

For immediate release

QCGN Statement on Bloc Québécois report on federal funding for Quebec's English-speaking minority

Montreal – November 27, 2023 – The Quebec Community Groups Network takes issue with a report released this morning by Bloc Québécois MP Mario Beaulieu in which he condemns legitimate federal support for the vitality of our minority-language community as nothing more than support for the anglicization of Quebec.

It is a false equivalency. Support for Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs) across the country exists to support the vitality of these communities – both French and English.

We have not had the chance to study Beaulieu's report in detail and may have more to say once we have done that. But his fundamental concept – that support for Quebec's English-speaking minority community is tantamount to support for anglicization, is flat out wrong.

Federal support for the vitality of the English-speaking community of Quebec is mandated under the Official Languages Act. It exists to permit the community to develop and thrive, not to force Francophones to convert to English. Just as Ottawa supports francophone communities across the country.

It should also be noted that the Government of Quebec itself financially supports the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking community (more than \$30 million was included in this year's budget alone); has established a Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers; and has appointed a Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers.

Ever eager to deny the legitimacy of the English-speaking population of Quebec, MP Beaulieu has made his thoughts abundantly clear over the years. He has repeatedly claimed the English-speaking minority does not even exist as such and has been a prolific source of disinformation and distortion about a long-established official language minority in Quebec.

The QCGN, which has repeatedly and clearly stated its agreement with the need to preserve and protect the French language in Quebec, remains open to engaging in evidenced-based, rational dialogue on the vitality of English-speaking Quebec.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together English-language community organizations and individuals across Quebec. Its mission is to identify, explore, and address strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of English-speaking Quebec and to encourage dialogue and collaboration.

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