

30 YEARS

YOUNG!



Talking.
Advocating.
Living in
Québec.

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Looking back. Moving Forward.



Eva Ludvig
President

From QCGN to TALQ

Welcome to the first Annual Report under the new TALQ name! And welcome, too, to the final marking of our 30th anniversary, which celebrated the founding of the Quebec Community Groups Network in 1995.

It is remarkable to observe that over those years we have been unfailingly consistent in focusing on the same core set of issues (albeit with various nuances according to the political tides) and have developed an appropriate approach in trying to raise issues of concern to our English-speaking community of Quebec.

We have always tried to be reasonable in our support for the promotion and protection of the French language and demonstrate an understanding of francophones' concerns surrounding the fragility of French – all while addressing our community's need for recognition, respect and access to important government services in our language.

Along the way, we have expanded our advocacy efforts as we faced the challenges and divisions presented by the governments of François Legault – Bills 15, 40, 21, 96, 84 and, most recently Bill 1. All these laws sought or seek to constrain our community in one way or another, curtail rights guaranteed by constitutional protections, or impose requirements on us not shared by other Quebec citizens.

While one might think that if we're still addressing roughly the same issues we were at the outset we haven't done much of a job on the advocacy front. But advocacy is not usually a flash in the pan. The American Civil Liberties Union, a human-rights advocacy organization, was founded in 1920 and is still going strong – and very much needed – today. Times and contexts change; standing up for human rights must be constant and long-lasting.

Looking back. Moving forward.

Renewal and resolve

We have maintained, and continue to argue, that certain large media conglomerates and several political parties, including the CAQ government, have a vested interest in promoting division over dialogue, while most francophone Quebecers take a more reasoned and tolerant view when it comes to our community and its continued vitality.

Over 30 years, we have built a coherent voice where none existed at the time of our founding. Our recent renewal process gave us a chance to refocus and reform, allowing us to boost our membership and tackle an even more intense program of activities and advocacy.

With the transition to TALQ last year, we have come of age. This was reflected in the joint op-ed we published with the Mouvement national des Québécoises et Québécois in *The Gazette* and *Le Devoir* last June, as well as our becoming a more credible participant in policy conversations, emphasizing a desire to build bridges and seek common ground, where solutions to the things that challenge us are most likely to be found.

Looking ahead

As we look ahead to the next few years, TALQ is undertaking a refresh of our Strategic Plan to ensure it remains responsive, relevant, and forward-looking. Informed by an assessment of the current plan and grounded in research, focus groups, and a membership survey, this process is identifying emerging community needs, risks, and opportunities while reaffirming TALQ's priorities and value-added role.

Through an iterative process with staff, the Board, and members, the Executive Committee is reviewing our core foundations – including vision, mission, and values – as well as our strategic orientations. This work will directly inform the development of an aligned three-year operational plan.

Before closing, I would like to salute some of the many people who helped us get here. Martin Murphy, our first President, was invaluable in moving the QCGN from an informal collaboration of organizations toward a more coherent body focused on establishing credibility with government as a policy group, and ensuring firm connections between the member groups. It is no exaggeration to say we wouldn't be where we are today without him. I would also like to applaud Marlene Jennings, who, as President, initiated the renewal process which led to TALQ. Sylvia Martin-Laforge, who has been director-general for half of these 30 years, has brought her considerable skill and dedication to helping bring TALQ to where it is today.

The last three decades have proved a turbulent time. I believe we have stood firm throughout it all and emerged stronger with every crisis we've had to address.

Eva Ludwig
President

Making our voices heard



Sylvia Martin-Laforge
Director General

Collective Action. Meaningful Impact

In the past year, TALQ has been more successful than I can remember in mobilizing groups in the English-speaking community to move quickly and decisively in opposing Bill 1, the Legault government's attempt to establish a constitution for Quebec.

One result of this push was in Justice Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette's willingness to soften some contentious provisions of Bill 1, including allowing publicly funded groups to bring constitutional challenges and setting aside the hierarchy of rights that had elevated collective over individual rights, as well as including recognition in the Bill's preamble of the existence of an English-speaking community in Quebec.

