

Opposition Grows to Restrictive Definition of English-speaking Community

MONTREAL, December 16, 2021 – More than three dozen organizations are telling Premier François Legault that his restrictive definition of an historic English-language community is unfair and unacceptable.

These groups, from across Quebec and from multiple sectors including arts and culture, education and health and social services have endorsed a resolution opposing the Coalition Avenir Québec government’s plan to limit government services in English to what the premier defines as “historic anglophones” – only individuals eligible to attend school in English in Quebec.

The organizations that have endorsed the resolution are:

Atwater Library and Computer Centre	Linda Leith Publishing
Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation	McGill University Health Centre Foundation
Black Community Resource Centre	Miriam Foundation
Canadian Hellenic Congress	Montreal Council of Women
Catholic Action Montreal	Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
Chez Doris	Phelps Helps
Coasters Association	Quebec Association of Independent Schools
Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation – CEDEC	Quebec English School Boards Association
Contactivity Centre	Quebec Community Newspaper Association
English Language Arts Network	Quebec Writers' Federation
English Parents' Committee Association	Provincial Council of Women of Quebec
English-Speaking Catholic Council	Regional Association of West Quebecers
Eva Marsden Center for Social Justice and Aging	Saint Columba House
Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal	Secretariat of the Black Community Forum
Gay and Grey	Seniors Action Quebec
Habilitas Foundation	South Asian Women's Community Centre
Heritage Lower Saint Lawrence	Quebec Community Groups Network
Jamaica Association of Montreal	Quebec 4-H Association (4-H Quebec)
Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation	Townshippers' Association
L'équipe de La Collective des femmes de Nicolet et region	UrbanNature Education
	West Island Black Community Association (WIBCA)
	YES Employment + Entrepreneurship

The [resolution](#) follows an open letter signed by some 4,200 Quebecers. Both the open letter and the resolution send a clear message that English-speaking Quebecers are full and contributing members of Quebec society and that any attempt by the Government of Quebec to define English-speaking Quebecers as ‘historic’ or limit their right to receive government communications and services in English is profoundly objectionable. The resolution has been endorsed by organizations and institutions and is being considered by the boards of many more.

“I strongly encourage more organizations and institutions – notably those serving English-speaking Quebecers – to add their support to this important resolution,” declared Marlene Jennings, president of

the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN). “We hope to have many more groups onboard by mid-January, when the National Assembly’s Committee on Culture and Education restarts its clause-by-clause examination of Bill 96.”

“The QCGN also encourages all English-speaking Quebecers who want to join us in sending a strong and unmistakable message to Premier Legault to [join the list](#) of Quebecers who have signed the open letter,” added Jennings. Read the [full text](#) of the open letter and consult the list of signatories on the QCGN website.

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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