

For immediate release

QCGN Looks Forward to Working Together with Premier François Legault and his new cabinet

Our community also looks forward to working with Christopher Skeete, the new Parliamentary Assistant in charge of the Secretariat for Relations

Montreal – October 18, 2018 – The Quebec Community Groups Network applauds Coalition Avenir Québec leader François Legault, who was sworn in as Quebec’s 32nd Premier on Thursday and looks forward to working with the new Premier and his new cabinet on key issues such as health and education.

QCGN President Geoffrey Chambers also extended the Network’s congratulations to Sainte-Rose MNA Christopher Skeete, who will be the voice of English-speaking Quebecers in Legault’s government. Switching to English halfway through his speech following the swearing-in ceremony, Premier Legault announced that Skeete will become Parliamentary Assistant in charge of the Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers.

“We offer our assistance to Skeete and the new CAQ government so that they can better understand and represent the interests of English-speaking Quebecers across the province,” Chambers said, remarking that the QCGN has a variety of other immediate concerns, including the implementation of legislative guarantees that ensure access to health and social services and the future of English school boards.

Access plans, which set out what services are accessible where, have been on hold since the former Liberal government’s health care reforms four years ago, Chambers explained. “That’s why we are pleased with the nomination of Danielle McCann as Minister of Health and Social Services. As the former head of the Montreal regional health agency, Mme McCann has a good understanding of access plans and our community’s concerns.”

“English-speaking Quebecers have also expressed grave concerns about the future of our school boards and we are convinced we will be able to work with new Education Minister Jean-François Roberge,” added Chambers. “As a former schoolteacher Roberge has a good understanding of the importance of schools and their role in transmitting culture to a new generation of Quebecers.”

Our community also has long term concerns it hopes will finally be address by Quebec’s new government, said Chambers

“We maintain that English-speaking Quebecers must be represented the administrative structures of government to guarantee our minority community is taken into account,” he said, noting this will be a unique challenge as Legault attempts to fulfill his electoral pledge to cut some 5,000 civil service jobs.

“Our community expects our new government will endeavour to achieve fair representation of English-speaking Quebecers in the provincial civil service,” said Chambers, who points out that with a population of more than 1 million, English-speaking Quebecers represent 13.5 per cent of the province’s population and barely one per cent of the provincial civil service.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 57 English-language community organizations across Quebec. Its mission is to identify, explore and address strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of English-speaking Quebec and to encourage dialogue and collaboration

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