



Strategic Priorities Forum

2017 – 2018 Priorities of the English-speaking Community of Quebec and Annual Report of the Priority Setting Steering Committee

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Introduction

In September 2011, the Quebec Community Groups Networks launched The Strategic Priorities Forum, a standing five-year cyclical process to identify common priorities ensuring a vital and sustainable future for Quebec's English-speaking communities and to collectively pursue enabling strategies to achieve community goals over five years. In this capacity, the QCGN established a nine-member Priority Setting Steering Committee (PSSC), a permanent Committee of QCGN's Board of Directors, to assist the community with the governance of the Strategic Priorities Forum.

The PSSC's purpose it is to collect, analyze, prioritize and articulate the common needs, priorities and issues of the community and its constituents and to communicate its findings to constituents, partners and stakeholders including government, to engage in collective action. Members serving on the PSSC are representatives of the broader community and do not represent a particular sector or region.

In 2011-2012, a vast and diverse pool of community groups, individuals and institutions from Quebec's English-speaking community participated in a comprehensive consultative process to determine common priorities and strategies to achieve future collective goals. In March of 2012, the process culminated in a Community Priority Setting Conference. Through consensus achieved at the conference, the PSSC signed the Declaration of the English-speaking Community of Quebec articulating six evolving common development priorities that would contribute to ensuring a vital and sustainable future for the English-speaking Communities of Quebec, namely:

1. Access to Services in English
2. Community Building
3. Economic Prosperity
4. Identity and Renewal
5. Leadership and Representation
6. Strong Institutions

Following the conference, the PSSC provided a Community Development Plan entitled 2012 – 2017 Community Priorities and Enabling Strategies of the English-speaking Community of Quebec, clearly defining the priorities, the enabling strategies for their attainment and proposing a process for self-evaluation and validation over the next five years. Broadly embraced by the community, the document remains the primary reference for the ongoing activities of the PSSC.

The purpose of this report is to present results of the PSSC's efforts monitoring the six evolving community priorities through an online survey and strategic consultations. The survey results provide a portrait of the activities undertaken in the current fiscal year, identify needs that are underserved and sectors of service that are under-developed, and, identify the plans developed by the various groups and organizations for addressing these needs. An analysis of the responses informs the PSSC and enables it to identify the priority needs and issues of concern for the English-speaking community of Quebec for the upcoming fiscal year. By virtue of its mandate, the PSSC reports its findings to federal, provincial and municipal government agencies and departments as well as to community stakeholders.

2017 – 2018 Priorities of the English-speaking Community of Quebec

Every year the Priority Setting Steering Committee conducts a survey to identify priorities of the Quebec's English-speaking community for the coming year.

The goals of the annual survey are threefold:

1. To see how organizations are linking to the six high level over-arching priorities established during the Community Priority Setting Conference.
2. To see how the community benefitted from and attached to these six priorities.
3. To identify the program and project priorities of the community sector in support of the English-speaking community for the coming year.

Following an analysis of the survey results, the PSSC and QCGN extracted the following “annual priorities” to transmit to government and other stakeholders in order to influence policies and programs that will contribute to maintaining a vital and sustainable English-speaking community in Quebec.

The following represent the community's development priorities for the 2016-2017 fiscal year presented by Strategic Priority. It is noted that, not surprisingly, many of these priorities are similar or identical to those identified for the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year given the ongoing nature of certain needs in the community. It is further noted that there is an emphasis on the needs of youth, including young adults and aboriginal youth, parents and seniors. There is, as well, a concern for dealing with isolation in its various manifestations for people of all ages, for general health and wellness issues and for a general better understanding of legal issues. These priorities are not presented in any order of importance.

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.*

1. Projects that increase access to services in English, particularly in health and social services, and projects that help reach more under-served families and individuals.
2. Projects that serve vulnerable populations such as people suffering from mental health issues; isolated seniors; youth in distress; aboriginal youth; and, isolated caregivers.
3. Health promotion fairs and other projects to improve information about government services, especially local services and activities in English, and improve access to them.
4. Strengthening resource-centers and improving activities and services to better serve the English-speaking population's needs in areas such as health, the law, culture and lifelong learning.
5. Projects that support English-speaking seniors and caregivers as well as projects that provide translation and accompaniment services for seniors dealing with French-only communications from government and other sources, including the Internet.
6. Collaborations with senior's organizations to identify the communication needs of English-speaking seniors in Quebec.
7. Networking and Partnership Initiative (NPI) and McGill partnership activities.
8. Projects and programs that provide access to quality lifelong learning, employment services and workforce integration services 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.*

1. Projects and activities that allow groups to maintain ties with members, to continue to build their communities and to serve their constituents.
2. Programming, workshops and community partnerships that assist youth and in particular, youth with special needs.
3. Projects designed to take advantage of new media as traditional media institutions decline.
4. Projects that support and promote volunteerism at all levels including the local, neighbourhood level.
5. Workshops and activities that support employability, civic participation, as well as the health and personal development of youth in cultural and aboriginal communities.
6. Activities that promote interaction between seniors and youth, and which increase the capacity of individuals in both groups to create cultural media products unique to the English-speaking community.
7. Programs that expand videoconference education programs and distance learning opportunities for people of all ages.
8. Community support initiatives that not only support the English-speaking community but also improve interactions and mutual support between the ESCQ and other cultural communities.
9. Mentorship projects to mobilize actors in Quebec's English-speaking community in social development issues.

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.*

1. Projects and activities using an integrated approach that leverages community resources to maximize lifelong learning opportunities for single mothers, low income families, disengaged youth, isolated seniors, newcomers and aboriginals.
2. Employment networking activities in Montreal and the regions; one on one services such as counseling, coaching and mentorship; workshops; French classes, and placement services.
3. Projects that contribute to economic prosperity through hiring youth and retaining graduates.
4. Conferences, workshops and other networking opportunities that encourage and develop the entrepreneurial skills of English-speakers including artists, women and youth.
5. Projects and activities that assist English-speaking community members and entrepreneurs to communicate effectively with provincial and municipal authorities on issues of employment and business development in the public sector.
6. Projects and activities that explore social financing initiatives and that assist groups in diversifying their funding sources.

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.*

1. Support for retention projects including those that target high school, CEGEP and university students.
2. Newcomers projects to provide orientation and integration opportunities and that nurture a sense of belonging to Quebec's English-speaking community
3. Projects that support our youth (promote local career opportunities; develop leadership abilities, as well as their sense of belonging and self-confidence).
4. Awareness campaigns on issues effecting youth from cultural minority communities as well as culturally sensitive and relevant activities to enhance their academic achievement.
5. Cultural and history projects and other community activities that promote identity and support community involvement and renewal as well as heritage projects that underscore some of the challenges that cultural communities face in trying to uncover their identity/history.
6. Touring projects that connect Quebec's artists, institutions and populations in the regions.
7. Theatre that is accessible to all, regardless of income, culture, language, age or education.
8. Support for projects that promote the work of local artists, authors, photographers and videographers through the publication and exhibits of anthologies of original works.
9. Projects that explore the place and identity of English-speaking Quebecers of all cultural and national backgrounds.
10. Activities and events that celebrate the English-speaking community in all of its diversity and underline its contributions to Quebec.

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.*

1. Public forums and activities that support collaboration and community actions to ensure collective impact on community priorities.
2. Projects and activities that support and encourage networking with public and community partners to ensure that the English-speaking community is represented and visible and that the needs of the community are taken into account by decision makers at all levels.
3. Participation in regional government agencies, administrative bodies and tables to ensure English-speakers are represented in key local institutions and organizations.
4. Projects and activities that build and foster youth leadership via volunteerism and educational programs.
5. Research that explores cultural diversity in all of its forms and expressions.
6. Activities that identify potential future community leaders and provide support, sponsorship, mentorship and participation opportunities on the governance structures of institutions, organizations and government bodies and agencies.
7. Projects that encourage federal departments and agencies to gather relevant data and provide it to the English-speaking community to encourage greater mutual collaboration as envisaged in the official languages act.

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

1. Projects that encourage and support collaboration between community organizations and education, health and social service institutions, including hospitals.
2. Projects that raise awareness regarding educational issues that affect the community as well as workshops to strengthen leadership skills for English-speaking parents who sit on Schools Boards, Governing Boards and Home and School committees.
3. Support for strategic planning and consulting with the English community to allow groups to renew knowledge of the needs and priorities of their communities and to share this knowledge.
4. Projects with education, health and other government institutions to maintain and enhance their capacity to provide English–language services.
5. Projects that engage youth and encourage active participation in community development activities, projects and initiatives.
6. Funding projects to maintain heritage buildings in the community that are home to community institutions.

Annual Meetings and Work Plan for 2015 – 2016

The PSSC members met via teleconference. The primary focus for 2015 - 2016 was on the assurance of continuity and coherence with respect to the community Strategic Priorities. The production and dissemination of the fifth Annual PSSC Survey was assured. Discussions continued concerning possible next steps with regard to the final years of the five- year Strategic Priorities Forum process that began in 2012.

The Strategic Priorities Forum’s Annual Survey: Operational Framework

The goals of the annual Strategic Priorities Forum consultation are to gather and share information on the priorities and needs of English-speaking Quebecers with a wide constituency which includes the community sector, supporting stakeholders, funding agencies, politicians at all levels and the wider Quebec community.

Groups were invited to complete the survey between April 14, 2016 and April 28, 2016. Minor changes were made to the statements of the questions used the previous year, in order to allow for a longitudinal analysis of the evolution of the organizations’ planning and operations within the framework of the Six Strategic Priorities. A new question was introduced to gauge the degree to which organizations found the survey results beneficial. A total of 23 organizations responded to the survey, including some who have completed the survey for the first time, 19 QCGN members and four non-member organizations. Over 250 comments were provided in response to the survey’s open-ended questions.

