

TALQ WELCOMES MAJOR VICTORY FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUEBECERS' DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTREAL, September 16, 2026 — TALQ welcomes today's Quebec Superior Court decision as a major victory for the democratic rights of English-speaking Quebecers and their right to receive the information they need to participate fully in an election.

In granting a 10-day interim injunction, Justice Sylvain Lussier found a strong appearance that the interpretation of Quebec's language legislation is infringing the democratic rights of Quebec's English-speaking community. Importantly, the Court found that the right to information necessary to exercise the right to vote includes the right of the English-speaking community to receive that information in English.

"This is an important victory for English-speaking Quebecers and for democratic participation in Quebec," said Eva Ludvig, President of TALQ. "The Court has recognized what we have said from the beginning: voters must be able to access the essential information they need to exercise their fundamental right to vote. For English-speaking Quebecers, that includes receiving that information in English."

The legal challenge, filed last week, followed Élections Québec's announcement that, for the first time in a Quebec general election, voter information documents would be mailed in French only.

The Court recognized the practical barriers some English-speaking Quebecers, particularly seniors, may face in accessing electoral information through digital alternatives. The judge was not persuaded that options such as QR codes, smartphones, or a telephone line necessarily provide equivalent access to the information contained in documents mailed directly to voters.

Following Élections Québec's announcement, TALQ wrote to Quebec's Chief Electoral Officer, Jean-François Blanchet, and Jean-François Roberge, Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions, urging that the decision be reversed and that essential electoral information be made directly available in both French and English.

While the Court concluded that it would be impractical at this stage to require Élections Québec to resend the election guide and notice of registration, it found that the reminder card could still be prepared in both languages and ordered Élections Québec to prepare it in French and English.

The reminder card contains essential information, including the candidates in each riding and where electors vote on election day.

"We would have preferred to see all election information documents provided directly in both French and English," said Ludvig. "But this decision represents a significant step forward. The Court has recognized the importance of English-language electoral information and has ordered concrete action to address the barriers created by the French-only approach."

Beyond the immediate impact on this election, the decision sends an important message about the need to consider the rights and realities of English-speaking Quebecers when language policies are implemented.

“This case demonstrates why the practical impact of language policies matters,” said Ludvig. “Quebec can protect and promote French while respecting the rights of English-speaking Quebecers and ensuring they can participate fully in our democratic institutions. Those objectives are not in conflict.”

TALQ will continue to follow the proceedings closely and advocate to ensure that English-speaking Quebecers have equitable access to electoral and other essential public information.

TALQ (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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