

For immediate release

French-speaking Quebecers Strongly Support Right of English-speaking Citizens to Obtain Government Services in English – Poll

Montreal, November 28, 2022 – Quebecers, both French and English, agree that English-speaking Quebecers should have equal access to government services in their own language. This is one of the conclusions of polling conducted for the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN).

“It is heartening to know that while the Quebec government is limiting services to English-speaking Quebecers with Bill 96, our fellow citizens strongly support our right to access important services such as health care and justice in our own language,” says QCGN Director General Sylvia Martin-Laforge.

The vast majority of French-speaking Quebecers – 84 per cent – agreed that French- and English-speaking citizens should be equally able to access the public health care system. Not surprisingly, an overwhelming majority of English-speaking Quebecers, 96 per cent, said they should have access to health services in their own language.

A clear majority of Quebecers agree that French- and English-speaking Quebecers should be equally able to access the court system in their own language, poll numbers indicate. On this question, nearly all English-speaking Quebecers (97%) and a strong majority of French-speaking Quebecers (83%) agree. **

The poll shows that two-thirds of French-speaking Quebecers (65%) and a strong majority of English-speaking Quebecers (80%) believe that when government funding for community projects is available, it is only fair that the English-speaking community receive funding that reflects its size within the population. Only one-third (35%) of French-speaking Quebecers disagreed on this point.

These findings arise from a Léger survey conducted for the QCGN and the Association for Canadian Studies Nov. 1-4, 2022.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 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.

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*** Due to an error in tabulation, an earlier version of the press release reported that the backing of French-speaking Quebecers was 85 per cent and that it slightly exceeded that from English-speaking Quebecers at 83 per cent. We apologize for the mistake.*