N.B. For the purposes of the survey, the word institution will be understood to mean an organization, establishment, foundation, society, or the like, devoted to the promotion of a particular cause or program, especially one of a public, educational or charitable character. Reference:

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/institution?s=t>

Results of the 2016 Strategic Priorities Online Survey

Question 1 – Identity of Survey Respondents - 23 respondents

QCGN Member Organizations (19)

Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN)
English Community Organization of Lanaudière
English-Speaking Catholic Council (ESCC)
Megantic English-speaking Community Development Corporation (MCDC)
Neighbours Regional Association of Rouyn Noranda
Quebec 4-H Association
Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN)
Quebec Drama Federation (QDF)
South Shore Community Partners Network (SSCPN)
Townshippers' Association
Vision Gaspé-Percé Now
Voice of English-speaking Québec (VEQ)
Youth Employment Services (YES)
Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ)
Morris Centre (Literary and Historical Society of Quebec)
Black Community Resource Center (BCRC)
Chez Doris
Queen Elizabeth Health Complex
Canadian Parents for French

QCGN Non-member partner organizations (4)

LEARN - Community Learning Centres
The Youth and Parents AGAPE Association Inc.
Éducaloi
Parkinson Canada in Quebec

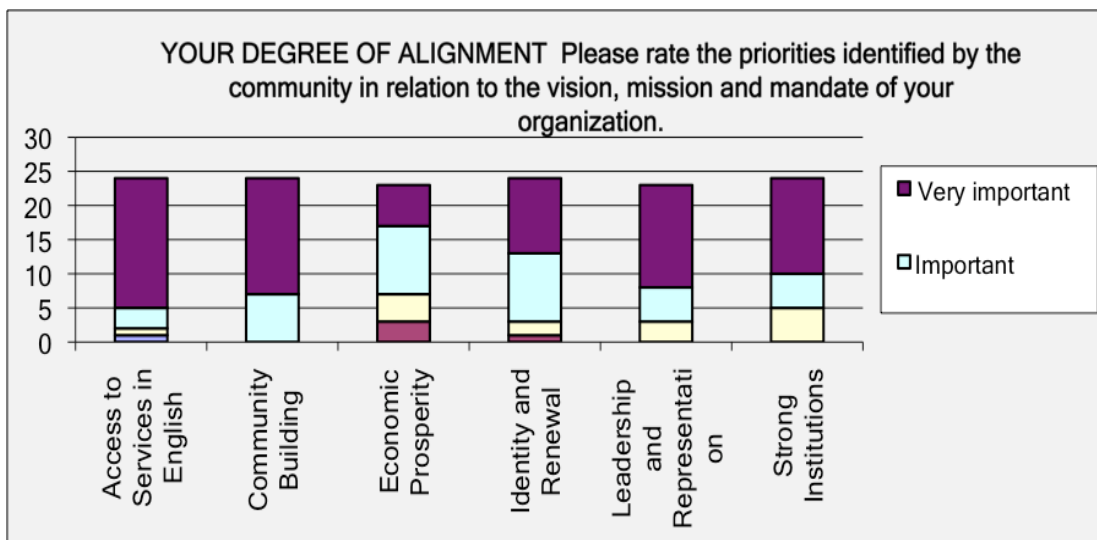
PSSC Observations

It is noted that there is a dramatic drop in the number of respondents to the 2106 survey when compared to 2015. In 2015 a total of 42 organizations responded, in 2016 there are 23 responding organizations. It is noted that there have been comments made with regard to strained capacity in previous surveys.

Question 2: Alignment with the Six Strategic Priorities

YOUR DEGREE OF ALIGNMENT Please rate the priorities identified by the community in relation to the vision, mission and mandate of your organization.						
Answer Options	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all	Response Count
Access to Services in English	19 (79%)	3 (13%)	1 (4%)	0	1 (4%)	24
Community Building	17 (71%)	7 (29%)	0	0	0	24
Economic Prosperity	6 (33%)	10 (42%)	4 (17%)	3 (13%)	0	23
Identity and Renewal	11 (46%)	10 (42%)	2 (8%)	1 (4%)	0	24
Leadership and Representation	15 (63%)	5 (21%)	3 (13%)	0	0	23
Strong Institutions	14 (58%)	5 (21%)	5 (21%)	0	0	24
<i>answered question</i>						24
<i>skipped question</i>						1

*Please note the data and tables reflect an organization that responded twice to the 2016 PSSC survey, resulting in a slight skew of the percentages.



PSSC Observations

Access to Services in English is rated highest as the “very important” priority in this year’s survey. **Community Building** was considered to be a “very important” or “important” priority by all respondents.

Leadership and Representation and **Strong Institutions** were considered to be important by all respondents. Only one organization found **Identity and Renewal** “not very important” and three organizations found **Economic Prosperity** “not very important.”

Of great significance is the respondents’ identification with the Six Strategic Priorities under the combined headings of Very Important and Important. The response overall is broadly based and statistically highly significant: **Access to Services (92%); Community Building (100%); Economic Prosperity (75%); Identity and Renewal (88%); Leadership and Representation (84%) and Strong Institutions (79%).**

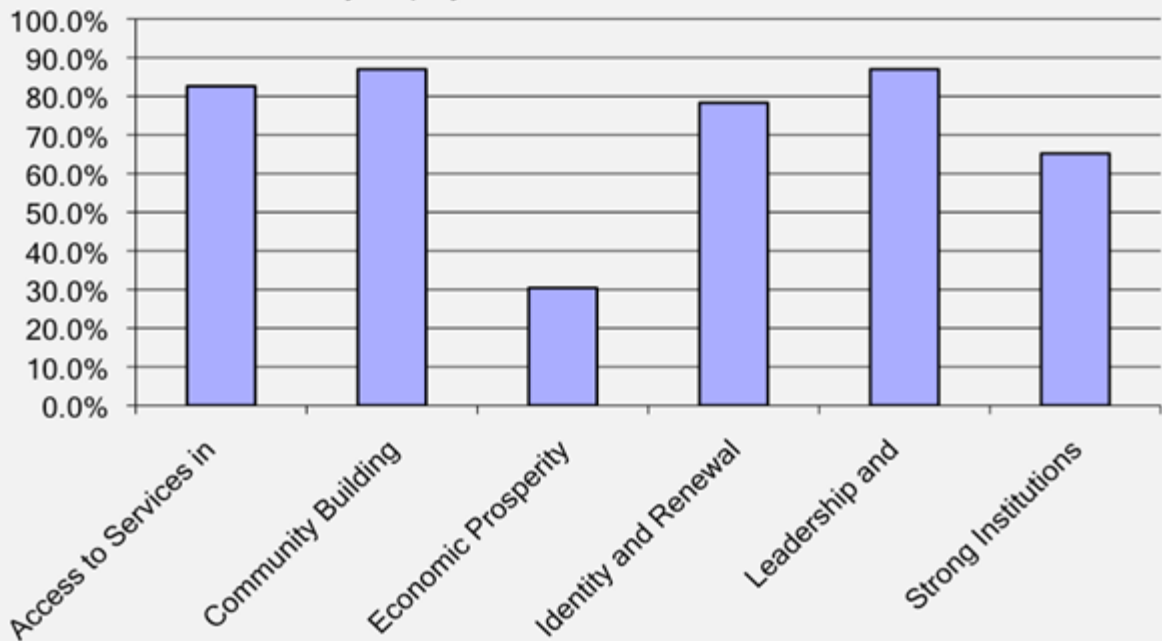
We can only conclude, as we did in 2015, that this represents a strong and unequivocal endorsement of the relevance, importance and utility of the Six Strategic Priorities and the community groups’ alignment with them.

Question 3: Community attaching projects and activities to priorities

YOUR STORY Please tell us which of the community priorities your organization has been working on. Select all the priorities that pertain to your projects and/or activities.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Access to Services in English	82.6%	19
Community Building	87.0%	20
Economic Prosperity	30.4%	7
Identity and Renewal	78.3%	18
Leadership and Representation	87.0%	20
Strong Institutions	65.2%	15
Please describe at least three projects and/or activities and how they were successful in supporting one or more community priorities.		22
	<i>answered question</i>	23
	<i>skipped question</i>	2

YOUR STORY Please tell us which of the community priorities your organization has been working on. Select all the priorities that pertain to your projects and/or activities.



PSSC Observations

Community Building and **Leadership and Representation** projects and activities represent the greatest investment of effort in the past year. Activities related to **Access to Services** represent the next most important group. Followed by **Strong Institutions** and **Economic Prosperity**.

The following are the brief descriptions of the projects and activities as they appear in responses reported in this year's survey.

Respondents' comments to Question 3

QDF works with other stakeholders to ensure the needs of the English-speaking theatre community of Quebec are represented. This year we met in consultation with all levels of art funders who are in various stages of strategic planning. Community building, access to English services and economic prosperity are all values behind the development of our blog qdfmusings.com, which is reaching well beyond expectation. The QDF Theatre Calendar is a key promotional tool for our community, and we are expanding it to build a better connection between artists and community. Our training initiatives for artists and community build capacity and provide employment opportunities for professional community engaged artists.

Community Building - through the organization of one, large community celebration in December.
Identity & Renewal - through the organization and hosting of a Round Table of cultural and religious communities for the discussion of accommodation and identity. Leadership & Representation - through the seeking out and cultivation of new leadership for the English-speaking community.

Leadership and Representation/Strong institutions - Our We Are One/Nous Sommes Un youth symposium project has brought together students from four local high schools (2 English, 2 French). The students are tackling issues that impact residents of the city, regardless of mother tongue, such as poverty and mental illness while building bridges between the two linguistic communities.

Access to Services in English/Community Building/Strong Institutions - The Morrin Centre's program provides a rich and diverse in heritage, education and the arts in English. This supports the aforementioned three priority areas. From our ImagiNation Writers' Festival to music events and historical talks, the Morrin Centre is the cultural hub of the Quebec City region's English-speaking community. Our successes in these activities strengthen our institution as well as our partners, thus benefitting the entire community.

Identity and Renewal/Community Building - Hong Kong and the Home Front. This project tells the story of the men of the Royal Rifles, a primarily English-speaking unit from Quebec City, who went to Hong Kong, fought and were held captive during World War II. This exhibit allowed us to introduce a virtually unknown part of the English-speaking community's history. Younger generations will become aware of these important contributions. Sense of belonging will be increased.

Access to Services in English/Community Building – Arts in Action Workshop Series. This series of workshops gave local amateur and semi-professional artists in the Quebec City region to attend professional workshops in artistic disciplines such as songwriting, dance, travel writing, drumming, elemental theatre and more. These workshops were wildly popular and filled a definite community need. We are planning on bringing them back in 2016 -2017.

Keeping the schools open after school for activities open to the community. Intergenerational activities/ transfer of knowledge and Identity. Positioning School Board as important partners in the community

YES helped over 4000 people this year by providing English language services to help them find employment, start and grow a business and monetize their art in Quebec -all with the objective of retention and renewal.

