

For immediate release

QCGN Looks Forward to Champion for All Official Language Minority Communities

Montreal – June 7, 2017 – The Quebec Community Groups Network is appreciative that Madeleine Meilleur has decided to withdraw her name from consideration as Canada’s next Commissioner of Official Languages. We hope an open, transparent and inclusive process is enacted to choose a Commissioner of Official Languages

“We congratulate Mme Meilleur for her wisdom and grace in withdrawing under difficult circumstances,” said QCGN President James Shea. “Despite years of yeoman service to Francophone minority communities in Ontario and across Canada, it was increasingly evident that she did not have enough of an understanding or a deep commitment to our English minority community here in Quebec.”

The Official Languages Act requires the government to appoint a commissioner after consultation with other parties in the Senate and House of Commons, who must approve the appointment by resolution. The government informed opposition leaders of its choice. No other candidate names were provided.

“It is not consultation when people are informed after the selection process is completed. A serious procedure is one that seeks informed opinions from all interested parties – and that includes us, the end clients of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages,” said QCGN Vice-President Geoffrey Chambers. He noted that the process that led to this nomination included only representatives of government and the civil service – the two groups the Commissioner is called upon to watch over and call to account.

“We look forward to the selection of a new Commissioner who will prove to be a non-partisan champion for all official language minority communities across Canada,” said Shea, adding that the QCGN remains ready, willing and fully prepared to participate.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 53 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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