

QCGN Laments Loss of Some Network Members

MONTREAL, October 24, 2019 – The Quebec Community Groups Network was saddened and deeply disappointed to learn this week that nine member organizations have withdrawn from our Network.

“While these groups are active in regions that are home to fewer than three per cent of English-speaking Quebecers, these are important members of our official language minority community,” said QCGN President Geoffrey Chambers. “The QCGN, which has networks and stakeholders all across the province, will continue to advocate for and represent the interests of all English-speaking Quebecers.”

“We do not work just for our member organizations,” Chambers said. “Our clear mandate is to work for the entire English-speaking minority community.”

With increased competition for substantial new funding from both the federal and provincial governments, and a view that much of that money has been earmarked for the regions, there has been some divergence of opinion within the network, Chambers said. “Meanwhile, the QCGN has worked hard to grow funding to reinforce the vitality of vulnerable English-speaking communities everywhere in Quebec, including marginalized communities in Montreal.”

Quebec’s English-speaking community faces many challenges in the coming months, Chambers continued. “We have a busy fall ahead of us dealing with a provincial government plan to abolish our school boards. We will also work with the new Parliament to ensure the interests of minority language groups across Quebec and Canada have full voice as the federal government moves forward on plans to modernize the Official Languages Act.”

“We also look forward to addressing the critical needs of our community on a number of other fronts such as access to health and social services, justice, and employability measures to ensure English-speaking Quebecers have access to vital public services in their own language,” Chambers added. “Moving forward we will continue to work together with our members and stakeholders to continue to present solid evidence-based positions that are supported by wide-ranging community consultation.”

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together more than 50 English-language community organizations across Quebec. As a centre of evidence-based expertise and collective action it identifies, explores and addresses strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of the English-speaking community of Quebec and encourages dialogue and collaboration among its member organizations, individuals, community groups, institutions and leaders.