YES staff, Board and committee members participated in close to 500 outreach events to government, educational institutions, media, community organizations, presenting issues related to the English speaking community (employment, economic development, arts).

YES developed Community Talks, a documentary film on the employment issues facing young Anglophones in Quebec. It was screened at a cinema in downtown Montreal and it was viewed by politicians, media, educators, regional partners, other not for profits and the public.

YES continued to coordinate the Employment Services Round table, a coalition of organizations that provide English language employment services in Quebec - the only group representing this sector.

YES held 4 different events for artists, entrepreneurs, community leaders and employment counselors reaching overall more than 1000 people.

The health committee working with the hospital and other health services. Our participation and contribution to the Canada Day festivities. Working with and aiding our annual Guitar festival. Providing our members as well as anyone in the community who requires support or translations or information in English.

The Little Burgundy "Standing on their Shoulders" had as its objectives building a sense of history and community among Black youth, raising self-esteem and learning by doing; teaching leadership; Collaborating and partnering with other agencies and institutions to address chronic unemployment among Black Youth; working with organizations in the Black community to strengthen their organizational management skills; applying social and emotional learning techniques in the school system to motivate youth at risk increase their investment learning; (Kings and Queens); publishing a digitize magazine to increase and improve the level of communication within and between communities; Co-ordinate the Black Community leadership Forum aimed at improving community development and social strategies of community based Black organizations.

Community Facebook page and Newsletter: Increased awareness of Services in English. Life Long Learning Program: Increased programs for older Adults. Care Giver Program: Helped Seniors and families who are Caregivers find English services

We have an annual Outstanding Neighbours Gala to enhance leadership, representation as well as identity. We work in partnership with our existing English institutions; 1 school and 1 church. Our health dossiers are mostly focused on access to services

Health program Access to Services in English for Inuit and aboriginal women. Nutrition and social interaction program Organizing traditional aboriginal meals and dishes through our communal kitchen to help preserve their heritage. Mental health and wellness program; Access to services such as mental health in English for our Anglophone clients.

5 à 7 Connect' employment networking activity between HR personnel and multilingual job seekers in the Townships (partner with CEDEC and regional employers). Make Way for YOUth recruitment of English-speaking professionals 18-35 interested in relocating to live and work in the Estrie region. Eastern Townships Partners for Health and Social Services Estrie and Montérégie-East networks; health promotion and increasing access to health and social services for the ESC in the historical Eastern Townships.

The (Agape) Networking Partnership Initiative to build relations with public health and social service institutions to allow better access to health/social services in English in Laval via key partners/stakeholders in the ESC of Laval. Health Promotion Projects/ Community Health Education Program: to work on identified public health priorities in our region (Laval). Adaptation of Health and Social Service projects: to adapt specific health and social services for the English speaking community at the CISSS Laval. McGill Retention of Bilingual Health and Social Service professionals.

Community service is an important component of 4-H programming. Youth learn the value of giving back through local club activities such as litter clean ups, fairground beautification, dancing at local events and senior residences, and organizing fundraisers. Shining example: Hatley 4-H Club hold a turkey auction (birds raised by members through the poultry project) each year at Ayer's Cliff Fair; in 2015, \$3000 was raised for the Children's Wish Foundation.

The square dancing project is taken on by almost one third of Quebec 4-H members. In addition to the obvious health benefits, participation reinforces the importance of teamwork and commitment. Youth from ages 6 to 25 form bonds with teammates, often, older members coaching and/or calling for younger. Dance teams entertain at community events and seniors residences. Teams from different clubs come together for the Quebec 4-H Provincial Square Dance Competition as well as a competition hosted by Ormstown 4-H Club, which first started in 1979. Youth and accompanying adults from different regions take these opportunities to reconnect with friends they have made via other 4-H programming. Community members attend these popular events.

Leadership skills developed through 4-H, where members take on roles such as president, secretary, and treasurer, prepare these youth to serve on local fair boards, breed associations, and other community groups.

Strategic planning process and currently initial implementation across the network. Increased presence and visibility as an informed leader - Advocacy events. Effective working relationships with external stakeholders and public - dissemination of evidence based information. Enhanced volunteer leader engagement and capacity through training (governance focus)

Strong Institutions: QAHN Project: Fostering Organizational Renewal through Enriching Volunteer Experience & Recognition (FOREVER): this ongoing project explores ways in which non-profits can develop fun and mutually-enriching volunteer programs in order to attract new (and younger) volunteers, keep these volunteers interested for the long term, and help institutions and the communities they serve to thrive for years to come.

Identity and Renewal: QAHN Project: Housewife Heroines of World War II: this project spotlighted the unsung, unpaid wartime contributions of Anglophone women in Montreal during the Second World War. Traveling exhibits, workshops and conferences and an International Women's Day event all contributed to building identity and pride among the Anglophone community, especially seniors. All of our exhibition material was produced in both languages. Hence, the project helped to provide services in English.

Community Building/Strong Institutions: QAHN project: Diversifying Resources to Ensure the Advancement of Mission (DREAM). This project is all about heritage and cultural organizations finding creative ways to diversify the base of their funding and in-kind support within the local communities

they serve. This project will strengthen institutions by making them less vulnerable to the whims of funding agencies and/or other factors out of their control, and by providing them with the capacity to engage in creative new revenue-generating activities; by strengthening local institutions, this initiative will also help to strengthen the communities that these institutions serve.

Networking and Partnership Initiative: We support 20 community health and social services networks that have mobilized communities and created partnerships with the public system. The networks supported 454 partnerships in 2013-2014. Half of these connected communities with the public system to improve access. 44% were partnerships among community organizations supporting community building, leadership and representation. The result has been communities mobilized to address needs, and public partners more engaged in meeting them.

Adaptation of Public services: CHSSN provides resources through Health Canada to the 16 former regional health agencies to sponsor projects in the public system to improve access. These projects allow service providers to better understand the needs of English-speaking communities, adapt programs and engage with community networks to improve access. Many projects are partnership projects involving community networks directly. The result will be strengthened access programs to be approved by Quebec in 2018.

Community Health Education Program (CHEP): The CHSSN program serves English-speaking communities geographically isolated from health promotion resources in English. These could be remote communities, or isolated groups within urban or suburban environments. Health and social service information is provided via videoconferencing through the McGill (RUIS) Telehealth system. In 2014-2015, 8 sessions covered topics ranging from diabetes, high blood pressure and home care to back health, autism and prostate cancer. 17 community health and social services networks (NPIs) engaged 751 participants in sessions at 28 sites in communities. This program is successful in providing health promotion and disease prevention in English directly into communities and groups not having access to these services.

Our organization is perhaps different from others answering your survey: we offer services to English-speaking Quebecers, but it is not the whole focus of what we do. We provide information and education about the law to help people understand their rights and responsibilities. We do this in various ways: a legal information website, videos, print documents, talks in the community, teaching tools for teachers and activities in schools and adult ed centres, and training sessions for various kinds of service providers. So all our activities support the community priority "access to services in English", and to a lesser extent some of the other priorities.

In support of Community Building and Identity and Renewal, VEQ partnered with MDC on a youth forum project aimed at identifying issues concerning the growing cultural disconnect and actions we can take to better support our youth (Sec. III, IV, V and first year college students) and help them reconnect with their roots and find a future for themselves in their region. Throughout this project, we also collaborated very closely with the local schools. In total, 130 youth participated.

Supporting Community Building, Identity and Renewal, Leadership and Representation and Strong institutions, VEQ partnered with two local high schools to offer technology workshops to seniors from our community. Over 60 youth participated offering one on one support.

Supporting Access to Services in English, Community Building, Identity and Renewal, Leadership and

Representation and finally Strong institutions, Québec en Forme's (Be Active Quebec) English regroupement sponsored several activities throughout the community and was able to promote healthy eating and an active lifestyle in the 0 to 17 age group. Several steering committee meetings and working committee meetings, bringing together, from both linguistic communities, social workers, nurses, school teachers, principals, etc, were held to ensure that community partners were aligned in their efforts.

Vision Gaspé - Percé Now recently produced a bilingual medical terms booklet for the staff at our health institution. We have received a lot of positive feedback and have begun receiving requests from individual staff members for their own copy of the booklet as they say it assists them when caring for their English clientele.

Vision works with McGill through its retention and recruitment project. This helps to ensure that bilingual health and social service workers return to the region upon completion of their studies. This project also works to inform students at the elementary and high school levels of different career opportunities available to them.

Vision developed a guide for caregivers that was adapted from a project from one of our NPI partners. The organization shared the resource with all of the organizations in Quebec representing the Anglophone community, during a resource-sharing event. Vision's adaptation of the guide was very well received in the community and by our health partners. Recently the Francophone community has applied for funds to have the guide translated and adapted for the French community.

Weekly Wellness Centre activities provide a number of health-related conferences and workshops. We also supply a huge amount of documentation in English on many subjects (health, law, public safety, etc.). Furthermore, we help our CISSS to identify health and social service priorities for the Anglos of their region and have recently gone through over 60 documents published in English to determine the quality of the translations with the goal to make sure that information shared is clear and well-written.

Annual networking meetings and regular consultations with community group representatives help to build a sense of community and shared goals between organizations. Our nine Board directors are supported in taking on roles of representation of their community in various groups, committees and roundtables.

Rediscovering & Celebrating Our Seniors Contribution In Their Communities. Holding Focus Groups with 5 partners in 17 communities where seniors were consulted and asked to identify the priorities for their communities. Holding conferences that provide information on timely topics that will improve the quality-of-life for E-S Seniors.

Funding from Health Canada under the umbrella and guidance of CHSSN has allowed us to work in close partnership with public health agencies and institutions, as well as community organizations. This has been and continues to be very helpful in improving access to health service in English.

Funding from PCH program is the basis of our community building action. Community and cultural activities, forums, surveys, focus groups, support and volunteer services have all contributed to revitalize our community.

