

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

QCGN meets to consolidate partnerships

For Immediate Release

Montreal, June 16, 2011 - The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) kicks off its 17th annual meeting Thursday June 16 with three full days of discussions and workshops at Concordia University.

The Members' Convention begins today with a joint initiative of QCGN and the Federal department of Canadian Heritage that aims to foster interdepartmental communication and identify avenues of collaboration with the English-speaking community.

Friday, the more public part of our meeting, will begin with a panel discussion entitled "A Community of Communities," which aims to discuss the interconnectivity of communities within English-speaking Quebec. Moderated by Graham Fraser, the Commissioner of Official Languages, panellists will include Senator Joan Fraser, Townshippers' Association President Gerald Cutting and Montreal Gazette reporter, Marian Scott. Because of their unique roles as actors and observers of our community, each is bound to have an interesting perspective on the topic.

Members and government stakeholders will then convene for a discussion of the multi-year Cooperation Agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH) and its impacts on our Network and our Community. The Cooperation Agreement, which is signed by the QCGN on behalf of the English-speaking community of Quebec, will define our community's relationship with PCH for the next five years and set out the important priority setting exercise that the QCGN is about to undertake.

At lunch, incoming QCGN board member Cheryl Gosselin will make a presentation on institutional vitality research project which is currently under development by an eminent group of community leaders including Warren Allmand and Sheila Goldbloom. The aim of the institutional vitality research project is to establish a vitality baseline for institutions of the English-speaking Community of Quebec.

Also at lunch, we will launch the official call for nominations for the QCGN's 2011 Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award. Mrs. Goldbloom will be on hand with us for the call for nominees that will be honoured for going above and beyond in contributing to the vitality of our community. Members of the Network and of Quebec's English-speaking community will have till August 19 to submit the names of deserving candidates. Details available on our website at <http://www.qcgn.ca/goldbloom/>.

The meeting will wrap up Saturday with a consultation on membership policy and the Annual General Meeting. Saturday will be mainly internal matters with the Annual General Meeting and the first phase of a consultation on a revised membership policy which will help the Network come up with a policy that truly aligns with the vision, mission and mandate of the QCGN as well as our governance structures. The goal is to fortify the QCGN and allow it to move forward on its important work of identifying, exploring and addressing the strategic issues affecting the development, vitality, and sustainability of English-speaking Quebec. After lunch the QCGN will handle business including the installation of a new board and the ratification of new members.

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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