

## *Community, Commitment, Cooperation*

### *Moving Forward Together*

#### **QCGN supports review on language of work in federal regulated workplaces**

##### **For Immediate Release**

**Montreal, November 25, 2011** – The Quebec Community Groups Network supports the Government of Canada’s creation of a consultative committee to review the situation regarding language of work in federally regulated businesses in Quebec.

Industry Minister Christian Paradis this week announced the consultative committee will seek the views of stakeholders to examine whether employees of federally regulated businesses in Quebec are fully able to work in French. The QCGN notes the Government of Canada's obligations to both official languages, and believes the committee’s work should not be geographically limited.

“The Government has a commitment to foster the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society,” said QCGN President Noel Burke, noting that English and French-speaking Canadians from coast to coast should enjoy language of work rights in federally regulated businesses.

“Focussing the consultative committee's work in Quebec sends the message: only French, only in Quebec,” said Burke. “Canadians expect the Government of Canada to act in the interests of all Canadians, in a manner that fosters the use of both official languages.”

This week, the Government also announced plans to loosen foreign ownership rules of telecommunication companies, which are federally regulated businesses. At the moment, Canadians do not have language of work rights in these companies. This is clearly an area of concern for English and French Canadians employed in these industries.

Burke said the QCGN also trusts that Canada's English linguistic minority communities - the English-speaking Community of Quebec - will be part of the consultations.

The Quebec Community Groups Network ([www.qcgn.ca](http://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.

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