Outlook

TALQ Update: Corrected version of Signature Series Story

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TALQ'S SIGNATURE SERIES: A CONVERSATION ON COMMUNITY VITALITY - WELCOMING COMMISSIONER BURKE

We apologize as the wrong version of the important story regarding our signature series which took place on June 12 was included in the most recent edition of The Accent. Please read the updated version below. Thank you for your understanding.

MIRANDA CASTRAVELLI

The second event in TALQ's Signature Series, held the morning after our AGM, brought together nearly 100 participants from across Quebec for a conversation about the future of the province's English-speaking community.

Delivering her first public address in Quebec since becoming Commissioner of Official Languages, **Kelly Burke** affirmed that Quebec's English-speaking community is "an integral part of Quebec society, and your concerns must be heard." She also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the modernized Official Languages Act delivers meaningful results for communities and committed to bringing those realities to federal decision-makers.

Although the perspectives differed, the message was remarkably consistent: Quebec's English-speaking community remains resilient and committed to the province's future, but that future depends on policies that strengthen confidence, opportunity, and inclusion.

Katherine Korakakis argued that "vitality is measured by confidence," noting that recent legislative changes have left many English-speaking Quebecers uncertain about their future, particularly in education. **Jennifer Johnson** echoed that concern, emphasizing that while the community continues to thrive, it should not have to continually defend its place in Quebec and called for a stronger federal conversation about protecting French while supporting English-speaking communities.

Paulina Abarca-Cantin reminded participants that "words matter," noting that the realities facing English-speaking seniors vary greatly across Quebec, particularly outside Montreal where isolation and limited access to services remain significant. **Miranda Castravelli** highlighted persistent economic challenges facing English-speaking artists, arguing that support for French and English communities should not be viewed as competing priorities.

Looking ahead, **John Buck** reminded participants that English-speaking Quebecers are "key contributors rather than observers" and that the coming decade will be critical for the community. **Dave Meloche** called for greater transparency, stronger partnerships, and a renewed effort to dispel myths surrounding English-language education, arguing that protecting French and supporting English schools are complementary—not competing—objectives.

The morning concluded with a fireside conversation between Commissioner Burke and **Eva Ludvig**, who reflected on the themes raised throughout the discussion. Eva emphasized that meaningful dialogue must lead to meaningful action, while Commissioner Burke reaffirmed her commitment to listening and ensuring the realities of Quebec's English-speaking community are understood within the federal government. Eva concluded the chat with this assessment, “recognition is important, but it must ultimately translate into decisions that strengthen our community and allow it to thrive."

Closing the event, Commissioner Burke reminded participants that "Our official languages, both English and French, are at the heart of our Canadian identity, our cultural and economic sovereignty, and our national unity." It was a fitting conclusion to a morning that underscored a shared conviction: a strong Quebec depends on strong English- and French-speaking communities working together.

We thank everyone who was in attendance for being present, providing their own valuable insights and for all the work that is done in our community. This event was an overwhelming success - one we hope brought inspiration and cooperation to all.

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