Much like our push-back against Bill 1, the response to Bill 84 on national integration — which foreshadowed Bill 1 — was strong and unified. We also devoted significant effort to Part VII of the revised federal Official Languages Act, ensuring our community's concerns were clearly articulated.

This enhancement of our ability as a community to develop legal opinions and policy positions is work we can be most proud of. And maybe — just maybe — the English-speaking community has now seen the greater benefits of working more closely together.

Coming together under one roof

Away from the political arena, we are also trying to work more closely with some of our member organizations, and our Shared Spaces project has entered a pivotal phase. A feasibility study funded by Canadian Heritage confirmed that Montreal-based organizations serving English-speaking Quebecers face growing structural pressures. These include rising real estate costs, limited access to suitable office and meeting space, and continuing sector fragmentation.

The Shared Spaces project is designed not just as a collective location, but as a shared infrastructure platform at a time when our funders expect greater collaboration and efficiency. It brings together office space, meeting and event facilities, and coordinated services to reduce costs, strengthen operations, and support deeper collaboration among groups serving our community.

Making our voices heard

With strong partner engagement and Board approval, TALQ is moving into the business-planning phase. Organizations such as the English-Language Arts Network (ELAN) and the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) have signed Memorandums of Understanding to co-locate with TALQ. Other groups have expressed strong interest in having access to affordable meeting and event spaces.

With clear alignment on key priorities including affordability and accessibility, the next phase will define the hub's vision and value and set out a detailed funding strategy, positioning Shared Spaces as a long-term investment in community infrastructure, organizational resilience, and collective impact.

Moving the conversation forward

While our issues are not at the forefront of partisan political agendas, we are determined to act together to keep them in the spotlight. At TALQ, we have resolved to continue the work accomplished last year, building on this willingness to pull together. It's the only way forward.

The appointment of Kelly Burke as the new federal Commissioner of Official Languages, presents us with an opportunity to, as we did with her predecessor Raymond Théberge, explore our community's concerns and the solutions that will be required to fully address them.

Three significant matters will demand our close attention now and in the future:

- The continuing effort to shape Part VII of the Official Languages Act into something that better recognizes our community's needs and aspirations;
- The next federal Official Languages five-year Action Plan, which will replace the current \$4.1-billion plan, covering 2023-2028;
- Determining a community position for an eventual constitution for Quebec, as all provincial parties have indicated their support for the concept, if not the specific Bill 1 proposal.

We must take our place on these issues and many others. In Quebec, we will be required to wrestle with the idea of a provincial constitution, even if we think there are more important things that require the government's attention.

Federally, we must repeatedly remind all parties of our status as an Official Minority Language Community. It has helped that our community has now realized that it is a minority in Quebec; this understanding has brought a greater sense of unity and cohesiveness.

We will take our place. We will make our voices heard. That is what TALQ is all about.



Director General

2025-2026

TALQ Board of Directors



Left to right: Gerald Cutting, Maria Kyres, Rob Braide, Grant Myers, Peter Starr, Eva Ludvig, Alix Adrien, Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Joe Ortona, Eleni Bakopanos, Chelsea Craig, Eric Maldoff, Chad Bean.

MISSING FROM PHOTO:
Katherine Korakakis, Jordan Black.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Eva Ludvig

Vice-President
Katherine Korakakis

Treasurer
Grant Myers

Secretary
Eleni Bakopanos

Alix Adrien
Chad Bean
Chelsea Craig
Maria Kyres
Eric Maldoff
Peter Starr
Rob Braide
Gerald Cutting
Jordan Black
Joe Ortona

