



Declaration from the Community Priority Setting Conference of the English-Speaking Community of Quebec

March 25, 2012, Montreal, Quebec

On the weekend of March 23-25, over 180 members of the English-speaking Community of Quebec took part in a Community Priority Setting Conference. The conference was the culmination of the first phase of the Strategic Priorities Forum that included 19 regional and sectoral consultations, five focus groups and an online survey of more than 500 English-speaking Quebecers, all of which sought the community's input on the priorities for a vital and sustainable English-speaking community.

WHEREAS we reaffirm the English-speaking Community of Quebec as an integral part of Quebec's past, present and future, and a fundamental element of Quebec's and Canada's culture, history and heritage;

WHEREAS English-speaking Quebecers must have an equal opportunity to fully participate in, and contribute to, the social, cultural, economic, and political life of Quebec;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is committed to fulfilling its duty to enhance the vitality of linguistic minority communities by supporting and assisting in their development;

WHEREAS the community has identified the following priorities to ensure a more vital and sustainable future:

ACCESS TO SERVICES IN ENGLISH

Increased access to services and government information in English in all aspects of daily living is a pressing issue. The ability of individuals in our community to make informed decisions depends on our capacity to understand options and implications in English.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Developing relationships by fostering greater collaboration and networking among English-speaking organizations and the broader community, diversifying resources, and sharing and developing expertise will make our communities stronger.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Greater access to employment and educational opportunities and higher levels of bilingualism will support the economic prosperity of English-speaking Quebecers thus improving the resilience of our communities.

IDENTITY AND RENEWAL

Nurturing a strong sense of belonging, expressing our identity, enhancing our visibility, and working towards a Quebec society that embraces diversity will ensure the renewal of our communities.

LEADERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

Promoting leadership development at all levels, with an emphasis on youth engagement, and encouraging volunteerism will ensure we are an integral part of Quebec and Canadian society.

STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Healthy institutions are the cornerstone of a dynamic community. Maintaining and supporting existing institutions and establishing new ones will strengthen our communities.

The Priority Setting Steering Committee (PSSC) calls upon our community to:

1. **Work individually and collectively** in a collaborative environment to develop and implement specific strategies that support these priorities.
2. **Engage with the PSSC** to create an action plan for the community based on the priorities identified and validated through the Strategic Priorities Forum process.
3. **Solicit all levels of government** to consider these priorities for the purposes of policy and program development in support of the English-speaking community of Quebec.

Signed on behalf of the English-speaking community of Quebec, on March 25, 2012 in Montreal, Quebec at the conclusion of the Community Priority Setting Conference.

Noel Burke, Chairman

John Gancz

Cheryl Gosselin

Debbie Horrocks

Leila Marshy

Brad McDonald

Ann Marie Powell

Peter Quilliams

Irene Tschernomor