

**For immediate release**

## **Cabinet Shuffle Blurs Roles and Could Delay Implementation of Action Plan for Official Languages**

**Montreal – July 18, 2018** – The Quebec Community Groups Network congratulates Minister Mélanie Joly, who moves to Tourism, maintains the Official Languages file, and was assigned responsibility for La Francophonie. We also commend Pablo Rodriguez, the new Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism. However, the QCGN is concerned that the cabinet shuffle blurs roles and may create confusion about who is responsible and accountable for Official Languages.

“The Government of Canada has just made a major commitment to Official Languages through its *Action Plan for Official Languages – 2018-2023: Investing in Our Future*, so we are rightfully concerned about ensuring clear lines of accountability related to the coordination of its implementation,” said QCGN President Geoffrey Chambers. He noted that official language organizations are worried the shuffle will impede the rollout of additional resources allocated for Official Languages through Canadian Heritage.

“How will continuity and momentum be retained?” Chambers asked. “We will be watching closely to what cabinet committees Minister Joly will be assigned. We must ensure a strong and unifying voice for Official Languages around the cabinet table.”

“English-speaking Quebec is Canada’s most diverse official language minority community,” added QCGN Director General Sylvia Martin-Laforge. “We were pleased with the opportunities that presented themselves when multiculturalism and official languages programs were linked through Canadian Heritage. Now, it appears that they will be split between two ministers.”

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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