

## TALQ welcomes 2024–2025 OCOL report

*Studies, interventions reinforce English group's own advocacy work*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Montreal, June 18, 2025** – TALQ (formerly the Quebec Community Groups Network) welcomes the release of the 2024-25 Annual Report of the federal Commissioner of Official Languages and commends outgoing Commissioner Raymond Thériault for his continued leadership in defending and promoting the language rights of Official Language minority communities (OLMCs) across Canada.

This year's Annual Report underscores several key areas of both progress and ongoing concern that resonate deeply with English-speaking Quebecers.

At the news conference following the release of his report, Commissioner Thériault touched on several of the community's concerns, including a lack of consultation on provincial legislation affecting English speakers, and the detrimental effects some of that legislation has had on the English-speaking community. He said he hopes a greater degree of communication and consultation between the Quebec government and the community can be achieved.

TALQ particularly welcomed the release last year of two important studies: *Building Bridges* (June 2024), which dispelled persistent myths and highlighted the contributions of English-speaking Quebecers to Canadian bilingualism and the recognition of French in Quebec; and *A Shared Future: A Closer Look at Our Official Language Minority Communities*, which examined growing challenges such as the recognition of rights, socio-economic vulnerability, and questions of legitimacy as OLMCs. These reports reaffirm the need for tailored public policies which address the unique situation of our community.

"In November 2024, the Commissioner appeared before both the Senate and House of Commons Standing Committees on Official Languages to emphasize the importance of language clauses in intergovernmental agreements, the timely disbursement of Action Plan funds, and strong support for minority-language education across the learning continuum," said TALQ President Eva Ludvig. "These interventions reinforce and support TALQ's own advocacy in these critical areas."

TALQ also welcomes the Commissioner's report *Protecting Language Rights (2018–2025)*, which reviewed 13 court interventions that helped establish new interpretations of constitutional and legislative language rights – particularly in the fields of education and access to justice. "We thank the Commissioner for his sustained efforts before the courts to defend and strengthen these rights for all Canadians," Ludvig added.

“While acknowledging the Commissioner’s expanded oversight under the *Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act*, TALQ remains seriously concerned about the legislation’s likely negative consequences for English-speaking Quebecers,” Ludvig said. “We continue to view this law as ill-advised and harmful to the vitality of our community.

“We commend the Commissioner’s leadership in shaping the development of regulations under Part VII of the Official Languages Act, notably his efforts to ensure clear obligations for federal institutions, strong accountability mechanisms, and the inclusion of language clauses in federal-provincial-territorial agreements. His recommendations closely reflect TALQ’s own priorities and those of English-speaking Quebecers.”

The reapplication of Part IV of the Official Languages Regulations – expected to result in approximately 700 new bilingual federal service points by 2027 – is a welcome development. However, TALQ shares the Commissioner’s concern about institutional readiness and continues to monitor the process to ensure English-speaking Quebecers can access federal services in English to the fullest extent permitted under the law.

Finally, TALQ remains concerned about federal institutions’ ability to meet their Part VI obligations in Quebec (outside the National Capital Region). With 20 complaints filed under Part VI during the reporting period, TALQ is restarting discussions with the Treasury Board to work collaboratively toward equitable representation of English-speaking Quebecers in the federal public service.

“We thank Commissioner Thériault for his continued efforts and collaboration, and we remain committed to working alongside his office and federal partners to ensure meaningful implementation of the modernized Official Languages Act and full respect for the rights of English-speaking Quebecers,” Ludvig said.

TALQ ([www.talq.ca](http://www.talq.ca)) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together English language community organizations and individuals 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.

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