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QCGN Asks New Parliament to Deliver Improved Official Languages Act

MONTREAL, December 5, 2019 – Following Thursday’s speech from the throne, the Quebec Community Groups Network trusts that the government will follow through on its pledge to modernize the Official Languages Act early in its mandate.

“The throne speech was less explicit on policy matters than we would have wished,” said QCGN President Geoffrey Chambers. “However, we hope parliamentarians get down to work quickly and deliver clearer and tougher legislation that promotes and protects English and French as Canada’s official languages.”

“Before, during and after the federal election the Prime Minister and candidates from all parties made a strong commitment to improve the Act,” said Chambers. He said this fundamental piece of legislation requires an overhaul be relevant for English-speaking Quebec and official language minority communities across Canada.

The QCGN looks forward to continuing to work with all parliamentarians including Official Languages Minister Mélanie Joly, who recently reiterated her commitment to modernizing the Act. In a minority parliament, MPs will have to work together to ensure the delivery of modern legislation that reinforces the principle of the equality of status of English and French in all institutions subject to the Act and supports the vitality of official language minority communities from sea to sea to sea.

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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