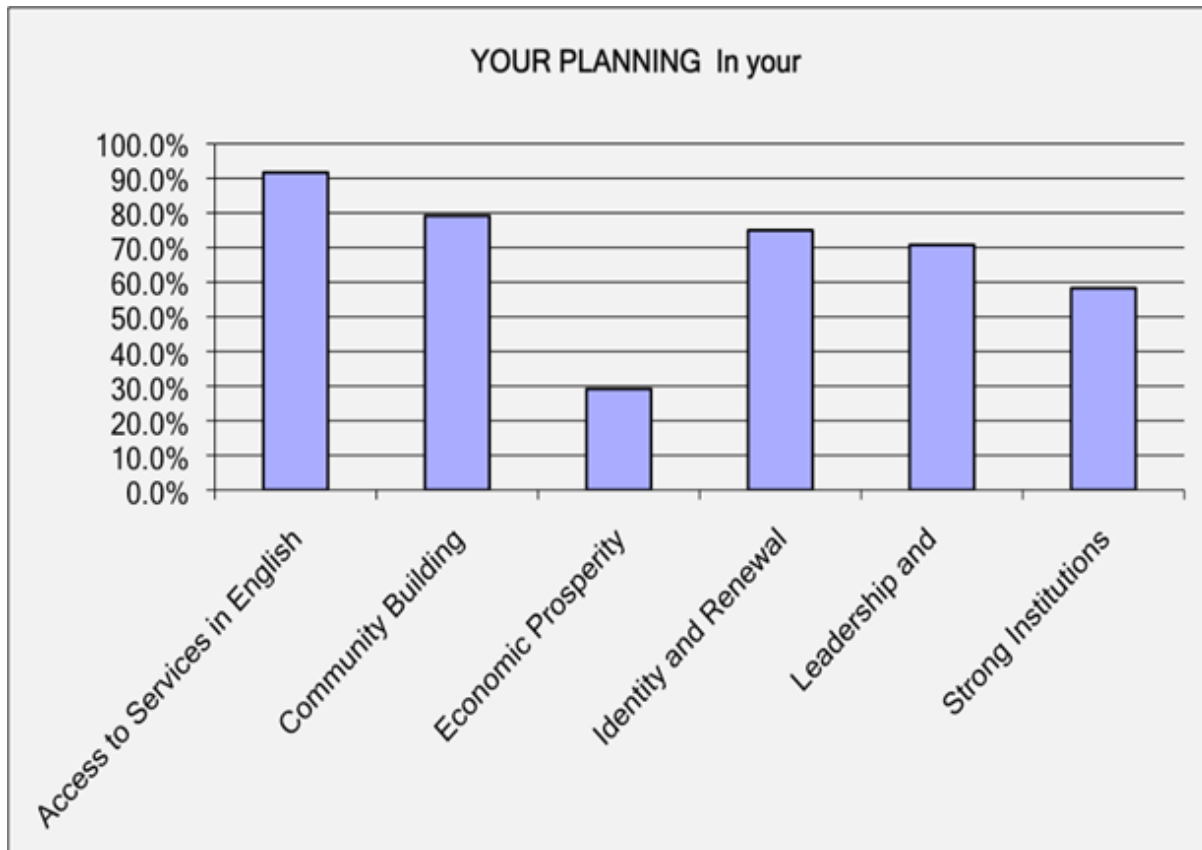
Funding from PCH project, Linguistic Duality or New Horizons have contributed to work closely with the only English schools in the Chaudière-Appalaches regions located in Thetford Mines, near the MCDC

offices. We organized intergenerational activities such as our recent "Tastes of the past, Memories for the future" cookbook, we continue to promote volunteerism among our youth through training and local volunteering opportunities. These projects help support our youth and give them a greater sense of identity.

Question 4: Planning and alignment with strategic priorities

YOUR PLANNING In your program, project and other funding applications (to Canadian Heritage and/or other funding partner, including the provincial government and local sponsors) and in planning and developing projects and activities, with which of the priorities did you align?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Access to Services in English	91.7%	22
Community Building	79.2%	19
Economic Prosperity	29.2%	7
Identity and Renewal	75.0%	18
Leadership and Representation	70.8%	17
Strong Institutions	58.3%	14
Please describe projects and activities and how they aligned to the priorities.		22
<i>answered question</i>		24
<i>skipped question</i>		1



PSSC Observations

The projects and activities planned for fiscal year 2015-2016 reflect in large measure a continued engagement in projects and activities offered in fiscal year 2014-2015. Concern is evident in the planning of many groups for people experiencing isolation and poverty, and for people, young and old, with special needs, with a lack of autonomy, lack of education and lack of opportunity. Central to planning and project development efforts of many of the respondents is assuring access to continued and proven services and programs. The multiplicity of needs of the diverse English-speaking communities in Quebec represents a persistent challenge.

Respondents' comments to Question 4

Right now our focus is on expanding the voice of our community, by building a digital infrastructure to promote theatre through education and engagement. This includes expansion of our blog, and adding a YouTube station and podcasts. Participating artists will be paid, audience development will feed our theatres, and an awareness of local talent will be heightened, thus extending their reach. This will also underline the voice of English speaking artist sin a way that can be aggregated and shared.

*Building upon the work of 2015-2016, we proposed the organization of workshops to address the problem of social isolation and exclusion among English-speaking seniors - this touches upon a number of different priorities including Access to Services in English as well as Strong Institutions.

*Under the umbrella of Leadership and Representation, our organization is also working towards developing leadership for our own organization, as well as other for other Boards, that is drawn from under-represented communities.

In terms of our upcoming projects for the 2016-17 financial year, we have the following projects for which funding was received from the Department of Canadian Heritage:

In 2017, the Morrin Centre will organize a series of events and activities designed to bring Anglophones and Francophones together under the theme of the contributions of the region's women in order to encourage discussion about linguistic duality. This will consist of a colloquium and temporary exhibition.

We will also plan and organize a 2-day creative workshop which will bring members of the Quebec City region's Anglophone community together to work of visual art on common initiatives to tell the stories of its members and institutions, past and present. Using the Morrin Centre's building as a starting point, participants will explore the history of Quebec City's Anglophone community, specifically the events during Canada's 150 years and the period when it became a nation. This project will directly impact the following priority areas:

Identify and renewal - Access to services in English - Community building

We will also be leading a project called "Member-led, Society-sponsored" events and activities will arm community members with the knowledge and skills to allow them to plan, organize and carry out

cultural events and activities, which will contribute to the following priority areas:

Identity and renewal - Community building - Strong institutions

Same as above

YES' mission is to enrich the community by providing English language support services to help Quebecers find employment and start and grow small businesses. All of our programs and services are to help individuals and groups gain the skills they need to become economically self-sufficient so that they will remain in Quebec. Last year we had over 18,000 visits to the center, held over 500 workshops, held 4 events, presented online services to the regions in Quebec, published a business book for Quebec artists

Our services include one on one business coaching, employment counseling, and artist consultations. We also have over 500 workshops. Over 6500 people attended workshops at YES last year. Of our job search clients over 79% found employment. We have engaged over 500 volunteers many from the corporate and business community.

Working with our local English school we held health information sessions, entertainment, literacy support and cultural events. We contribute to the community offering support and assistance for the recognition and exposure. Throughout the year we offer our members many events such as our annual Christmas gala, laugh attack, Valentine and St. Patrick Day activities, many information sessions, CPR courses and our Savory Seniors classes, to name a few. Another important project was with the Youth.

Support and participate in business startups in collaboration with Black Studies center, the Quebec Board of Black educators and Concordia Institute for Community Entrepreneurship and Development. King and Queen program address youth at risk in the EMSB education system. Standing on their Shoulders promotes identity and sense of community and self-esteem; as well as leadership. Seniors program reduce isolation among the aging population and increase opportunity for bettering health and economic conditions by creating a social and community network rich in information.

Facebook page and Newsletter: Increased awareness of Services in English. Life Long Learning Program: Increased programs for older Adults. Care Giver Program: Helped Seniors and families who are Caregivers find English services

Health program Access to Services in English for Inuit and aboriginal women. Nutrition and social interaction program Organizing traditional aboriginal meals and dishes through our communal kitchen to help preserve their heritage. Mental health and wellness program; Access to services such as mental health in English for our Anglophone clients.

The implementation of community based health services- primary care program for the community by residents from Neurology and Family Med. (MUHC).

Network Partnership Initiative & Health Promotion Project (Estrie and Montérégie-East) - access to services, adaptation of services, health prevention activities.

MWFY - community renewal. Excel in the Estrie essay contest - identity and renewal. Newcomer's

symposium - strong institutions, renewal, community building. Townships Expressions - community building.

CHSSN Funding: The (Agape) Networking Partnership Initiative to build relations with public health and social service institutions to allow better access to health/social services in English in Laval via key partners/stakeholders in the ESC of Laval.

Health Promotion Projects/ Community Health Education Program: to work on identified public health priorities in our region (Laval).

Adaptation of Health and Social Service projects: to adapt specific health and social services for the English speaking community at the CISSS Laval.

McGill Retention of Bilingual Health and Social Service professionals

Through a variety of events, communications pieces, and other services, Quebec 4-H provides youth and volunteer leaders with access to educational resources and activities in English, while also offering opportunities for networking with peers who share similar interests, and helping to develop leadership abilities.

Provide research-based information through a variety of vehicles including social media. Initiating a public awareness and outreach campaign. New partnership with ACUFC on transition from secondary to post-secondary education. Strengthen the purpose and increase the reach of the FSL Partner Network. Promote, support and/or organize sociocultural activities (concoors, social media twitter contest). Recognize volunteer efforts and contributions. Member, volunteer-leader training opportunities and orientation sessions (governance).

Parkinson community is underserved in terms of programs & services available in ENG. in QC. Planned activities of Parkinson Canada in QC:

- Fully bilingual phone/email information and referral service (Access);
- English-speaking support groups facilitated by a local health care professional (Access, Com. building, Strong institutions);
- Conferences and information sessions in English-speaking communities (Access, Com. building, Strong institutions)
- Knowledge transfer program for community centers to extend access of people with Parkinson's to English-speaking exercise groups outside of central Montreal (Access, Com. building, Strong institutions);
- Addressing any issues and concerns relevant to the Parkinson's community, both locally and provincially. (Leadership & rep, strong institutions).

The mission of our organization, and virtually all of our projects and activities, are all about providing service and value to the heritage sector of English-speaking Quebec. The priorities mentioned above cover most of what we do.

The CHSSN aligned program funding applications with Health Canada and Canadian Heritage with "Access to services" (adaptation program funding agreements with 16 regional health agencies, networking and partnership initiative with 20 NPIs, and health promotion programs). Program funding aligned the networking and partnership initiative to support "community building", "leadership and

representation". Canadian Heritage program funding supports "leadership and representation" through its health and social services priorities consultative body to Health Canada and its policy program with a table of community networks and resources in the greater Montreal region.

