

Community, Commitment, Cooperation ***Moving Forward Together***

For Immediate Release

QCGN Congratulates Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Election Win

Thursday May 5, 2011 - The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) has congratulated Prime Minister Stephen Harper on his recent election victory and looks forward to continuing to work with the Government of Canada to strengthen linguistic duality and support to the nearly 1 million Canadians who make up Canada's English linguistic minority community.

"We at the Quebec Community Groups Network wish the Government of Canada all the very best during the upcoming mandate, and look forward to continuing our role in supporting your pledge to build an even stronger future and a more unified Canada," QCGN President Linda Leith wrote in a congratulatory letter to Harper this week.

Leith noted that the Government of Canada's current official languages strategy, the Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality, is set to expire on March 31, 2013 and that its replacement will be conceived and implemented by the current Government. "We trust that the English-speaking community of Quebec will receive equal voice in the process leading up to the new strategy, and be resourced equitably in accordance with the needs and comparative size of our linguistic minority community," said Leith adding that the QCGN stands ready to work constructively with all stakeholders in this process.

"We are especially hopeful that ways can be found to increase levels of transparent and accountable cooperation between the governments of Canada and Quebec in ensuring the vitality of the English-speaking Community of Quebec," Leith told Harper.

"The Quebec Community Groups Network and its Members appreciate the ongoing efforts of the Government of Canada to make the provision of federal support more efficient and less administratively taxing," added Leith, noting the QCGN is confident that the Government can act upon the recommendations of the Senate Standing Committee on Official Languages report, "The Vitality of Quebec's English-speaking Communities: From Myth to Reality", released in March.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 36 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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