

For immediate release

Long Awaited Regulation Creating Provincial Access Committee a First Step in the Right Direction

Montreal – April 9, 2018 – In 1986 the right of English-speaking Quebecers to receive Health and Social Services was recognized in law by the government of Quebec. This right has been consistently respected by all governments of Quebec since that time.

In 2015, Bill 10 was enacted. It radically restructured the health and social services system. This necessitated revisiting mechanisms for ensuring access to health and social services in this new institutional environment. That included the regulation governing the Provincial Advisory Committee on the dispensing of health and social services in the English language.

Over the past three years, the Quebec Community Groups Network, in partnership with the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), worked with Health Minister Gaétan Barrette and the government of Quebec to revise and update the regulation governing the advisory committee which is mandated it to advise the Minister of Health on the accessibility and quality of health and social services for English-speaking Quebecers.

“The QCGN today welcomes and expresses our support for the amended regulation adopted by Cabinet,” said Eric Maldoff, who heads the QCGN’s Health and Social Services Committee. The revamped regulation ensures that new members of the provincial access committee will be more representative of Quebec’s English-speaking community, said Maldoff. It also confers responsibility on the QCGN and the CHSSN for recruiting and proposing committee members to the Minister of Health.

“We are very pleased that the Minister is following through on longstanding commitments to our community,” said Maldoff, a longtime community and health care advocate. “Our right to health and social services in our language depends on the creation of proper access plans that spell out the services we can access. The quality of those access plans depends on committee members equipped with in-depth knowledge of our community combined with a detailed understanding of the health and social services network.”

“To move from this critical first step of passing the regulation to the implementation of effective and functional access plans is a lengthy and complicated process that will require a lot of time and resources,” said Geoffrey Chambers, vice-president of the QCGN and vice-chair of the Health and Social Services Committee. “That’s why we are pleased that the minister has enlisted the help of the QCGN and the CHSSN, with our wide knowledge of the health care system and province-wide networks.”

“This new regulation guarantees our community will have meaningful involvement in the creation of provincial and regional access committees, as well as in the preparation of access plans for the provision of services in English,” said Chambers.

“It is now up to our community to step up to the plate,” said Maldoff, noting that many dozens of engaged volunteers will be required to fill the many positions and ensure that this important work for our community is properly carried out. “Our rights to access services in English are at risk unless we are able exercise them fully.”

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 56 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:

Rita Legault, Director of Communications and Public Relations |
Telephone: 514-868-9044, ext. 223, cellular: 514-912-6555