

For immediate release

QCGN Wants New Parliament to Ensure Respect for English and French as the Official Languages of Canada

MONTREAL, October 23, 2019 – Following this week’s election, the Quebec Community Groups Network is looking forward to continuing to work with the Government of Canada and parliamentarians to ensure the delivery of a modern Act that reinforces the principle of the equality of status of English and French – particularly in all institutions subject to the Act.

“Our community made its presence felt Monday night in key regions of the province,” said Geoffrey Chambers, president of the QCGN. “We continue to enjoy a significant voice in federal elections, and we expect the concerns of our official language minority community to be represented and considered by all parties in the new Parliament.”

Chambers said that in the run-up to Monday’s federal election, the QCGN consulted organizations representing English-speaking Quebecers about issues of specific interest to members of an official language minority community.

“Like all Canadians and all Quebecers, members of our community are concerned about a broad range of issues like the economy, taxes and the environment,” Chambers said, noting that English-speaking Quebecers were most concerned about the vitality and survival of their minority community. “That is why we are seeking a modernized Official Languages Act that will be adapted to the specific contexts and needs of individual communities.”

The QCGN is also asking the Government to commit to the development of the next Federal Official Languages Strategy that ensures major investments in English-speaking Quebec’s policy-development capacity in critical areas. These include education, health and social services, arts and culture, justice, media production, women’s issues, seniors, youth, and parent associations.

Finally, the QCGN expects the new government to ensure that there is an equitable presence of English-speaking Quebecers in Cabinet and assigned to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages. It also trusts that members from our community will be represented in Governor in Council and Senate appointments.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 60 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 | rita.legault@qcgn.ca

Telephone: 514-868-9044, ext. 223, cellular: 514-912-6555