The year that was

April 3, 2025	The Quebec Court of Appeal upholds a Superior Court ruling that, under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the English-speaking community of Quebec has the right to manage and govern its schools and maintain its school boards.
April 28, 2025	QCGN offers congratulations to Mark Carney and the Liberal Party on their election victory and outlines the work to be done on issues of concern to the English-speaking community of Quebec.
June 4, 2025	QCGN celebrates our 30 th anniversary and officially launches our new TALQ branding at Maison Alcan with more than 200 guests from across the community.
June 18, 2025	Outgoing Commissioner of Official Languages Raymond Th��berge releases OCOL's annual report and calls out the Quebec government for its lack of sufficient consultation with the English-speaking community of Quebec.
June 19, 2025	TALQ President Eva Ludvig and Fr��d��ric Lapointe, President of le Mouvement national des Qu��b��coises et Qu��b��cois, publish a joint opinion piece in <i>Le Devoir</i> and <i>The Gazette</i> , highlighting that focusing on what unites us instead of what divides us is the way to build a better Quebec.
August 12, 2025	As part of the 2025 Bishops Forum, TALQ hosts our inaugural Signature Series event – Building Policy Capacity for Quebec's English-Speaking Community, emphasizing the importance of youth in advocacy and how collaboration, legal action, and persistence can drive real change.
September 5, 2025	TALQ's Board of Directors endorses the creation of a Montreal-based hub offering shared office and event space for organizations serving English-speaking Quebecers to reduce costs, strengthen collaboration, and support long-term community vitality.
September 17, 2025	Eva Ludvig pens an opinion piece in <i>The Gazette</i> in which she reflects that now is a time for community resilience amid divisive Quebec politics and funding uncertainties from Ottawa.

The year that was

September 30, 2025	Premier François Legault’s speech at the opening of the National Assembly validates many of the community’s concerns, with promises of a Quebec constitution and French-language protections as cornerstones of Quebec’s identity.
November 13, 2025	TALQ’s 30for30 celebration honours 30 leaders whose contributions have enriched English-speaking communities across Quebec.
November 18, 2025	TALQ hosts a Signature Series event featuring a virtual information session to help the English-speaking community better understand the far-reaching implications of Bill 1.
January 19, 2026	In an op-ed in the <i>Montreal Gazette</i> , outgoing Commissioner of Official Languages Raymond Théberge offers a timely reminder that language rights are not a political luxury, but a foundation of Canadian democracy.
February 9, 2026	TALQ appears before the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages as part of its consultations on Part VII, cautioning that the draft regulations focus too heavily on process rather than results, thereby risking direct federal accountability to the community.
February 17, 2026	TALQ appears before the National Assembly’s Committee on Institutions regarding Bill 1, emphasizing that minority communities require the support of a government that recognizes their legitimacy rather than sidelining them and limiting judicial recourse.
March 10, 2026	TALQ, in partnership with Literacy Quebec, hosts the Community Empowerment Literacy Initiative (CELI) 2026 Forum, a full-day, in-person event bringing together Quebec’s literacy, employment, and community-development stakeholders.
March 25, 2026	TALQ appears as an intervener before the Supreme Court of Canada in the appeal concerning Quebec’s Bill 21, arguing that Bill 21 infringes on Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which safeguards the autonomy of minority-language education.

A STRONG VOICE FOR ENGLISH- SPEAKING QUEBEC

A strong voice for
English-speaking Quebec

STANDING UP FOR COMMUNITY RIGHTS

Near the end of our previous fiscal year, in March 2025, TALQ (still then QCGN) welcomed the Quebec government's budget promise to invest \$10 million over five years to strengthen the vitality of the English-speaking community. Finance Minister Eric Girard also announced Quebec would receive \$343 million from the federal government over the next four years aimed at funding education and other services for the English-speaking community.

As this fiscal year began in April 2025, the Quebec Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the Quebec English School Boards Association (with QCGN as an intervenor) finding that Bill 40, which sought to replace school boards with education service centres, unconstitutionally interfered with the management and control of English school boards.

TALQ emphasized the collective, community-vitality dimension of Section 23 and argued that English-language schools are institutions of the minority community as a whole, not merely administrative service-delivery bodies for current parents.

The Court's judgment strongly affirmed that Quebec cannot restructure English-language school governance in a way that hollows out the community's constitutional role in managing and controlling its schools.

As expected, Quebec's Attorney General subsequently sought leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. We are awaiting that court's decision on whether it will hear the case. Later that month, TALQ expressed its strong agreement with Quebec Superior Court Judge Éric Dufour's ruling describing as "unreasonable" the sharply higher university tuition fees targeting out-of-province students imposed on McGill and Concordia universities, calling it "an important ruling on a crucial issue" and confirming our view that the government had acted rashly and in a discriminatory fashion.