Please see comment in relation to question 3.

Access to Services in English: Vision will continue distribution of its Bilingual Medical Terms booklet to health and social service workers. Vision will also produce a banner pen for health workers that will include a list of translations previously identified by the workers. Vision will assist our health partner in delivering the English Language courses to their staff. Vision will continue to meet with our health partner to update them on our actions.

Community Building: Vision will continue to take part in NPI retreats, which allow for resource sharing and collaborations with other Anglophone community organizations throughout Quebec. Vision will continue working closely with its regional partners on an action plan for the 0 to 5 year old Anglophone population.

Economic Prosperity: Vision will continue working with McGill through its retention and recruitment program, by promoting their bursary program, by providing information to students on different health and social service careers, by providing job fairs and other resources.

Identity and Renewal: Vision is currently working with a partner on developing a database of music by local musicians, past and present.

Leadership and Representation: Vision will be working at developing a bank of volunteers for its various activities. Vision presents a volunteer award on an annual basis to a community volunteer at our AGM.

Strong Institutions: Vision meets regularly with our local health partner to discuss possible collaborations. Our health partner is aware of Vision's projects.

Funding from the CISSS was received to: a) Survey English-speaking seniors to determine their level of satisfaction with English language services; b) Ensure that the documentation supplied in English is clear and well written.

Funding from the provincial government has been secured to ensure our seniors have access to community activities and services through an outreach program. This will help build a stronger community and encourage volunteerism and social inclusion.

Our funding from the CHSSN to engage in networking activities has ensured that the English-speaking community is represented at multiple roundtables and committees. Bilingual projects, such as the community resource guide for home support services, have helped place ECOL in a leadership role with these groups.

See above.

Question 5 - YOUR UNDERSERVED PRIORITIES

Please tell us what projects and activities your organization was unable to provide because there are no funding programs, public or private, which support them.

PSSC Observations

Many organizations raise concerns related to funding, both current and future. Current capacity is stretched. New and needed services, particularly for the growing seniors population, in health, wellness and computer literacy skills are not being provided for with current resource levels.

Respondents' comments to question 5

In general, the low levels of funding available to support the funding of qualified staff and attract skilled leaders on a long-term basis weakens the ability of the organization to guarantee quality services on a stable basis. This is true of all projects. The discontinuities in service between uncertain grants weaken the organization's credibility, over all its services.

Had to limit promotion of certain services ...because Demand was too great

Economic Prosperity

Mental health services for aboriginal before other Anglophobe women.

Health coach

Free blood sampling for all.

Employability support for job-seekers who aren't equipped or ready for the job market (resume building, translation, skills assessment, etc.)

Youth professionals recruitment in the Montérégie-East - funding is designated for Estrie only

Expansion of cultural programming and aid to local artist community

A senior's wellness centre which would allow help and referral for the specific needs of the English speaking seniors of Laval.

A new local would have allowed more participation in wellness activities, including more access to videoconferences on health and well-being and the expansion of a computer course for seniors.

Without additional resources, Quebec 4-H is unable to expand into new communities so that other areas may benefit from our leadership development program. Recently, our association has made strides to increase and improve services to its membership and has better positioned itself to welcome new members. However, a concentrated effort to develop new clubs would require additional resources for staff and travel.

Publication of CPF initiated research report / conducting research.

Organization of a research roundtable or symposia.

N/A

CHSSN would like to open up the health promotion programs of the Public Health Agency of Canada to English-speaking communities that are currently underrepresented. The PHAC does not participate in the federal Road Map program.

None come to mind as regards our services in English.

We were not able to secure funding from New Horizons for Seniors. Our initiatives for this important clientele had to limit themselves to our Seniors Out and About project (funded from a local foundation) and the technology workshops (Funded by the Conférence Régionale des Élus)

We would have loved to have done much more in the way of intergenerational projects.

Vision continues to have difficulty to find recurring funding for our Frozen Meals for seniors program. This program provides meals at 3\$ each for seniors in both the Anglophone and Francophone community. Vision has received funding to do a feasibility study, however we have not received funding to maintain the project during this time.

For now, we are working at full capacity on current projects. We would eventually like to train and structure our volunteer base, and recruit younger volunteers as well.

We have recognized that many students leave the region to study, but suffer culture shock once they begin CEGEP in the big city. We lack resources to give them greater support in this transition.

Seniors have asked for computer tutorials, which we will try to provide without additional budget (we have received a generous donation of 19 laptops).

Mental health needs of the English-speaking population is our next priority, which will also require additional funding.

The problem is that project funding is time consuming (filling out applications, gathering letters of support, administration, management and reporting), and often cover a period that is too short to render the project sustainable and to make significant changes. Even if funding is available, we have to ensure that we have sufficient resources to undertake all of the above, which is very difficult since we have no core funding.

Economic development: there could a lot more done in that regard with our French partners to promote and contribute to the economic development of our region and our community.

Question 6 - UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY NEEDS

In the eyes of your organization, what underserved areas/sectors of Quebec's English-speaking community require special attention from policy makers?

PSSC Observations

There is a broadly based concern that the “youth” population (white, black, immigrant, aboriginal and Inuit) is underserved. There is concern for access to English services in the general health and mental health, social services and education sectors, for people of all ages. There is concern for adequate services for seniors as well as for caregivers. There is limited access to English-language social and cultural activities in certain regions. There is concern with regards funding shortfalls, not only for the development of new services but also for the maintenance of existing operations, for human resources, facilities and equipment. The retention and attraction of young Anglophones in the regions is of vital importance. Access to the Internet and computer skills training is needed.

Respondents' comments to question 6

Mental health and access to information services in English. A great example of this is the new portal for finding a family doctor, which is only available in French.

We are losing the ability to expose youth to the arts. Programs that connected the schools to artist and the arts have been slashed.

We are under a space crunch. Tight budgets put spaces beyond our reach, and even pooling together is proving problematic.

Our organization has always been concerned with the needs of English-speaking seniors in the province. As the work of the QCGN and SAQ have outlined, this sector of the population is growing and their needs are complex and at times urgent.

Our organization is also concerned that new immigrant communities are canvassed as to their sense of inclusion/belonging to the English-speaking community of Quebec and that programs and activities are developed to encourage and nurture that sense of inclusion.

Community priorities that could be considered underserved are access to services in English, particularly arts, culture and heritage activities. Oftentimes these initiatives are taken on by small organizations with

limited human and financial resources. It is important to have programs in place that allow for the distribution of funds and to facilitate the organization of these vital building blocks for community health and vitality.

Youth retention in their communities

Youth unemployment and underemployment and the inadequacy of funding for organizations throughout the Province that service our youth.

Support in English for new arrivals-employment, housing, etc.

Artists needing business help and exposure.

We face many limitations with English access living in such a minority town. From a personal standpoint I would like to see more access for our youth in regards to high education without having to relocate.

There must be an elimination of discrimination and racism hidden behind the language laws used to strangle the growth and vitality visible and other minority communities that use English as the language of self-expression and for decoding the external world around them. In particular, Blacks are not a meaningful part of the history that has created the French-English divide and conflict. All Blacks have been the victims of British and French colonial capitalism. The Constitutional arrangements and Supreme Court rulings upholding key sections of Bill 101 serve to divide Blacks on linguistic lines, without freeing them from the disadvantages of discrimination and exclusion on either side of that divide.

Greater respect must be shown for the identity of others, and allow for the evolution of a culture in Quebec and Canada that is dynamic and enriched by diversity; and encourages increased interactions between all the peoples of Quebec.

Increase the opportunities for the economic prosperity of all the peoples of Quebec independent of language, skin colour, or origin cultures and countries, gender, age, etc.

Older Adults who are aging. Isolation in urban settings. Homecare services. Services for English-speaking special need adults (I.e. Work Programs). Cultural Communities who are largely English speaking. More youth programs. Economic development. Job training. Computer skills. Life skills - budgeting, retirement planning, etc.

Inuit and aboriginal communities

Access to health info in English, ambulance transfers from our organization to hospitals that provide full services in English (does not always happen.)

Recognition of our community as an official minority language community. Lack of support and representation in public sector. Access to services - health, employment, education.

The protection of Anglo institutions, namely elected school board representatives.

The protection of Access committees for Access to Health and Social Services in English- to allow best representation of the ESC in each region (where bilingual services are not designated).

N/A

Needs of aging population and caregivers.

The regions. Small towns and cities. It is in these areas that organizations like QAHN are able to have the most impact.

As a result of the CHSSN CROP survey of access to health and social services, there are gaps in access to services in English in a range of public programs. The gaps vary from region to region and indicate that challenges remain in ensuring English-speaking communities have the same access to services as the majority community, and that these services are available in English. Given the major reorganization of the Quebec health system, policy makers and services providers must give special attention to the needs of English-speaking communities.

Perhaps the adult education and literacy sectors.

In terms of clientele, perhaps isolated seniors and caregivers for seniors and others, although I know that many organizations are making seniors a priority.

Youth and seniors are areas that require special attention from policy makers.

Home care services, caregiver services, housing for seniors, and transportation. There is also a lack of English services for the 0 to 5 year old community and their families.

MENTAL HEALTH! ANXIETY, BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS AND OVERALL MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN. SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.

Funding for Senior Organizations programs.

Lack of adequate and accessible "housing" & "residences"

More aid require to assist capable seniors to remain in their homes.

More support required for "Caregivers"

More Palliative Care Beds & Hospice Services

More attention is required to address "mental health" issues for seniors. I.e. Depression, adequate financial support so seniors can actively participate in activities to avoid depression and maintain an active & to enable seniors to remain involved.

Financial aid for Oral Care and eye care for seniors

- Support to caregivers: we are doing our best to support our caregivers but resources are limited. Our linguistic community is small (1% of overall population) and is aging more rapidly than the French community. There will be constant and fast growing needs for English-speaking caregivers.

Question 7 - YOUR PARTNERS

Please discuss how you engaged and collaborated with community partners on mutual projects and activities that support the priorities of the community.

PSSC Observations

Partnerships involving one or more organization or community groups are a hallmark of most of the initiatives, plans and activities reported by respondents. The sharing of resources, facilities and capacity are commonplace. Partnership projects involving the private sector are being developed.

