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Federal Budget Includes New Money for Official-Language Minorities

Montreal, March 28, 2023 – The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) is cautiously optimistic about the federal government’s new Action Plan on official languages as outlined in new spending in today’s 2023 federal budget. The budget includes an additional \$1 billion in official-language community investments over the next five years.

“But we remain concerned,” said QCGN Director General Sylvia Martin-Laforge. “How much English-speaking Quebec will benefit from the official-language investments in this budget is an open question. We hope to see robust measures to support our community when the Action Plan on Official Languages is released in April.”

“This budget, unfortunately in our view, is another step toward implementing a new federal policy on Canada’s official languages about which the QCGN and English-speaking Quebec have expressed serious concerns,” said QCGN President Eva Ludvig. “We are steadfastly opposed to the federal government drafting a law that would incorporate by reference Quebec’s Charter of the French Language. This law, as amended by Quebec Bill 96 now operates notwithstanding the fundamental rights and freedoms of Quebecers.”

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.

For further information:

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