

For immediate release

QCGN pleased by motion to nix identity certificate for health care

Montreal – September 12, 2024 – The Quebec Community Groups Network is very pleased to see the National Assembly unanimously pass a motion telling the government to not require “English-speaking Quebecers to obtain a certificate of eligibility for English-language education, in order to have access to English-language health care and social services in Quebec.”

The motion went on to demand that any directives governing the use of languages other than French in the health and social-services system “be clear and explicit on this subject.”

The directives are being reworked by the Minister of the French Language, Jean-François Roberge after the first version (still in effect) ran into intense opposition from English-speaking Quebecers.

“This is a significant step,” said QCGN President Eva Ludvig on hearing the news. “It may have little force in law and I’m told the minister could theoretically choose to largely ignore it, but this full expression of the Assembly’s view is an important statement.

“A big thank-you is owed to Liberal MNA André Fortin, QS MNA Vincent Marissal and Independent Marie-Claude Nichols, who spearheaded this effort to bring some sanity to the process of trying to manage language in the critical area of our health-care system,” she said. “It is a health issue, not a language issue, and governments dating back to Lucien Bouchard and beyond have said so, including the current government.

“It is now time for Minister Roberge and Health Minister Christian Dubé to either scale back or eliminate these directives altogether, or, at the very least suspend the existing measures until a full and far-reaching consultation can be held with representatives of the English-speaking community of Quebec prior to their redrafting and reintroduction,” Ludvig said.

“Any new directives must reflect what Quebec’s law on health and social services says, which is that English-speaking people have right to access to English services in health and social services. Period.”

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together English-language community organizations and individuals 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.

For further information:

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