

Talq welcomes Commissioner Théberge's midpoint report

Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028 is a “much-needed wake-up call” on how federal investments continue to fall short for Quebec’s English-speaking communities.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTREAL, November 25, 2025 - “The Commissioner has put in black and white what we see on the ground every day,” said **Eva Ludvig, President of TALQ**. “Federal programs that function reasonably well elsewhere in Canada stall, get blocked, or vanish into a black box when they reach Quebec’s English-speaking communities. That is not what Parliament intended when it adopted the modernized Official Languages Act and this historic Action Plan.”

Commissioner Théberge’s report highlights that:

- English-speaking Quebec remains excluded from key funding envelopes.
- Quebec’s Bill M-30 is causing significant delays in rolling out Action Plan programs, with some projects— notably under the Enabling Fund—still not off the ground nearly two years after being announced.
- The Canada–Quebec Agreement on the Action Plan is unique in the federation, lacking a public action plan and bundling English-language services and minority-language education into a broader envelope—fuelling concerns that funds intended for the English-speaking minority are being diluted or redirected.
- In the health sector, strengthened provisions of the Charter of the French Language have created confusion and a chilling effect around English-language services, undermining access to care for English-speaking Quebecers.

“We strongly support robust measures to protect and promote French in Quebec,” said **Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General of TALQ**. “But the Commissioner is unequivocal: funding for French in Quebec cannot come at the expense of envelopes designated for English-speaking Quebec. Protecting one official language cannot mean quietly weakening the other.”

TALQ is urging the federal government to respond with concrete measures that deliver meaningful improvements for English-speaking Quebecers before the end of the current Action Plan—and to embed equity more firmly into the design of the next one.

“The Commissioner says he remains cautiously optimistic but calls for urgent action,” Ludvig added. “From our perspective, this is Ottawa’s last chance to demonstrate that English-speaking Quebec is an equal partner in Canada’s official-languages system—not an afterthought. TALQ stands ready to work with both federal and provincial partners to turn this report’s findings into practical solutions.” [Please find the report here.](#)

TALQ (www.talq.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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