A strong voice for English-speaking quebec



Before the courts. At the National Assembly

TALQ's engagement on Bill 84, on national integration, continued throughout 2025. In our brief and before the National Assembly, we argued that the bill's cultural definition did not leave sufficient space for the English-speaking community – limiting the community to a brief mention in the preamble alongside its institutions, rather than recognizing it as a constitutive part of Quebec society. Concerningly, this same narrow framing would later reappear in Bill 1.

Our most extensive intervention came after the CAQ government introduced Bill 1 – a proposed constitution for Quebec – in October. As introduced, the bill would limit various civil rights, establish a hierarchy of rights, affirm broad provincial autonomy, and impede the relationship between Quebec communities and the federal government.

TALQ responded swiftly, criticizing the bill and stating publicly that no proper consultation process had been undertaken to ensure that such a foundational document reflected the will of all Quebecers.

TALQ submitted a formal brief and testified before the National Assembly. In both, we argued that Bill 1 would:

- Restrict civil-society oversight by prohibiting professional orders and community organizations from participating in constitutional challenges;
- Erode judicial independence through the creation of a politically constituted *Conseil constitutionnel* with ideologically driven appointment criteria and no right to publish dissenting opinions;
- Diminish individual-rights protections, including those guaranteed under the 1975 Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms;
- Create profound legal instability by introducing a “Constitution of Quebec” that lacks actual constitutional authority under Canadian law; and
- Mislead the public by rebranding the federal notwithstanding clause as a *disposition de souveraineté parlementaire*, or principle of parliamentary sovereignty.

A strong voice for english-speaking quebec



There are some encouraging signs. Justice Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette has indicated a willingness to soften certain provisions of Bill 1, including allowing publicly funded groups to bring constitutional challenges and setting aside the hierarchy of rights that had elevated collective over individual rights. These are positive developments, and TALQ can claim meaningful credit for helping bring them about, but we continue to have significant concerns.

Another major legal action came in March 2026, when TALQ appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada to argue Quebec's secularism law (Bill 21) violates the constitutional rights of English-speaking minority communities to manage their own schools. TALQ's intervention focused on Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, arguing that Bill 21 infringes on minority-language education rights by weakening the cultural, institutional, and community foundations of Quebec's English-speaking population.

TALQ asked the Court to find the law unconstitutional – at least in this context – emphasizing that these rights are fundamental, collective, and protected from the notwithstanding clause. Me. Julius Grey represented TALQ, and the Court has reserved its decision.

Also in March, TALQ publicly decried the CAQ government's 2026–27 budget and what appeared to be only a \$2.3-million funding envelope for anglophone rights. Our executive director, Sylvia Martin-Laforge, described this as “not a lot of money,” and further criticized the lack of consultation between the government and English advocacy groups in shaping the budget's approach to the community.

HOLDING FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS TO ACCOUNT



Holding federal institutions to account



Advocating for Accountability Under the Official Languages Act

This year, TALQ's federal policy and government-relations work focused on ensuring the government of Canada's renewed official-languages framework will produce measurable results for Quebec's English-speaking community.

Our new TALQ name marked an important public transition but did not alter the organization's core federal role. TALQ continues to serve as English-speaking Quebec's principal interlocutor with the federal government, providing an evidence-based policy voice.

This year's work focused on the steps being taken to implement the modernized Official Languages Act (called Part VII of the Act); early planning for the renewal of the Action Plan for Official Languages; and close monitoring of agreements between Canada and Quebec.

TALQ also worked to bring community partners together around parliamentary-committee activities and to track federal programs that support the vitality of English-speaking Quebecers.

Ahead of the April 28 federal election campaign, TALQ (still QCGN) surveyed our membership to compile community policy priorities. Issues members raised and which we shared with the parties included:

- Recognizing the 1.3-million-member English-speaking community of Quebec as an Official Language Minority Community;
- Maintaining CBC funding, especially in regions; and
- Reducing income inequalities facing the community.