Respondents' comments to question 7

The QDF board represents a good cross section of the English speaking theatre community. In addition QDF holds seat on the board of two major stakeholders - the conseil québécois de theatre and ELAN. We helped to produce the last CQT conference focused on cultural diversity in the arts, and are participating with ELAN's ACE project aimed getting artists in the schools. We are also involved in the exploration around mental health needs in the Black community.

We draw upon existing networks to organize our community celebration in December.

Our senior-isolation workshops are entirely a collaborative effort between organizations which serve the senior population and ourselves.

We have reached out into the cultural communities to help to organize the Round tables focused on identity and accommodation.

In 2015, we collaborated with ELAN on the Arts Alive project which featured week-end-long arts festivals in 6 regions across the province. The event was a huge success, including a sold-out concert at the Morrin Centre featuring English-language musicians from Quebec. The festival also included an arts fair which featured community arts, culture and heritage institutions displaying their wares and promoting their goods and services. The festival will be repeated in 2016. The festival provides access to services in English and serves to strengthen institutions and build up the community.

In March 2015, we were pleased to host QCGN's Young Quebecers Leading the Way conference, providing logistical support.

We often collaborate with Voice of English-speaking Quebec on initiatives that serve to contribute to Community building as well as strengthening all community institutions. This includes planning and carrying out common events and participating in the region's Leadership Table.

Each of our CLC schools depending on their needs collaborate with different partners. As much as possible the services are reciprocal

Community Talks-YES worked with our partners in the regions to create a doc on youth unemployment that reflected all of Quebec. We had 1 pads going to many of the regions so that our partners could capture their reality. We also sent out surveys to people in the regions. CASA, North Shore Community Association, VEQ, Townshippers, Regional Association for Western Quebecers, Neighbours, 4Korners.

Regional Entrepreneurship Program-coaches from YES going to regions and doing coaching, webinars and online training for all of Quebec-VEQ, CAMI, CASA, Townshippers, etc.

CHSSN mental health project with AMI Quebec and Cummings Center -helping our clients cope with unemployment-weekly support group workshops, training.

Media partners- regular spot on Global TV, and other media sources we provide info on the English speaking community.

Employment Roundtable - YES heads up a coalition of orgs that provide English language employment services-partners include Tyndale, Ometz, Aim Croit etc.

YES Arts Conference - work with arts partners and artists to develop conference - ELAN, QDF, QWF Montreal Film Group etc.

YES also sits on many tables and coalitions and provides services to many organizations-including RQuode, Place au Jeune (Townshippers), Peter McGill, Futurpreneur, Fundica, John Molson School of Business, McGill, Nexia Friedman, Dawson, Champlain, Boissy Library, PME Montreal, Ometz, Fondation Montreal Inc. and others.

Women in Technology and STEM industries - setting up a mentorship program for woman. Working with the business community.

Providing information pamphlets in English and doing translations for local events. Aiding in the Canada Day festivities.

Help the Cancer Society with fundraising, supporting the school on different projects.

Working with our mayor and having our ED on many different boards within the community.

BCRC sits on the Board of QCGN as a member; Partner with CEDEC addressing employability issues in the Black community; Work with Batshaw on development of policy and program protocols; work with Black History Month Round Table on a number of projects and attend the community meetings held by the

Round Table; Work in collaboration with community organizations to organize the Community Leadership Forum. Refer cases relating to discrimination and racial profiling to CRARR and la Ligue des Noirs (Quebec); run programs with the police establishment in order to improve relationships (Example: P'ti Police) between youth and police in the City of Montreal.

Work closely with community groups and programs to help them reach their goal

We provided the link for most partners to the ESC. Our motto with partners: Let us (Neighbours) help you help us (the ESC).

Asked CLSCs, mental hospitals and psychologists for help, guidance and advice.

McGill University Health Center collaborates with us by referring specialists to us who can provide services in English. Patients come from all areas around Montreal because they are assured that they will be completely served in either English or French.

For some initiatives we have formal agreements, others are based on years of working together to address particular issues.

Pooling of resources; facilitating collaborations and meetings between our partners who we recognize are working towards similar goals.

This work is done around our Agape-NPI (Networking Partnership Initiative) Partners' committee which meet, every 6-8 weeks, over various priorities regarding Health and Social Services in English in our region. We have partners/stakeholders of various sectors (School-School Board, MNA, MP, Church, Literacy, Community Associations, Health and Social Service professionals/administrators, other community organizations (Francophone), etc.).

Needs are sometimes addressed via networking during the informal periods of our meetings.

Services are shared via presentations to other partners.

At the local club level, 4-H performs the aforementioned community service thereby contributing to local institutions. 4-H at local and provincial level partners with regional fairs. Quebec 4-H nominates a director to the Quebec Farmers' Association board and the two associations promote each other's endeavors and collaborate where possible throughout the year.

FSL Partner Network - 5 FSL organizations with common web landing page; joint letters; presentations to funders.

Joint project ACUFC and ACPI - submitted a project to support FSL graduates in transition between secondary and post-secondary education.

Awareness Breakfast Event with OCOL - 50h anniversary of FI program.

Parkinson Canada plans to operate in partnership with local organizations to best serve local needs.

QAHN works with many different partners. Here are just a few examples: Schools and school boards, Quebec 4-H: publicizing QAHN's high school and elementary school writing and photography contests (creating identity, pride in heritage); Universities: providing university students with meaningful career-related experience through internships (service in English, identity); Fédération Histoire Québec: collaborating with the heritage sector of Francophone Quebec to share information on such issues as Quebec's proposed "Lobbyism" bill; sharing information with our member-institutions (leadership & representation); working with the FHQ on a joint project: a convention in Montreal in 2017 (community building through strengthening links between the English- and French-speaking sectors); Regional federal and provincial politicians and municipalities: Through sponsorships, we were able to finance a portion of our 2015 convention in the Lower Ottawa Valley (community building; identity; service in English; strong institutions); Black Community Resource Centre, QFHSA, and a host of other local partners to achieve very specific targets as part of larger community projects.

The CHSSN has partnership agreements with 19 sponsoring community organizations of the 20 community health and social services networks. This partnership model is recognized by the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services. Through the partnerships, the CHSSN engages health promotion resources with the networks and ensures they participate with CHSSN's major institutional partner, McGill University, in measures to support recruitment and retention of health and social services professionals in the regions. The collaboration with community partners supports the priorities of access to services, community building, leadership, representation and strengthening institutions (linking McGill with English-speaking communities).

We collaborate all the time with community partners, so it is hard to single out any particular collaboration. However, we can mention that, this past year, we did a pilot project with three "NPI" organizations in the CHSSN's network. We are equipping these organizations to better help citizens in their regions who have questions or problems involving a legal component. The three organizations are also helping to spread the word about the services Éducaloi offers in English. The project is based on a community empowerment concept: building the capacity of grass-roots organizations to better serve their citizens. We hope to repeat the project again this year, but with more organizations.

We would mention too that, when we are setting priorities for our activities in English, we always consider the strategic priorities of major players, such as the QCGN and CHSSN, and our own surveys of needs.

VEQ partnered with MCDC on a youth forum project aimed at identifying issues concerning the growing cultural disconnect and actions we can take to better support our youth (Sec. III, IV, V and first year college students) and help them reconnect with their roots and find a future for themselves in their region. Throughout this project, we also collaborated very closely with the local schools. In total, 130 youth participated.

VEQ also partnered with two local high schools to offer technology workshops to seniors from our community. Over 60 youth participated offering one on one support.

Our participation on the Table de concertation en immigration de la Capitale Nationale was also crucial in helping build stronger links with the community organizations from the French majority and providing insight to municipal decision makers with regards to the needs of newcomers and organizations serving newcomers in our region.

VEQ is also part of the Networking Partnership Initiative that works to adapt services in English in the health and social services sector.

VEQ is also a community partner that sits on the Youth Networking Table and the Jeffery Hale Networking Table.

Vision has been working with our community partners CASA and CAMI to create a regional action plan for the 0 to 5 Anglophone community.

Vision works with its health partner, with funding from McGill, to develop an internship program for bilingual students. Our health partner provides professionals who provide health and social service information to the community through our Senior's Wellness Centres.

CISSS: formal project to determine the level of satisfaction of English seniors with health and social services; verification of documentation furnished in English.

Maison de parents de la Matawinie Ouest: formal project to offer English language activities to the community.

Rawdon Elementary School: Healthy School Team to create new educational project that reflects the values of the community.

Community Learning Centre and Joliette High School: mutual promotion; involvement in McGill project to encourage and support our youth who leave the region to study in health and social services.

Grandir Ensemble Matawinie: translation of "Amibulle" program to strengthen preschoolers' social skills.

By attending each other's events, working in partnership on issues of common concern : Bill 10, Project 68 , socially isolated seniors, supporting each other by posting our partners events on our social media page, coordinating a newsletter with 40 new partners, Organizing Conferences on timely topics: Bill 52: End of Life Choices, Housing , Elder Abuse, play, Health Fairs.

In our region, we are the only English-speaking community organization that provides services in English. So the majority of our partnerships are with local French partners. However, thanks to the CHSSN health networks, the QCGN network and the Seniors Action Quebec organization, we can share best practices, share applications and benefit from the expertise of others to better support the priorities of our community.

Question 8 - Planned projects in support of strategic priorities

What project/activities is your organization planning for the coming year that support any or all of the six community priorities?

PSSC Observations

Many groups are seeking to provide current or expanded levels of service to their communities. There is an increased recognition of the need to seek out funding from non-traditional sources in order to compensate for shortfalls experienced in recent years from traditional funders. Community building and the need for ensuring adequate and appropriate health and social services to a variety of populations figure prominently. Learning opportunities (formal, non-formal and informal) for English-speaking Quebeckers of all ages need to be enhanced and developed further. Wellness and mental health services for seniors are lacking. There is a generalized effort at ensuring that the history and identity of our communities are better known within our communities and more effectively communicated to members of other communities. Employment opportunities, in particular for youth, are limited and weigh heavily as concerns for the future vitality of our communities.

Respondents' comments to question 8

We are awaiting news regarding funding for our YouTube station. Given the budget cut we sustained from CALQ this year, and no increase in our other core funding, this year will be more focused on sustaining rather than developing.

Rally scheduled for the autumn 2016 of organizations and common interest groups (50 represented) which work and serve among our English-speaking Catholic community. Community celebration scheduled.

