

For immediate release

QCGN Advocates a More Community-Driven Process for Provincial Funding

Montreal – August 14, 2018 – The government of Quebec has committed \$6.9 million over three years in funding to community groups across the province, but the Quebec Community Groups Network would like other vulnerable communities and populations to eventually benefit from similar support. An additional \$4.9 million is also being made available to support other organizations providing services to English-speaking Quebecers.

“The money is considerably less than what the community requires, but who can be against our community getting much needed funding to support English-speaking Quebecers?” said QCGN President Geoffrey Chambers. “These are all deserving groups that are all doing excellent work in the community, but the allocation process was not transparent and the QCGN is concerned about how the remaining funds will be distributed.”

“We would have preferred a more open, community-directed process to decide on how the new resources were deployed,” Chambers said. He added the community has been promised a role in deciding to what priorities these additional resources will be directed. “We will be sitting down in good faith with the Secretariat to discuss a more inclusive process.”

“The creation of the Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers, which announced the funding on Tuesday, is the happy outcome of five solid years of lobbying led by the QCGN that included discussions with the Premier and consultations with the Premier’s office on what the structure should look like,” Chambers noted. The QCGN applauded the nomination of Kathleen Weil as Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers last October but expressed regret that no community development budget was allocated to the Secretariat.

“We worked hard in subsequent weeks to advocate for the commitment of funds on a scale similar to other provincial secretariats. We pressed this point publicly and met with Minister Weil and Finance Minister Carlos Leitão and were pleased that our expectations were answered in the Quebec budget announced last March,” Chambers said. “Having championed the establishment of a Secretariat and the funding of community organizations, the QCGN will continue to closely follow this issue and insist that the process be community-based and not government-driven.”

The Quebec Community Groups Network is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 56 English-language community organizations across Quebec. A centre of evidence-based expertise

and collective action, QCGN identifies, explores and addresses strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of the English-speaking community of Quebec. It also encourages dialogue and collaboration among its member organizations, individuals, community groups, institutions and leaders.

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