be subject to protections of personal privacy and professional secret?
4. Why is Bill 96 limiting access of Quebecers to education, health and social services and the courts?

Quebecers deserve answers to these questions which go to the heart of the type of Quebec we want to build together.