In the coming year we will continue with our cultural programming in heritage, education and the arts. This will include the 8th annual ImagiNation Writers' Festival, our second weekend arts and culture festival, Arts Alive as well as regular events in music, literature, history and more. This will support a number of the priority areas, such as: Access to services in English, Identity and renewal, Community building, and Strong institutions'

Specifically, we will continue our approach in producing hands-on activities for community members since we are of the firm belief that they contribute significantly to the following areas: Identify and renewal, Access to services in English and Community building.

Year two of the We Are One youth symposium will begin in January 2017 and will continue to support

the priorities of Community Building and Leadership and Representation.

In 2017, the Morrin Centre will organize a series of events and activities designed to bring Anglophones and Francophones together under the theme of the contributions of the region's women in order to encourage discussion about linguistic duality. This will consist of a colloquium and temporary exhibition.

We will also plan and organize a 2-day creative workshop which will bring members of the Quebec City region's Anglophone community together to work of visual art on common initiatives to tell the stories of its members and institutions, past and present. Using the Morrin Centre's building as a starting point, participants will explore the history of Quebec City's Anglophone community, specifically the events during Canada's 150 years and the period when it became a nation. This project will directly impact the following priority areas: Identify and renewal, Access to services in English and Community building.

We are planning a re-enactment for the 150th anniversary of Confederation, which will promote the same priority areas.

Developing more intergenerational activities, therefore offering more services in English.

All of the above services, events and activities.

Regional Job Search Program to help regions service their clients - counseling, training for staff, tools, online.

Gameification - tool will be created to help people with their job search and it will be available to all of our regional partners and their communities.

Women in STEM- along with a committee of professionals from STEM industries YES is setting up a tool to be used for companies who want to set up a mentorship program. Potential is international.

One of our future projects involves the creation of our new activity center called ARC. We will be able to provide many different activities and events to our members and the local community. We will continue to offer support and be involved in the English school. We plan on continuing our music program, information sessions as well as offering courses in babysitting, CPR, etc.

On an annual basis operate the BCRC Black Community Forum setting community priorities and inter-organizational working and cooperative protocols; offer more SEL type programs (Kings and Queens) in a larger number of schools; Collaborate with the Black Studies Center in the development of a Community Archive and information gathering and communication center; Expand on the number of services offered to seniors.

Building and supporting local community services.

Continuation from past years.

Health program Access to Services in English for Inuit and aboriginal women

Nutrition and social interaction program Organizing traditional aboriginal meals and dishes through our communal kitchen to help preserve their heritage.

Mental health and wellness program; Access to services such as mental health in English for our Anglophone clients.

Expansion of the diabetes health program and medical specialist's clinic, Hired a marketing student to contact local community organizations to explore how we can receive input regarding how they perceive our services and what we can improve on. (70% of our clientele is English speaking).

All projects described above continue; mobile application to be created and linked to our employment related website; special edition of Taproot anthology for Canada's 150th; McGill retention of health professional's project.

NPI: Health Promotion/Health Education videoconferences; Adaptation of Health and Social Services for the ESC; McGill Retention of Bilingual Health and Social Service professionals - All 3 to 4 year projects ending in 2018.

Provincial activities provide opportunities for development of hard skills that contribute to employability, leadership, communications, and team building, as well as a sense of community, providing a chance for members from communities across different regions to network with youth with similar interests.

Provincial Rally, July 21 - 24, Shawville, anticipating more than 100 members plus an additional 200 volunteers, parents, judges, spectators.

Summer Junior Camp, August 14 - 17, Elgin, anticipating 24 members ages 9 to 12 plus 2 or more members aged 16+ to assist staff with chaperoning.

Intermediate Leadership Camp, September 23 – 25, Richmond, anticipating 24 members ages 13 to 15 plus 4 members/leaders aged 18+.

Discovery Day, October 15, St-Hyacinthe, anticipating 20 members aged 16+ for professional development day with possible participation of the Association des Jeunes Ruraux du Quebec.

Winter Junior Camp, January 20 - 22, 2017, anticipating 24 members ages 9 to 12 plus 2 or more members aged 16+ to assist staff with chaperoning.

Provincial Square Dance Competition, February 18, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, anticipating 80 members and 80 spectators

Innovative Ag Tour, March, Richmond, anticipating 40 members ages 13 to 25. Repeating the Awareness Breakfast Event - increasing presence and visibility. FOREVER (outlined above). This is a 15-month project. DREAM (outlined above). This 15-month initiative begins in August 2016.

At least two Canada 150 projects are pending.

The CHSSN will continue with its programs in network development, health promotion, adaptation of public services and knowledge mobilization supported by Health Canada. The CHSSN will consolidate the results of 3 benchmark reports, focus groups and the CROP survey to complete an evaluation of the

Road Map investment in health and set the stage for a report on the health priorities of English-speaking Quebecers for 2018-2023.

See replies to questions 3 and 7 above.

Continued Involvement in local networking tables and initiatives, Newcomers related activities and services, Seniors out and About project, Collaborative Community Mural project, Digital Memories intergenerational video project, I Volunteer / Je m'implique project promoting the volunteerism of English-speaking individuals in French institutions and French-speaking individuals in English institutions, Be Active Quebec activities and Fit & Fun summer camp and the creation of a local networking table aimed at increasing social participation among seniors.

Same as those named in question 4

Expansion of Wellness Centre activities to a new part of the region and offering Community Health Education Project video sessions will increase the number of individuals, particularly seniors, who receive health information in their language.

The hiring of an outreach worker who will help strengthen our volunteer base and offer support to volunteers in the community while increasing the social inclusion of seniors.

Offering lunchtime discussion sessions in English within health institutions to improve the quality of the spoken English of health and social service workers.

Exploration of the mental health needs of the community.

Access to Services/Community Building/Identity & Renewal Leadership & Representation.

We will be working on a 2 year project dealing with socially Isolation seniors that will identify where they are, get them to services they require and gather data on "reason why they have become cut off from participating, what services & support they require".

Develop proposal(s) to enable communities who have identified their priority to find funding to implement solutions.

Work on Policies that will have a lasting effect & are evidence based and continue to build capacity with all our partners & with endeavors we undertake.

We will pursue our action around four main objectives: Community life; Access to services in English with special emphasis on seniors and caregivers; Support to our youth; - Representation of the needs of the English community with local and regional decision makers.

Question 9 - Questions for the PSSC

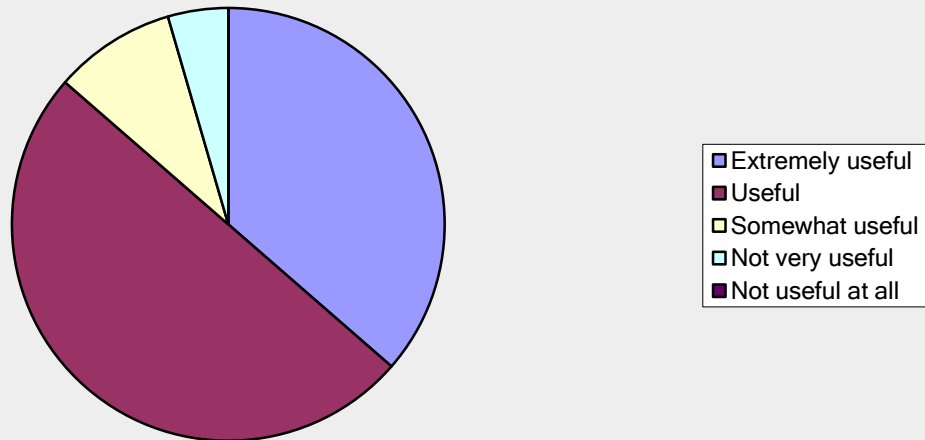
Do you have any questions or comments for the Priority Setting Steering Committee?

2016 Strategic Priorities Forum Survey

YOUR FEEDBACK Findings from annual reports of the Priority Setting Steering Committee over the past four years have been:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely useful	36.4%	8
Useful	50.0%	11
Somewhat useful	9.1%	2
Not very useful	4.5%	1
Not useful at all	0.0%	0
Please explain further how you use the findings.		15
	<i>answered question</i>	22
	<i>skipped question</i>	3

YOUR FEEDBACK Findings from annual reports of the Priority Setting Steering Committee over the past four years have been:



Respondents' comments to question 9

Given the direct correlation between the committee's work and PCH, any information is vital to planning. It also allows us to see where we need to be more proactive in making our needs known.

Ensuring that our organization is aligned in both our strategic planning and strategic priorities with the strategic priorities of the English-speaking community of Quebec.

Ensuring that our programming and activities conform to the outlined community priorities.

The findings have been useful in providing justifications for project funding applications submitted to the Department of Canadian Heritage. I look forward to being more involved in the development process this time around.

These findings help us to align our priorities to support the communities where they are regional offices. If we all align ourselves, we will attain higher results.

We refer to them in our grants to the Federal government.

The findings are essentially aligned with those that the Black Community identified as relevant and important at the Val Morin Community Forum 1992, and updated over many Forums and discourses taking place in the community over the last twenty years.

They just report the same findings each year, or the same finding most already know but do not provide an action and funding plan nor support members to reach those goals.

Went to use the document to build my PCH project applications this past fall and the document online wasn't updated, had several different years referenced within it. When I raised the issue with my advisor i was told that was what we were to work with despite the references to multiple years - it looked like the document wasn't updated properly and no one seemed to really care. Please make sure that the info in this document is accurate and up to date if PCH expects us to use it as the basis for our applications.

I did not see this report unfortunately. I will try to find it.

I have only joined in the last year, taking time to consider how the information can be useful and how we can participate further.

I just read the exec. summary of the 2016-2017 Priorities of ENG-Speaking Community of QC and Annual Report of the PSSC. This document clearly demonstrates that Parkinson Canada in QC is aligned with needs and priorities of the English-speaking community in QC and can contribute to answer some of the unmet needs in communities.

The findings from these reports, particularly the detailed reports, are essential in CHSSN's commitment to align the project and partnership initiatives it supports in English-speaking communities with the community priorities. This exercise occurs annually through the Health and Social Services Priorities

Committee (a table of 19 NPI sponsors and CHSSN advising Health Canada on the Road Map investments).

Vision will use these findings when discussing priorities with our health partners, and also in determining our own actions.

To compare our priorities within our region with overall trends. To stimulate discussion and brainstorming.

