

For immediate release

Community-Based Process Results in Strong Watchdog Committee for English Health and Social Services

Montreal – August 14, 2018 – The Quebec Community Groups Network is pleased with the appointment of 11 committed community leaders to the Provincial Committee for the Provision of Health and Social Services in the English Language. The announcement was made Tuesday afternoon by Health Minister Gaétan Barrette and Kathleen Weil, the Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers.

These members were appointed following a new selection process outlined in amendments to the Provincial Regulation Respecting the Provincial Committee on the Dispensing of Health and Social Services in the English language, also known as the Provincial Access Committee. Candidates were recommended by the QCGN and the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

“We are pleased that this process led to a strong committee made up of English-speaking Quebecers who will be able to advocate forcefully in favour of the real and pressing need for English-speaking Quebecers to have proper access to health and social services in our own language,” said QCGN President Geoffrey Chambers, who was vice-chair of the selection committee that reviewed applicants.

Candidates were evaluated on their knowledge of the issues faced by our community with regards to the provision of health services and social services as well as the organization and governance of the network, Chambers explained. The committee submitted 22 names, two candidates for each of the 11 positions, to Dr. Barrette.

To best represent English-speaking communities throughout Quebec, the composition of the committee includes four members from Montreal and Laval (including at least three residents of Montreal); one resident from each of the Montérégie, Estrie and Outaouais regions; and four members from elsewhere across the province.

Montreal members of the newly minted committee include Sara Saber-Freedman, Executive Vice-President of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and member of QCGN’s Health and Social Services Committee; Terry Kaufman, former Executive Director of the CLSC Notre-Dame-de-Grâce/Montreal-Ouest; David Morris, an Associate Professor of Medicine & Gynecology at McGill University and the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC); and Ella Amir, Executive Director of AMI-Quebec.

Representing the Eastern Townships (Estrie) is Donald Warnholtz, Director General of the Fondation Dixville Home, which supports individuals with an intellectual disability or an autism spectrum disorder. Representing West Quebec (Outaouais) is Sheilagh Murphy, Assistant Deputy Minister, Lands and Economic Development for the federal government; and south of Montreal (Montérégie) the committee member is Bonnie Jean Mitchell, Director, Nova Career Centre of the New Frontiers School Board.

The other four committee members are Jennifer Hobbs-Robert, Senior Advisor-Community Wellness, Jeffery Hale Community Partners in Quebec City; Eileen Schofield, a former school principal for the Commission scolaire du Littoral on the Lower North Shore; Cathy Brown, Executive Director of the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) in the Gaspé; and Carolynn Roberts, a pedagogical consultant at Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in the Laurentians.

“These community leaders have a big job ahead of them and we thank them in advance for the important work they will be accomplishing on behalf of our community,” said Chambers. He noted the selection committee was particularly impressed with the quality of the candidates and pleased with the results of the process.

The selection committee was chaired by Richard Walling, Executive Director, Jeffery Hale Community Partners and included CHSSN President Ronald Creary; Dr. Abraham Fuks of McGill University; Rachel Hunting, Executive Director, Townshippers’ Association; and community representative Anne Usher.

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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