

## **Federal budget indicates government committed to Quebec's English-speaking minority with a renewed Roadmap for Official Languages**

### **For Immediate Release**

**Montreal, March 21, 2013** –The Quebec Community Groups Network is happy that the Federal budget includes funding for a new official languages Roadmap and looks forward to hearing the details of the action plan in the coming weeks.

In his budget speech, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced the Government is committed to supporting official languages through its new Roadmap for Canada's Official Languages (2013-2018).

"Canada's two official languages are an integral part of our country's history and culture as well as our identity as a nation," he said, noting the new Roadmap represents an ongoing commitment to enhance the vitality of Canada's official language minority communities and contribute to a strengthened linguistic duality.

"We are certainly pleased to hear that the Roadmap, which provides essential support to our minority language communities, will be renewed," said QCGN President Dan Lamoureux. "We are eager to see the action plan so we can determine what positive impacts it will have on our network of organizations that deliver services to English-speaking Quebecers."

"While we are certainly pleased that the initiative will be continued, we are waiting to see how the Government's commitment to our English minority-language communities is translated into programs and funding," commented QCGN Director General Sylvia Martin-Laforge. "The QCGN hopes the new Roadmap is supportive of the community's development priorities which were expressed at the Community Priority Setting Conference a year ago."

At the time, more than 180 community leaders signed a declaration that identified six main priorities to ensure a vital and sustainable future. They are: Access to services in English; Community Building; Economic Prosperity; Identity and Renewal; Leadership and Representation; as well as Strong Institutions. The community declaration called upon community groups to solicit all levels of government to consider these priorities for the purposes of policy and program development in support of the English-speaking community of Quebec.

"We also hope the Government of Canada has provided for sufficient funding to meet the most pressing needs identified by our community," said Lamoureux, recalling that the Official Languages Act compels the federal government to support the vitality of our community.

The Quebec Community Groups Network ([www.qcgn.ca](http://www.qcgn.ca)) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 41 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 among its member organizations, individuals, community groups, institutions and leaders.

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