SIRA Research was an excellent piece of Research that we can refer to and use to sensitize stakeholders & funders.

Final Observations of the PSSC

The strategic priorities once more figure prominently and universally in the planning and delivery of the activities and services provided by those organizations that responded to the 2016 PSSC Survey. There remains a high degree of alignment between the strategic priorities and the vision, mission and mandate of these organizations. All six priorities are addressed in substantive ways in the activities offered in 2015 – 2016. The validity and utility of the six priorities would appear to have the strong endorsement of the respondents.

The concerns related to funding from traditional sources are clearly in evidence in the responses to the survey; these have also been expressed in informal exchanges with various groups throughout the year. In response to the financial constraints felt by many organizations there has been an observed tendency to increased partnerships as well as an engagement with non-traditional funding sources. For collective action to develop further, project funding from traditional sources should acknowledge these trends and encourage and support their development.

Interdepartmental and intradepartmental as well as intergovernmental cooperation continues to be needed to address evidenced gaps in policies and services. Many identified community priorities and needs remain underserved or unaddressed.

Annex 1 – Declaration of the English-speaking Community of Quebec



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

Montreal, Quebec - March 25, 2012

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 (ESCQ), on March 25, 2012 in Montreal, Quebec at the conclusion of the Community Priority Setting Conference of the Strategic Priorities Forum

Annex 2 – Mandate of the Priority Setting Steering Committee



English-speaking Community of Quebec Priority Setting Steering Committee Adopted as policy by the QCGN Board of Directors on March 18, 2011

1. The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) is a network of community sector organizations that serve the English-speaking Community of Quebec (ESCQ), a collective term that describes Quebec’s English-speaking communities. Since 1994, the QCGN has existed to assist community sector organizations identify, explore and addresses common issues affecting the development, vitality, and sustainability of English-speaking Quebec. Members of the QCGN seek and develop dialogue and collaboration among themselves, and other community groups, institutions and leaders serving the ESCQ. To that end, QCGN members govern their network in the spirit of partnership and collaboration, articulating the views of English-speaking Quebec on issues of strategic concern and taking action to address them.
2. The QCGN specializes in helping identify, explore, articulate and address strategic needs and issues, as well as our collective interests in underdeveloped areas. Strategic needs and issues are those whose impact is multi-sectoral, and/or inter-regional (provincial or national in character). The QCGN supplements and compliments the work of all community sector organizations serving the ESCQ, fully recognizing and respecting their individual expertise, legitimacy and autonomy.
3. The QCGN establishes the ESCQ Priority Setting Steering Committee (PSSC) as a permanent committee of the Board of Directors. The purpose of the PSSC is to undertake a standing community consultation process to collect, analyze, prioritize and articulate the needs and the issues of the ESCQ and its constituents. The information obtained during this process will be made available to the community sector and supporting stakeholders like federal departments and agencies.
4. The Regional Office of the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH) will use the priorities determined by this process as the community sector’s input on making funding recommendations to the Minister. PCH will use the information to formulate policy and design programs in support of the community, assist the Minister fulfill inter-departmental coordination commitments under sections 42-44 of the Official Languages Act, and inform the Department’s management of inter-governmental agreements.

5. The PSSC will fulfill its responsibilities on the principles of transparency, and inclusiveness. The community consultation process used by the EPSSC to undertake its purpose will be a matter of policy provided and overseen by the QCGN Board of Directors.
6. The PSSC will assist the community to establish a community development plan, which will normally articulate the community's five-year priorities. They will thereafter conduct an annual community consultation process to validate and update community sector needs and issues identified in the community development plan. The PSSC will submit its report to the QCGN Board of Directors no later than May 1 each year. The report will:
 - a. identify and provide analysis on common community needs and issues;
 - b. identify community needs in underdeveloped community areas; and,
 - c. provide a management report including minutes from meetings, an evaluation of the consultation process and an account of resources allocated to the committee.
7. The PSSC will provide a business plan to the QCGN Board of Directors no later than 1 August for the following fiscal year which will indicate the resources the committee will require to undertake this mandate.
8. The PSSC is chaired by a QCGN Director, and is comprised of eight additional individuals appointed by the Board of Directors initially through open invitation, and subsequently on the advice of the committee. Three members will be QCGN Directors (one of whom will be the chair), three will be appointed from the QCGN Membership, and three committee members will be selected from the community at large. PSSC members serve the interests of the community as a whole, and do not represent a particular sector or region.
9. Committee members will normally serve up to 5 year mandates (subject to Director term limits). Members will be required to travel on committee business at the QCGN's expense.
10. The Chair of the PSSC will establish and recommend to the Board of Directors the qualifications and expertise required to serve on the committee. The Board of Directors will appoint committee members.
11. The PSSC is free to call upon expert opinion. This is contingent on QCGN processes.
12. The QCGN will provide staff support to the PSSC, in terms of secretariat support, expert staff advice and management services. The Director of Community Support and Network Development is the senior staff member assigned to support the committee.
13. The PSSC report will be a standing item on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting.

Annex 3 – Composition of the Priority Setting Steering Committee

Walter Duszara, Chair

As a policy development and management consultant, Walter brings over forty years of experience in the field of education and a lifetime of living in Quebec, by choice, to the QCGN. Throughout a long career as an educator, administrator and senior manager in Quebec's education system, Walter has been to almost every corner of Quebec and worked with both English and French-speaking Quebecers. He is past member of the Advisory Board on English Education and a former Board member of the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC). Walter is the President of the Thomas More Institute and currently sits on QCGN's Board of Directors as Secretary.

Anna Farrow

Anna is Executive Director of the English Speaking Catholic Council. Prior to taking up this role at the ESCC, Anna served as Parish Catechetical Leader and Office Administrator at Corpus Christi Parish in Senneville. Anna holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from King's College in London, England in 1991. In 1995, she obtained a Master of Christian Studies from Regent College in Vancouver, B.C.

Joe Rabinovitch

Joe brings a wealth of experience to the QCGN both as a professional and a volunteer. Born and educated in Montreal, Joe's career spans education, community services and management of large not-for-profit organizations. In his volunteer work, he has served on the board of Alliance Quebec, Summit School, Montreal Oral School for the Deaf, the Canadian Jewish Congress and other organizations. His knowledge of not-for-profit organizations will serve QCGN well as it develops its vision for the future.

John Gancz

Born, raised and educated in the Montreal area, John resides in Chelsea and has lived in the National Capital Region for the past 25 years. He currently works as Officer on Security Policies, Procedures and IM Strategy for the Corporate Security Office of the House of Commons. Committed to learning at personal, organizational and community levels, John is a member of the Federal Government Interdepartmental Organizational Change Network and former leadership team member. He is the Past Chair of the Board of the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), as well as Past Chair of the CEDEC Committee in Outaouais. John is also a past member of the Advisory Board on English Education, sat on the Governing Board of St. Michaels High School in the Western Quebec School Board, on the Parent and Corporate Committee and in the past, he served on the Parent's Participatory Organization and the Board Technology Committee. John is a Member of the School of Community and Public Affairs at Concordia University. He holds a B.A. in Asian Studies, a Graduate Diploma in Community Economic Development and an M.A. in Human Systems Intervention from Concordia University.

Cheryl Gosselin

Cheryl is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Coordinator of the Gender, Diversity and Equity program at Bishop's University. As an academic, a significant part of her research and teaching interests have focused on the English-speaking communities of Quebec. Cheryl has been involved in her English-speaking community for many years in a number of ways and has wide-ranging experience on the Boards of many organizations including Townshippers' Association. She currently sits on the Advisory Council of QCGN's Institutional Vitality Project and joined the QCGN Board of Directors in June of 2011.

Debbie Horrocks

Past President of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and a former director of the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA), Debbie has been actively involved in public education since 1990. She has been school board commissioner since 1996 and Vice Chairman of the Riverside School Board since 2003. Debbie has worked in community development with the English linguistic minority community in Quebec for over a decade, first with the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), and most recently with the Community Learning Centre (CLC) initiative. She is committed to ensuring that the English community is a vibrant and cohesive component of Quebec society – now and in the future. Debbie has extensive experience dealing with the media – print, radio and television, local and national, in both official languages, and has worked closely with many government departments and levels of bureaucracy. Born in Montreal, Debbie has lived in Brossard on the South Shore of Montreal for over 25 years.

Ann Marie Powell

Ann Marie has a longstanding interest in the well-being of the English-speaking communities of Quebec. She has been President of Megantic English-speaking Community Development Corporation (MCDC) since 2005 and a member of the Board since the creation of the MCDC in 2000. Ann Marie has served on the Boards of the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC) in Chaudière-Appalaches, Voice of English-speaking Quebec (VEQ) and the QCGN. In addition, she is a member of the Comité régional d'accès aux soins et services sociaux en langue anglaise de Chaudière-Appalaches that ensures access to health and social services for English-speakers in their own language. Through her many years of service, she has gained valuable experience and knowledge of the needs of the English community experience in a number of fields but most specifically in rural communities, access to health services in English, agriculture and farming, and family matters.

Peter Quilliams

Vice President of the Townshippers' Association, Peter has spent many years volunteering in leadership positions for the English-speaking community of Quebec, particularly in the Eastern Townships. Volunteering began as his children entered the "English/Protestant" school system, joining school committees, parent committees, chairing various board committees continuing until he became Chairman of the District of Bedford School Board for its final eight years of existence. More recently, his volunteering/leadership roles have included President of the Board of the Fulford United Church, President of the Townshippers' Association, Vice President of the QCGN, Chairman of the QCGN Strategic Planning Committee and Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee of the Townshippers' Association.

Brenda Rooney

Brenda has been a principal with Rooney Productions since 1995. She is presently distributing the film Precautionary Principle: The Nicole Bruinsma Story. Her feature documentary, The Great Granny Revolution, established her as a leader in the 'outside the box' indie filmmaking movement in Canada. The film screened coast to coast and around the world. Brenda is also Managing Director of the Wakefield International Film Festival and a director of Summer Film Camp. She has been a Board member of Theatre Wakefield since 2002. She recently produced Wetlands Assessment, an online training video for evaluating the condition of the Tar Sands; Radio NAHO, a community radio series on First Nations health issues; Choosing Our Future, short documentaries on sustainable cities for the City of Ottawa; and

Don't Turn Away, a video on elder abuse for the community of New Carlisle in the Gaspé region. Her most recent docs are Voices of Advocacy and Constitute.