

## 2026-2027 COMMUNITY PRIORITIES OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY OF QUEBEC

Every year the community sector serving the English-speaking Community of Quebec determines and communicates its development priorities to the Government of Canada, which subsequently inform recommendations on community funding allocations.

TALQ (formerly the Quebec Community Groups Network) is mandated by the department of Canadian Heritage as its interlocutor to carry out consultations with Official Language Minority Community (OLMC) stakeholders across Quebec on an annual basis to identify the challenges, needs and priorities facing their communities. With this information TALQ proposes the following priorities for fiscal year 2026-2027, pending validation from the English-speaking Community.

### Access to Services in English

Increased access to services and government information in English in all aspects of daily living is a pressing issue. The ability of individuals in our community to make informed decisions depends on our capacity to understand options and implications in English.

Proposed priorities include:

#### 1. The availability of services in English

- Access to services in English for individuals navigating the unique challenges faced by racial, ethnic and cultural minorities, gender and sexuality minorities, and people with disabilities within the English-speaking community in accessing services in English.
- Increased availability to mental health services in English.
- Increased accessibility to employment and employability services and improved economic well-being of Quebec's English-speaking community.
- Access to service in English that support the social determinants of health for English speakers, including food security, housing, and services for persons with disabilities
- Affordable and accessible legal aid and accompaniment services.
- Early childhood education and childcare services

#### 2. Information sharing and knowledge development

- Community-based promotion and support for access to health services in English.
- The translation of relevant information and documents for community stakeholders in all sectors, including but not limited to education, heritage, municipal services and healthcare.
- Relationship building within the public sector and strategy development to improve access to services in English in the context of additional language requirements for service providers.
- The promotion of careers in health, community and social service to English speakers/retain professionals in Quebec.

- Initiatives to raise awareness of and advocate for legal rights, including popular education, resource-sharing, and research to further our community's understanding of its legal status, rights, and recourses.
- English-language information about available French second-language courses and training opportunities.

### **3. Support for community organizations serving the English-speaking community**

- Advocacy and awareness-raising efforts in challenges affecting availability of government services in English.
- Organizational capacity development to allow for the expanding for programming into additional sectors of activity, wherein doing so would address persistent gap in service coverage for English speakers.
- Community policy capacity in diverse sectors of activity, in order to address persistent gaps in service delivery.

## **Community-Building**

Develop relationships by fostering greater collaboration and networking among English-speaking organizations and the broader community, diversifying resources, and sharing and developing expertise will make our communities stronger.

Proposed priorities include:

### **1. Foster a sense of community and inclusion for English-speaking communities across Quebec.**

- Support for the unique community-building challenges in Quebec's regions.
- Support for youth in rural, remote, and isolated areas.
- Support for seniors in isolation.
- Opportunities for experiential and community-based learning.
- Support for the unique challenges faced by racial, ethnic and cultural minorities, gender and sexuality minorities, and people with disabilities within the English-speaking community in participating in and benefiting from community-building activities.
- Growth of the arts and cultural sector in English-speaking Quebec.
- Reinforce intergenerational ties, with a focus on enhancing mutual understanding and shared learning.

**2. Strengthen relationships and support collaborations between community organizations.**

- Support for the capacity of community organizations to increase their community outreach and representation within broader consultation structures.
- Coalitions and partnerships within the community, designed around practice-sharing and collective action.
- Support for collaborations between school boards and municipalities to improve services and communications with the English-speaking community.
- Promotion of resource sharing between community stakeholders, including the development and distribution of tools to facilitate resource sharing.
- Stimulate stronger relationships between the community sector and the business sector, including small and medium enterprises.
- Strengthen partnerships with educational institutions to support mental wellness.

**3. Access to professional and community development resources for English-language organizations.**

- Research concerning the short, medium, and long-term funding needs of community organizations.
- Access to innovative tools that support organizational capacity for collective impact work.
- Support for organization's efforts in strategic planning to address their long-term sustainability and impact in the community.
- Support for the development of policy capacity in sectors of the English-speaking community where gaps in policy capacity exist.
- Increased access to technology, including artificial intelligence, to facilitate organizational capacity, and knowledge development concerning the OLMC necessary to evaluate the impact of our activities.
- Support for community mapping or landscaping initiatives to increase awareness and understanding of where services and programs are available.

**Economic Prosperity**

Economic prosperity or well-being of English-speaking Quebecers is achieved by providing English speakers with opportunities in Quebec to get a job, pursue a career, create or expand a business or social enterprise, increase the trade of specific goods and services, and benefit from investments in enhancing economic activity.

Proposed priorities include:

**1. The active participation of English speakers in growing Quebec's economy.**

- Programs based on the “by and for” principle that support English speakers to be active participants in emerging (a) economic development sectors, e.g., the green economy, (b) technologies, e.g., AI, and (c) transformative initiatives, e.g., reducing and eliminating trade barriers across Canada.
- Support for entrepreneurs, businesses and social enterprises to meet the needs of English and Francophone Quebecers, and visitors to the province. This includes artistic, cultural, and heritage preservation and promotional services.
- The development, implementation, and promotion of Official Language economic development investment and labour market participation policies.
- Support for developing entrepreneurs and creating and scaling up small and medium-sized businesses and social enterprises.

