

QCGN Organizes Parallel Bill 96 Consultation

MONTREAL - August 19, 2021 - The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) is inviting a wide cross-section of Quebecers to express their concerns and present recommendations on Bill 96, *An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*, which aims to enforce and reinforce the *Charter of the French Language* (Bill 101).

The National Assembly's special consultations and public hearings on Bill 96 will be held for nine days between Sept. 21 and Oct. 7. The Committee on Culture and Education is scheduled to hear from 51 groups and individuals – but only a handful of these, including the QCGN, represent Quebec's English-speaking community.

“Considering the complexity and breadth of the proposed legislative changes, the proposal to invoke the notwithstanding clause to sidestep both our provincial and federal rights charters, and the fact that Bill 96 includes a unilateral amendment to the Canadian Constitution – the narrow scope of the government's consultation is unacceptable,” commented QCGN President Marlene Jennings.

“It is critical that voices of Quebecers are heard,” she said. “For that reason, the QCGN has decided to conduct a parallel consultation to measure the pulse of the community and to convey a strong and clear message to the government.”

QCGN is inviting organizations and individuals to submit their opinions in the form of letters and briefs. In early September it will hold public hearings to give full voice to our community ahead of the government's hearings.

“Our goal is to amplify underrepresented voices and reinforce the QCGN's own brief to the National Assembly,” explains Jennings. “Otherwise, too many voices will remain shut out of the discussion on legislation that would abrogate fundamental rights under the cover of language legislation.”

“The QCGN is also encouraging organizations and individuals who submit comments to the National Assembly to share them with us,” said Jennings. “We will compile all the submissions we receive and forward them to the committee, appended to the QCGN brief. This will underscore our community's opposition to this controversial legislation.”

The QCGN is accepting letters and briefs until Aug. 27 at info@qcgn.ca. For more information on Bill 96, go to [QCGN/Bill 96](#). For questions, also contact us at info@qcgn.ca

The Quebec Community Groups Network 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.

For further information:

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