

For immediate release

QCGN Urges Parliamentarians to Guarantee Future of English-speaking Quebec as Equal Partner in New Official Languages Act

Montreal, November 2, 2022 – Leaders of English-speaking Quebec told Parliamentarians in Ottawa this evening that proposed amendments to the Official Languages Act constitute a clear threat to the language rights of English-speaking Quebecers and the vitality of their communities.

“Bill C-13 does not reflect our vision of Canada,” said Eva Ludvig, president of the Quebec Community Groups Network. The QCGN led a delegation of 30 leaders from English-speaking Quebec who met this evening with an equal number of MPs and Senators in Ottawa.

The delegation came to Parliament Hill with a clear message: [Bill C-13 An Act to amend the Official Languages Act, to enact the Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act and to make related amendments to other Acts](#) would inflict severe repercussions on Quebec’s official language minority community and divide Canadians along linguistic lines.

“Bill C-13 is not about the equality of English and French in Canada,” Ludvig said. “The Government of Canada is proposing to abandon half a century of official language policy and instead focus on the protection and promotion of only one of Canada’s official languages. It is proposing to incorporate by reference the Charter of the French Language (Bill 101) in federal legislation. And, as amended by Bill 96, the Charter of the French Language operates notwithstanding our fundamental rights and freedoms.”

“For the first time, the Government of Canada is proposing to create language rights for a single official language – French – with respect to communications with private federally regulated businesses operating in Quebec,” Ludvig explained. “Those companies would be given the choice of being subject to either a federal or provincial language regime in an area clearly within the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada. Some 1.3 million English-speaking Quebecers are being disregarded by the Government of Canada.”

“We shall not go quietly into the night,” Ludvig concluded in her remarks to Parliamentarians. “The QCGN and its community partners – many of whom are with us this evening – will continue to fight for fair and equitable treatment both provincially and federally. We are depending on each Parliamentarian here tonight, and your colleagues, to do the right thing and help guarantee our future as an equal partner in a new and modernized Official Languages Act.”

To learn more about C-13, read the [QCGN’s brief](#) to the House Standing Committee on Official Languages.

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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