Holding federal institutions to account

Part VII and implementing the Official Languages Act

A major focus of TALQ's federal policy work this year concerned the development of regulations under Part VII of the Official Languages Act. TALQ followed the regulatory process closely, engaged with Treasury Board Secretariat officials, and worked with community partners to ensure the realities of English-speaking Quebec are understood before the regulatory framework is finalized.

When the draft regulations were tabled in Parliament in the fall, TALQ commissioned an in-depth legal and policy review, which it shared with members and stakeholders. By early 2026, the Part VII regulations had become one of TALQ's central federal priorities. We participated fully in both House and Senate studies of the regulations and supported key English-speaking Quebec stakeholders, including CEDEC, QESBA, RDN and CHSSN, in assessing the implications of the proposed framework for their communities and participating in the parliamentary committee processes.

Under the OLA, Ottawa cannot simply transfer money to Quebec and assume its obligations are met. Federal institutions must consider how an agreement may affect official-language minority communities, consult those communities where appropriate, and try to include clear language on official languages, community vitality, access to services, reporting, and accountability.

These obligations do not bind the government of Quebec directly. They do, however, require federal institutions to do their own work before signing an agreement. They must assess the impact, document their analysis, and make reasonable efforts to ensure federal–provincial agreements support, rather than weaken, the development of English-speaking Quebec.

This was the basis for TALQ's concern with the Canada–Quebec Agreement on the Implementation of the Action Plan for Official Languages.

In June 2025, we welcomed the Annual Report of the federal Commissioner of Official Languages and commended outgoing Commissioner Raymond Théberge for his leadership in defending and promoting the rights of Official Language minority communities. Nonetheless, in January 2026, we filed a complaint with the Commissioner's Office, arguing the intergovernmental agreement did not meet Canada's Part VII obligations because:

- it was negotiated and implemented without meaningful consultation or proper impact analysis;
- it contained no clear positive measures for English-speaking Quebec;
- it lacked effective monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- it had not been made public as required.

This complaint became one of TALQ's most important federal accountability interventions of the year. TALQ argued that the agreement gave Quebec broad discretion over federal funds, creating a serious risk that money intended to support English-speaking Quebec could be diverted, delayed, or absorbed into other priorities. TALQ asked the Commissioner to investigate federal compliance and recommend minimum-funding guarantees, limits on reallocation, stronger consultation and reporting requirements, and immediate publication of the agreement. As anticipated, we have not yet had a response to our complaint.

Holding federal institutions to account

Building relationships, advancing priorities

Federal budget advocacy was another significant line of work. TALQ led the community's submission to the House Standing Committee on Finance's federal pre-budget consultation study, emphasizing the importance of renewing the Action Plan for Official Languages. The submission warned that cuts or weakened commitments would severely affect community vitality, while continued investment would boost the community, Quebec and Canada.

TALQ also engaged with the CRTC, and Canadian Heritage on broadcasting, media, and cultural policy. Working with QEPC and ELAN, TALQ advanced a Part VII analysis of CBC/Radio-Canada modernization, arguing that English-speaking Quebec must be treated as an official-language minority community with distinct structural and institutional needs, not simply as part of the broader English-language market. We also supported QEPC's complaint to the Commissioner of Official Languages concerning the collapse of English-language OLMC film and television production in Quebec and the need for concrete positive measures in federal cultural funding and broadcasting policy.



Throughout the year, TALQ maintained regular, direct engagement with federal institutions, parliamentarians, and senior officials. This included work with Treasury Board, Canadian Heritage, Employment and Social Development Canada, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, members of Parliament, Senators, and senior federal staff. TALQ participated in ESDC's Dialogue Day with the English-speaking community and the ESDC Skills for Success Symposium, and engaged directly with federal ministers and senior officials, including Minister Miller and the Deputy Minister of ESDC.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Strengthening community connections



BRINGING MORE VOICES TOGETHER

When we launched our new TALQ name and branding last year, we let Quebec in on something our members, partners, and stakeholders had known for a long time: our organization was making big changes to meet the different needs of a community that has itself been in constant evolution.

Since 2023, TALQ has included individuals alongside community groups in our membership, and we have reached out into the community ever since, adding more voices to our network. In 2025–2026, TALQ welcomed 115 new individual members — an increase of more than 40 per cent — bringing our total to 271 members from across Quebec whose diverse perspectives enrich our collective conversation.

