

Premier's Re-election Provides Opportunity for a Fresh Start QCGN Calls for Appointment of a Dedicated Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers

Montreal, October 6, 2022 – The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) congratulates François Legault on his re-election as Premier of Quebec and looks forward to a fresh start in relations between the English-speaking community of Quebec and the Quebec government. We also reiterate our recommendation for the appointment of a dedicated Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers.

“Our community’s opposition to Bills 96, 21 and 40 have been expressed repeatedly over the past four years and during the election campaign. English-speaking Quebecers remain concerned about restrictions on our access to education, to health and social services, to the courts, and to government services and information in English,” said QCGN President Eva Ludvig. “And we have no power to oppose these restrictions on individual rights given the government’s use of overrides to both Quebec’s Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms and Canada’s Charters of Rights and Freedoms.”

“There is a huge disconnect between English-speaking Quebecers and the Quebec government,” she said. “Members of our community feel that they are not being heard and are not considered relevant. And they are worried about their and their children’s future in Quebec.”

“The appointment of a Minister would be an important first step in ensuring the voices of English-speaking Quebecers are heard,” Ludvig said, noting that a Minister would give our community a dedicated voice at the cabinet table. “Such a minister must have a clear mandate and adequate resources to consult with our community, articulate our priorities and concerns, and move forward with a constructive action plan. He or she would also serve as a crucial bridge builder with other ministers and ministries, opening doors for English-speaking community advocates to engage with Cabinet colleagues.”

“In looking ahead, we will continue to stand up for our community by advocating for changes to Bills 96, 21 and 40,” said Ludvig. “We will be supporting court challenges and working with a broad cross-section of Quebecers and groups to bring attention to the negative impacts these laws are having on Quebec in general and our community in particular.”

“The vast majority of English-speaking Quebecers are bilingual and support the vitality of the French language,” Ludvig pointed out, noting: “Our Community of Communities is committed to contributing to the advancement of Quebec and looks forward to working with the Quebec government and hopefully a Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers to ensure our community has the

tools required to support our social, cultural, and economic development so that we can, in turn, continue to contribute to Quebec’s prosperity and growth.”

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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