

Report on the Education and Vitality Forum

Overview



Slides prepared by [Antonia Macris](#), QUESCREN Research Assistant for ILET Meeting May 31, 2022



Details

- » Organized by the Inter-Level Educational Table (ILET)
- » Held at Concordia University, November 3-5, 2021
- » Prepared by [Antonia Macris](#), QUESCREN Research Assistant
Report revised by [Lorraine O'Donnell](#), [Lina Shoumarova](#), and [Patrick Donovan](#), QUESCREN
- » **Objective:** was to encourage mobilization around the development of a healthy and sustainable English-language educational offer in Quebec that supports student retention, access to good jobs in the province, and a strong sense of identity and belonging.

Format

- » 4 keynote lectures, presentations, panel discussions, and a workshop, for a total of 18 events and over 30 presenters.
- » Consult full program [here](#).

Participants

- » Over 250 participants registered, including researchers, practitioners, community stakeholders, and policy makers from across Quebec.

KEY QUESTIONS ADDRESSED AT THE FORUM



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- » What are best practices for online education in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- » How can the English-language education system best address community diversity and disparities?
- » How do English-speaking communities, which embody diverse opinions and experiences, build a cohesive voice on education?
- » How can we develop sustainable initiatives for Black English-speaking communities?
- » What can a plurilingual approach offer for language vitality and identity validation?
- » How can literacy services best reach vulnerable populations during the pandemic?
- » How can a continuum of English-language education help promote
- » educational success and youth retention in Quebec?
- » How can we counter the decline of English-language education in Quebec?
- » How can knowledge of education rights and the law help English-speaking Quebec build sustainable relationships with governments?

SOME KEY TAKEAWAYS



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The community must draw on its diversity

- » Among the populations enriching English-speaking Quebec are First Nations and Black communities, whose cultures, like many others, can be leveraged inside the classroom.

Education must meet communities where they are

- » This is meant both physically and conceptually. Programs must be tailored to the specific needs of different communities.

Building an inclusive curriculum by listening and working together

- » There exists a diversity of approaches on key issues around curriculum that need to be considered with respect.

The importance of collaboration

- » Between the education sector, community-based organizations, economic development stakeholders, and other groups.

Challenges over rights

- » Quebec's English-language minorities must have a voice and maintain their right to manage their education system and to receive quality public education.

Break down the silos

- » In reference to many English-language education programs and organizations. Silos need to be broken down not only within the education sector, but also within and across a range of sectors, including business, health, and social services.

For more information please reference the report [here](#).



THREE (of many) MAJOR THEMES OF INTEREST

1. Retaining students in programs

- » A retention issue for Quebec's English-speaking students involves the degree to which students, notably males, persevere in their CEGEP educational programs. Graduating with a diploma contributes to student success in life and employment, a major factor in their capacity to thrive and create futures in the province.

2. Engagement with bicultural and plurilingual approaches

- » The QUESCREN [Research Briefs](#) also touch on the topic of biculturalism and plurilingualism. Students have identities influenced by multiple linguistic, ethnic, and regional backgrounds. **Over a third of students in the English- language school sector do not have English as their mother tongue and most bilingual youth have a sense of belonging to either the French- or English- speaking communities of Quebec.**

3. COVID-19 and reliance on technology

- » A final major discussion thread in the 2021 Forum was the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on education. It brought attention to community experiences and **the pandemic's impact on education and changes to related methods of teaching and learning, underlining the importance of education technology.**

To all our supporting community partners and stakeholders who collaborated with us on this Forum:



Thank you!

Please connect with us on LinkedIn!

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