

Community, Commitment, Cooperation

Moving Forward Together

For Immediate Release

QCGN ends successful meeting with new Board of Directors

Montreal, June 20, 2011 - The Quebec Community Groups Network forged new partnerships and consolidated old ones as it held its annual convention in Montreal last week.

During the three-day meeting that wrapped up Saturday with the 17th Annual General Meeting, members explored avenues of collaboration with Federal Official Language coordinators; discussed the deep diversity of the English-speaking Quebec in a panel discussion moderated by Graham Fraser, the Commissioner of Official Languages; introduce a research initiative on the vitality of our English institutions; and held a consultation on membership recruitment and retention policy.

Goldbloom Awards

The QCGN took advantage of the presence of members and stakeholders to launch the call for nominations for the QCGN Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award. The Award, which was launched during the QCGN's 15th anniversary celebrations in 2009, was instituted to honour individuals like Mrs. Sheila and Dr. Victor Goldbloom who have gone above and beyond in contributing to the vitality and understanding of our community.

Dr. and Mrs. Goldbloom, who were on hand for the award launch, encouraged individuals and organizations to celebrate community leadership by bringing forward worthy candidates for the prize.

Candidates for the QCGN's distinguished community service award should have demonstrated leadership and commitment as a volunteer or as a professional in their chosen field of endeavour. Contributions can be in any and all regions of Quebec and in any field from business to academia; from youth to seniors; from health and social services to arts and culture; and any other area such as heritage, the environment and sports.

New Board

On Saturday, Noel Burke was appointed as Interim President of the QCGN replacing Linda Leith who will continue to sit on the Board of Directors as Past President. Burke, the Dean of the School of Extended Learning at Concordia University, will also chair the QCGN's Priority Setting Steering Committee which is set to undertake a wide consultation of the English-speaking community.

Acclaimed to the new Board of Directors are Vice-President Brian Garneau, from Voice of English-speaking Quebec in Quebec City; Secretary Dan Lamoureux, who was involved in the Greater Montreal Community Development Initiative (GMCDI). Also on Executive Committee are Past President Linda Leith, incumbent Treasurer Marc McLaughlin and Director General Sylvia Martin-Laforge.

Filling three open seats for regional representatives are Jan Anderson-Toupin of Quebec City, Cheryl Gosselin from the Eastern Townships, and Clara Ann Martin Labadie from the Lower North Shore. The two other regional seats are held by Townshippier Marion Standish and QCGN Youth Chair Nicola Johnston.

New sectoral representatives include Irene Tschernomor, C.E.O. of the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex; Colleen Bronson, alumni director for Sacred Heart School of Montreal; and Nigel Spencer, who is a member of three QCGN organizations including the English Language Arts Network (ELAN), the Quebec Drama Federation (QDF) and the Quebec Writers Federation (QWF). The remaining sectoral seat is filled by Bradley Dottin, president of the Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC).



From left to right: (Front row) Dan Lamoureux; Linda Leith; Brian Garneau; Sylvia Martin-Laforge; (second row) Nigel Spencer; Jan Anderson-Toupin; Irene Tshernomor; Cheryl Gosselin; Colleen Bronson; Marion Standish; Clara Ann Martin Labadie; Bradley Dottin.

New Members

The QCGN also welcomed two new members into the fold. They are the Quebec English Literacy Alliance (QELA), which is a network of urban and rural literacy groups; and the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) - Montreal, which reflects an Irish dimension of the Canadian business community here in Quebec.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 38 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.

For further information:

Rita Legault, Director of Communications, rita.legault@qcgn.ca

Telephone: 514-868-9044, ext. 223, mobile: 514-912-6555