

TALQ Responds to Quebec Budget 2026: Calls for Consultation, Transparency, and Stability for the English-Speaking Community of Quebec (ESCQ)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montreal, March 18, 2026 — TALQ, a federally funded English-language advocacy group representing Quebec’s English-speaking community, expresses concern following the tabling of the Quebec government’s 2026–2027 budget, which includes a reduction in funding dedicated to the English-speaking community.

At a time when Quebecers are facing economic uncertainty, TALQ acknowledges the difficult fiscal decisions before the government. However, this reduction raises important questions about how services will be maintained—particularly as federal support is increasingly constrained.

Lack of Consultation Remains a Persistent Concern

TALQ is disappointed by the absence of consultation with the English-speaking community prior to the budget’s development, marking a departure from longstanding practice.

“It is unfortunate that the government chose this year to break from its longstanding tradition of consultation,” said Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General of TALQ. “The lack of consultation is becoming a recurring pattern, and this failure to engage at such a critical juncture only deepens concern, undermines trust, and limits the effectiveness of decisions that directly affect our community.”

Need for Stability and Permanence of the Secretariat

TALQ reiterates its concern regarding the continued movement of the Secretariat for relations with the English-speaking community across government portfolios.

Historically housed within the Ministère du Conseil exécutif, the Secretariat has since been moved to other portfolios, including Finance, and most recently to Relations internationales et Francophonie. TALQ believes this lack of stability undermines its effectiveness.

“The Secretariat must be returned to and permanently housed within the Ministère du Conseil exécutif,” said Eva Ludvig, President of TALQ. “It should not move from one portfolio to another. Stability is essential to ensuring consistent support for our community.”

Call for Transparency and Protection of Services

The budget also reflects a reduction in funding dedicated to the English-speaking community. TALQ is calling on the Minister to reassure English-speaking Quebecers that this decrease will not result in cuts to programs and services at this critical time.

TALQ reiterates that consideration for the English-speaking community is a shared responsibility across all ministries and must be supported through consistent, coordinated efforts.

A Commitment to Collaboration

TALQ calls for a return to meaningful consultation and greater transparency in the allocation of funding, as well as a stable and permanent framework for the Secretariat within the Government of Quebec.

TALQ remains committed to working constructively with the government to ensure that the needs of the English-speaking community are met and that the Secretariat can continue to play its essential role.

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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