**2. The active participation of English speakers in Quebec's labour market.**

- The alignment of Official Language Minority Community in Quebec (OLMCQ) workforce development with current and anticipated labour market demand in Quebec.
- The provision of a continuum of skills development, upskilling, employment assistance, and job placement services, especially for adult and senior English speakers undertaking career transitions or addressing career and employment disruptions.
- Support to address barriers to labour market entry, including achieving required levels of French language competency, and skills and credential recognition.

**3. Economic and labour market inclusiveness**

- Ensure the protection and promotion of language rights for English-speakers in Quebec, and the fulfillment of federal OLMCQ obligations in Quebec's labour market and economic development spaces.
- Increase awareness of private, public, and civil society financing opportunities to assist community groups in diversifying their funding sources.
- Increase capacity and collaboration in Official Language economic, workforce, and labour market development, including but not limited to competency in the French language.
- Provide opportunities for marginalized and vulnerable English speakers to actively participate in growing Quebec's economy, successfully pursue careers, and get and retain jobs, including, but not limited to English speakers with disabilities, and those with mental health and cognitive challenges.
- Identify and address issues of economic disparity and discrimination.
- Collaboration between public, private, and civil society actors to strengthen English speakers' economic prosperity.

- Assistance to Quebec employers in accessing pools of English-speaking, bilingual, and multilingual talent, and addressing critical labour market participation issues, such as certification and credentialing.

## Identity and Renewal

Nurturing a strong sense of belonging, expressing our identity, enhancing our visibility, and working towards a Quebec society that embraces diversity will ensure the renewal of our communities.

Proposed priorities include:

### 1. The engagement and participation of English-speakers in Quebec society.

- Engage with English-speaking youth and promote their identity within English-speaking Quebec.
- Identify, improve outreach to, and foster the participation of marginalized and isolated communities, including but not limited to racial, ethnic and cultural minorities, gender and sexuality minorities, and people with disabilities within English-speaking Quebec.
- The recruitment and retention of newcomers into the labour market.
- Support for services for newcomers adjusting to Quebec society.

### 2. The inclusion of English-speaking Quebecers within Quebec society.

- Strengthen the sense of belonging for English-speaking Quebecers, especially with respect to diverse cultures and building bridges between English and French-speaking communities in Quebec in the Arts, Culture and Heritage sector.
- Increase the visibility and vitality of English-speaking communities in rural and remote regions of Quebec.
- Build bridges between English-speaking communities and French-speaking communities to promote belonging of English-speaking community identity within Quebec society.
- Preserve an appreciation of the culture, history, and heritage of the English-speaking communities of Quebec of all cultural, ethnic, or geographic backgrounds.

## Leadership and Representation

Promoting leadership development at all levels, with an emphasis on youth engagement, and encouraging volunteerism will ensure we are an integral part of Quebec and Canadian society.

Proposed priorities include:

### 1. Access to leadership and representation opportunities for English-speakers in Quebec.

- Community outreach designed to engage marginalized populations.
- Support for the development of youth leadership through volunteerism and education.

- Knowledge development pertaining to community groups and associations without core funding as well as the populations they serve and the gaps they address, with a focus on developing creative solutions to help these groups become more sustainable.
- Engagement and empowerment of English-speaking racialized communities to promote diversity, equity and inclusion within organizations and communities.
- Increased civic literacy for English-speaking Quebecers.
- The promotion of civic and community engagement, with particular focus on sensitizing community members to governance structures.

## **2. Increased representation of English-speaking Quebecers in civil service.**

- Identification of community leaders to participate on federal, provincial and regional government agencies, administrative bodies, etc. ensuring that English speakers are represented in the governance mechanisms of key institutions and organizations.
- Efforts which address systemic barriers to civic participation in various sectors, and at various levels of participation, for English community representatives, including the unique barriers faced by racial, ethnic and cultural minorities, gender and sexuality minority communities.
- Efforts to identify opportunities for increased representation of English speaker that extend beyond the civil service to civil society organizations, institutions, and para-public agencies.

## **Strong Institutions**

Healthy institutions are the cornerstone of a dynamic community. Maintaining and supporting existing institutions and establishing new ones will strengthen our communities.

Proposed priorities include:

### **1. Support the capacity and sustainability of English-language institutions.**

- The promotion of English-language institutions, and organizations that support the community.
- Capacity building for community organizations to meet the needs of their respective members and clientele.
- Research to identify and map funding opportunities for organizations to diversify their revenue sources.
- Research and advocacy efforts in the arts, cultural, and heritage sector, notably with respect to English-language media.
- Access to space, such as the repurpose of space or the development of hybrid or shared-space models for heritage, art and cultural, community or housing purposes, as well as initiatives to identify and better understand community space needs.
- Support for the capacity and sustainability of community-based media, including but not limited to community newspapers, radio, television and web content.

- Maintenance of existing infrastructure, notably heritage buildings, that are home to community institutions.

## **2. The development of leadership capacity within the English-speaking community.**

- Capacity-building and training opportunities for leadership within community institutions to help ensure the sustainability of those institutions.
- Access to post-secondary (including vocational) education for youth in rural and rural remote regions which provide opportunities through distance learning and local placements for youth to complete their education while living in the region.
- Support for the recruitment, training, and retention of English-speaking professionals to work in community sector organizations.
- Increase visibility and vitality of marginalized populations, including racial, ethnic and cultural minorities, gender and sexuality minorities, and people with disabilities within the English-speaking community in our institutions.