

For immediate release

QCGN Wraps up Annual Meeting Resolved to be a Strong Voice for English-speaking Quebecers

Montreal – June 11, 2023 – Reflecting on our place in Quebec and Canada, the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) concluded its 28th annual meeting Saturday resolved to continue to serve as a strong and unifying voice for English-speaking Quebecers.

We met under the theme #OuiOurQuebec – Our Community, Our Province, Our Quebec! More than 150 members and stakeholders expressed their commitment to this province; the future of the French language; and the vitality of our Community of Communities.

“The most important QCGN work in the past year has been our continued and unflagging fight against damaging legislation at both the federal and provincial levels,” QCGN President Eva Ludvig said: “These are Quebec’s Bill 96, which amends the Charter of the French Language and introduces the pre-emptive use of the Notwithstanding Clause, and that bill’s incorporation into Bill C-13, the revised federal Official Languages Act.” She added that “both those exercises have been uphill climbs and have yet to produce the kind of results we seek.”

“We have continued to express our opposition to Bill 96, while clearly and forcefully making the point that the English-speaking community of Quebec – and by extension, the QCGN – stand foursquare in favour of measures to protect and promote French in Canada, including Quebec – without trampling on our rights.”

“The QCGN has also continued to make progress with a renewal process that will set the course for our organization during what I expect to be challenging years ahead,” added Ludvig: “This comprehensive process has helped the QCGN stay on course in our commitment to adapt to the needs of our community.”

“Our multi-year strategic plan will not only help us realize our mission and vision,” said QCGN Director General Sylvia Martin-Laforge. “It will also serve as an essential tool in navigating the policy potholes and political speed bumps created by governments that don’t fully understand or respect our needs, our rights, and our aspirations.” This plan has now been endorsed as part of the overall renewal process. “This is an evergreen document meant to see us through the next five years and perhaps beyond – adapting to changing needs while ensuring we remain a solid fulcrum for our community, as well as focal point, a leader, and a voice.”

During the Annual General Meeting Saturday afternoon, some familiar faces and some newcomers were acclaimed to the Board of Directors. Back for another stint are Alix Adrien, Matt Aronson, Eleni Bakopanos, Joan Fraser, Marlene Jennings, Katherine Korakakis, Eva Ludvig, and Eric Maldoff. Joining the board are Chad Bean, Grant Myers, and Peter Starr. Eva Ludvig was re-elected QCGN president. Joining her on the executive committee are Katherine Korakakis (Vice-President); Eleni Bakopanos (Secretary); and Grant Myers (Treasurer). Elected to three new board positions, representing the new category of individual members, was a strong youth contingent: Chelsea Craig, Jordan Black, and Maria Kyles.

During the two-day annual meeting, the QCGN also celebrated 10 Community Innovation Fund projects that transformed the lives of individual English-speaking Quebecers. Funded by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program - Children and Families Component, and managed by the QCGN, the \$1.1 million fund targeted the particular needs and priorities of vulnerable English-speaking youth and seniors. Read our [press release](#).

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.

For further information:

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Front row: Katherine Korakakis (Vice-President); Eva Ludvig (President), and Eleni Bakopanos (Secretary).
Back row: Alix Adrien, Chelsea Craig, Eric Maldoff, Joan Fraser, Maria Kyles, and Peter Starr.
Missing from photo: Matt Aronson, Chad Bean, Grant Myers and Marlene Jennings