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Press Release - May 27, 2005 - **5/30/2005**

QUEBEC COMMUNITY GROUPS NETWORK WELCOMES GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S INVESTMENT IN QUEBEC'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITIES

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, MAY 27, 2005 - The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) today praised the Government of Canada for recognizing the unique challenges facing Quebec's English-speaking communities and its support for community development and co-ordination across the province.

In responding to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Liza Frulla's announcement of a 19% increase in funding, Martin P. Murphy, President, Quebec Community Groups Network stated, "Quebec's English-speaking community has evolved considerably, and today we represent a vital part of Quebec society. Yet, our community still faces many challenges, including declining birth rates, restrictive immigration and education policies and the need to strengthen ties among our institutions and communities."

"Increased funding," he added, "will allow organizations from each region of the province to share information and expertise and enhance our ability to address issues, often in collaboration with our French-speaking neighbours, on a local level."

Having recently completed a community development plan and a comprehensive strategic plan defining its mandate and operations, the QCGN has identified key areas that could enhance its role as an important advocate for English-speaking communities in the province.

"Through this process," continued Mr. Murphy, "we determined that a primary objective is to provide our members and other stakeholders with the tools and support they need to become self-sufficient, empowered and vibrant communities. Rather than breaking with the past, our aim is to build upon it and help the diverse elements that make up Quebec's English-speaking community move successfully into the future. It is about renewal and making our member organizations stronger and more effective, creating communities they want."

"The federal government's support will enable us to move ahead with the implementation of our strategy."

ABOUT THE QUEBEC COMMUNITY GROUPS NETWORK

The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) is composed of 24 regional associations and sector groups. QCGN members are committed to working together to promote the vitality of English-speaking communities in Quebec by responding to their priority needs and expectations. These include promoting and supporting community development initiatives of its members, assessing and influencing government policies that affect English-speaking communities and responding more effectively to the constituents QCGN represents.

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The Quebec Community Groups Network encourages and promotes participation by government departments and agencies for the development of the English-language minority communities. QCGN promotes cooperation with provincial, regional and municipal government authorities in order to support and assist the development and enhance the vitality of the English-language minority communities. The QCGN also aims to promote dialogue and mutual understanding between the linguistic communities in Canada.