We also worked to strengthen relationships with our 47 Community Group members, who work on behalf of Quebec’s English-speaking community across a wide range of regional and cultural communities and sectors of activity. TALQ was present at 16 special events hosted by member organizations, including:

- Providing opening remarks at the launch of the annual Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival;
- Attending the annual general meetings of seven of our community group members, and being on hand for milestone-anniversary celebrations with the West Island Family Resource Centre (20 years) and Literacy Quebec (45 years);
- Hosting kiosks at the annual Townshippers’ Festival, organized by the Townshippers’ Association, as well as the Côte-des-Neiges Black Community Association Career Fair, where we had the chance to engage directly with individual community members from different associations;
- Celebrating with long-time member groups at the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) annual Marion Phelps Award ceremony and 2025 Heritage Summit, and at the launch of the Townshippers’ Association’s new Guide Employability Program.

Strengthening community connections



These events provide TALQ with valuable opportunities to better understand the diverse and evolving needs of our community. The insights gained through these exchanges help us more effectively represent the wide range of interests and perspectives within it.

As our organization continues to grow, we are implementing best practices in governance to fulfill our commitment to becoming a more transparent, accountable, and accessible organization representing Quebec's English-speaking community.

On February 19, 2026, we convened our members to vote on changes to our by-laws modifying the way Officers of the Board of Directors are elected. In a unanimous vote, members approved changes that bring our procedures in line with those of most non-profit organizations. As a result, beginning with the 2025–2026 annual general meeting, Officers will be elected by the Board itself. Members will continue to elect the Board, and the Board will continue to guide the organization's direction.

Through these steps, TALQ is strengthening its foundations and positioning itself to continue building a strong, cohesive network of community groups and individuals working together to support the vitality of English-speaking Quebec.

Community Engagement and Strategic Alliances

Beyond our immediate network of member groups, TALQ continues to build partnerships with strategic allies across both of Quebec's official-language communities. As a backbone organization supporting groups that serve Quebec's English-speaking community, TALQ commissioned a formative evaluation of the Community Development Plan. In 2025–2026, more than 20 stakeholders provided insight into how TALQ can strengthen the plan while playing a more prominent role in consultations surrounding the next federal Action Plan for Official Languages.

This process has already produced preliminary recommendations, notably that a future Community Development Plan should be clearly anchored in TALQ's dual role as an advocate for English-speaking Quebec and as a centre of public-policy expertise for the community.

Over the years, TALQ has gained increasing recognition for its expertise in public policy and advocacy and is now widely seen as a leader in this field. As an advocate for the rights and vitality of Quebec's English-speaking community, we are most effective when community members themselves have the tools and skills to speak to their own issues and interests.

The proposed directions for future community development planning complement initiatives undertaken by TALQ over the past year and will provide us, our members, and our partners with a clear roadmap for advancing shared public-policy priorities. Achieving these goals will require renewed support from all levels of government, as well as continued collaboration with our community partners, and TALQ is prepared and eager to engage in these conversations.

Together for tomorrow



Empowering communities to speak up

We also hosted a successful Signature Series workshop at the Bishop's Forum – Building Policy Capacity for Quebec's English-Speaking Community – which explored TALQ's history as a mobilizing force within the community, with a focus on our role supporting the APPELE (Alliance for the Promotion of Public English-language Education in Quebec) Coalition in 2019. The workshop offered young English speakers a valuable case study in civic leadership.

Our support for community stakeholders also continued through the pilot phase of Building Advocacy Capacity in English-speaking Quebec — an online course designed to help community groups develop expertise in influencing public policy on behalf of their communities. Fourteen community groups participated in the pilot, which included modules on navigating government, engaging the media, working with statistics, understanding policy, and persuasive public speaking.

The course was well received, and participants expressed confidence in their ability to apply what they learned to the needs of their own communities. The training was developed in response to their own communities' needs, organizations to address the specific impacts of policy and legislation — including Bills 1 and 84, as well as the modernization of Canada's Official Languages Act — on the communities they serve.

