

For Immediate release

More English-speaking Quebecers Reject Divisive ‘Historic Anglo’ Approach

MONTREAL, February 8, 2022 – More members of Quebec’s English-language community have in recent days added their voices to reject the plan by Premier François Legault to limit government services in English to his restrictive definition of “historic anglophones” – only persons eligible to attend primary and secondary school in English in Quebec.

The National Assembly’s Committee on Culture and Education reconvenes today to resume its clause-by-clause study of Bill 96. Currently, the committee is considering Art. 15, which proposes to significantly reduce access to government services in English for English-speaking Quebecers.

A growing number of individuals have in the past few days joined some 4,500 English-speaking Quebecers who signed an open letter informing the Premier in no uncertain terms that English-speaking Quebecers are not a folkloric ‘historic’ group. A companion resolution has been endorsed by 54 organizations including community groups, health and social service advocates, and municipalities throughout Quebec. The [full text](#) of the open letter and resolution, along with the list of signatories, is posted on the Quebec Community Groups Network’s website.

Both the open letter and the resolution send a clear message to the Coalition Avenir Québec government that English-speaking Quebecers are full and contributing members of Quebec society. They reiterate that any attempt by the Government of Quebec to define English-speaking Quebecers as ‘historic’ or limit our rights to receive government communications and services in English is profoundly objectionable.

“I strongly encourage all English-speaking Quebecers as well as organizations and institutions – notably those serving members of our community – to convey their support for this campaign,” declares Marlene Jennings, QCGN president.

“Bill 96 will legislate who will continue to be allowed to receive Quebec services in English and thus simultaneously determine who will henceforth be excluded,” she notes. “This situation is as ominous as it is divisive. Now is the time to speak out loud and clear.”

“Amendments put forward by the Liberal Opposition which would have tempered at least a few of the profoundly troubling elements of the bill were debated, and for the large part rejected thus far,” Jennings says.

Amendments designed to clarify parts of the legislation that are easily open to misinterpretation and misapplication were soundly rejected by Simon Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice and Minister Responsible for the French Language, and Pascal Bérubé, Parti Québécois critic for language and

relations with English-speaking Quebecers, says Jennings. “Both equated constructive criticism of the bill with failure to support the survival of the French language and insufficient allegiance to the Quebec nation.”

The QCGN is following the clause-by-clause study and reporting in a blog on our Language Rights page. To sign up to receive the blogs, which are published the morning after the hearings, please email us at communications@qcgnc.ca.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgnc.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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