

Community, Commitment, Cooperation

Moving Forward Together

For Immediate Release

Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) and Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) launch *Canadian Diversity* issue exploring Deep Diversity of English-speaking Quebec

Quebec City – June 11, 2010 – The Quebec Community Groups Network is pleased to launch the fruit of a major collaboration with the Association for Canadian Studies as well as a handful of dedicated community leaders, activists and researchers.

This special issue of *Canadian Diversity* is a follow-up to a two-part symposium entitled “Exploring Diversity in English-Speaking Quebec” organized by the QCGN, ACS and Concordia University’s Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network, better known as QUESCREN. The symposium, magazine and a research project on whether the English-speaking communities outside of Montreal can help to attract and retain immigrants to their regions, received some \$63,000 in funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

“This publication demonstrates that there has been some significant thinking within our Network and within our community about our diversity from the perspectives of health, arts, history, heritage, education and employment,” said Robert Donnelly, president of the Quebec Community Groups Network.

“This collection of essays on the diversity of English-speaking Quebec represents a long overdue effort to revive interest in a subject that receives insufficient attention from policy-makers, researchers and scholars,” comments Jack Jedwab, the director of the Association for Canadian Studies and editor of *Canadian Diversity*.

“Often regarded as a model in the management of diversity, this collection of essays documents many facets of how multiple identities are addressed in English-speaking Quebec,” Dr. Jedwab added. “English-speaking Quebec cannot be ignored in ongoing debates over diversity within the province and this collection of essays serves as a vital reminder that all Quebecers must be included in the continuing conversation about Quebec identities.”

The Spring edition of *Canadian Diversity* includes essays by Dr. Jedwab; Charles Boberg, who writes about the phonetic indicators of ethnicity in Montreal’s English-speaking community; and Michael Rosenberg, whose paper discusses Montreal’s Anglophone Community and Minority Ethnocultural NGOs.

University of Sherbrooke researcher Michèle Vatz-Laaroussi asks whether English-speaking communities in the region play a part in attracting immigrants to Quebec’s regions while Richard Y. Bourhis, of the Centre d’études ethniques des universités montréalaises (CEETUM)

writes about “Multiple Identities and Social Cohesion in Quebec: Implications for Quebec English speaking communities”. Researcher Lorraine O’Donnell from the Quebec English-speaking community Research Network (QUESCREN) discusses the historical diversity of English-Speaking Quebec; and researcher Patrick Donovan showcases the diversity of Quebec City’s English-speaking community.

A trio of authors from the CLSC Côte-des-Neiges, Spyridoula Xenocostas, Catherine Montgomery and Andréanne Boisjoli write about barriers to access to health care in English-speaking ethnocultural and immigrant communities while community activist Leith Hamilton writes about access to social services for black English-speaking families at risk. Gina Vale writes about teaching and living in Quebec while David Birnbaum, the executive director of Quebec English School Board Association (QESBA), gives his personal take on integration and belonging and the challenges and opportunities for our schools and our community.

Members of the QCGN who contributed to the issue include Guy Rodgers, the executive director of the English Language Arts Network (ELAN) who writes about Quebec’s English-speaking artists; Roderick Macleod, from the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN), who discusses the challenge of building an English-language heritage network in multicultural Quebec; the retiring executive director of Townshippers’ Association Rachel Garber who writes about integration through employment; and QCGN Communication Director Rita Legault who exposes the *Challenges of Diversity and Immigrant Retention in English-speaking Quebec*.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 36 English-language community organizations 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 among its member organizations, individuals, community groups, institutions and leaders.

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