Working together across sectors

TALQ also strengthened its partnerships across the community by participating in workshops, events, and conferences hosted by 11 partner organizations working in key sectors such as education, research, economic development, and the arts.

In December 2025, we were pleased to launch a new joint initiative with our longtime partner, the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC). With new funding from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), CEDEC launched the Employability Assistance Services Capacity Development Initiative, bringing together partners from across Quebec to develop programs and services designed to connect English-speaking talent with employment opportunities. TALQ will support CEDEC by providing policy expertise at all levels of government, and we look forward to sharing further developments in the year ahead.

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



A collaborative approach to skills development

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH LITERACY

2025-2026 marks the penultimate year for our Community Empowerment Literacy Initiative (CELI), which TALQ has led in partnership with our member organization Literacy Quebec since 2021.

Funded by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), CELI provides funding, training, resources, and capacity-building support to local community organizations, who in turn offer skills-development services and programs to vulnerable individuals with low literacy levels.

In August, we welcomed Alix Wong-Min as project coordinator. Since joining the team, she has provided strong support to our funded organizations in helping them achieve the best possible outcomes for their communities. With this additional capacity, TALQ has also been able to maintain a stronger on-the-ground presence, including conducting site visits with three funded organizations.



Our first round of CELI-funded projects concluded in 2024–2025, while the second round began in earnest in 2025–2026. Although projects were announced and launched in 2024–2025, this was the year that CELI-funded organizations — Atwater Library, the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA), LaSalle Multicultural Resource Centre, Literacy Unlimited, and YES — rolled out their programs and began reaching local English speakers with innovative services designed to strengthen the skills needed to thrive in the workplace and in everyday life.

In December, we welcomed an additional organization to the initiative: ABC Life Literacy. Collectively, CELI-funded projects delivered 373 workshops, courses, and activities, helping 756 English speakers strengthen skills ranging from reading and numeracy to creativity and adaptability.

A collaborative approach to skills development

CELI Forum

This past year also marked the second edition of TALQ's CELI Community Forum. Held on March 10 at the Sheraton Montreal Airport Hotel in Dorval, the Community Vitality in Action Forum was significantly larger than the previous year's more intimate gathering. In collaboration with Literacy Quebec and our partners on the CELI advisory committee — the Regional Development Network (RDN), the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), the Provincial Employment Roundtable (PERT), and literacy expert Brigid Hayes — we brought together nearly 100 representatives from community organizations, government, national literacy groups, and TALQ's individual membership to celebrate the initiative's impact. The forum highlighted the importance of collaboration, trust, and the positive contributions that CELI and its partners are making to community vitality.

A lasting impact

As CELI enters its final year in 2026–2027, we are increasingly able to reflect on the initiative's impact. Participants report greater confidence and success through the skills they have developed, while new partnerships and connections have emerged across the province. As a result, more organizations now have the awareness and capacity to deliver training and skills-development programs that respond to the demands of a rapidly changing world. TALQ has long maintained that a vibrant and vital English-speaking community is an asset to Quebec society, and initiatives like CELI allow us to demonstrate that more clearly than ever.



**WELCOME
TO THE
CONVERSATION**

Welcome to
the conversation

CREATING SPACE FOR MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE

The past fiscal year marked a defining moment in our organization's history as the Quebec Community Groups Network officially became TALQ as part of our 30th anniversary celebrations. More than a name change, the rebrand represents a thoughtful evolution in how we engage with our community and position ourselves for the years ahead. While our commitment to our member organizations, partners, and the English-speaking community remains steadfast, the TALQ identity allows us to broaden our reach and strengthen our impact by welcoming more people into the conversation – both English and French. After all, *on est tous Québécois*.

The rationale behind the rebrand was both practical and aspirational. Advocacy begins with conversation: listening, being heard, and creating space for meaningful dialogue. By taking the familiar word “talk” and making it our own — making it Québécois — we have created a brand rooted in connection, participation, and shared purpose. The visual identity reinforces that message through a bold and dynamic colour palette that reflects the credibility of TALQ, the strength of our collective voice, and the optimism of our outlook.

Enriching the conversation

The TALQ rebrand also became the catalyst for a complete overhaul of our communications tools. Rather than simply applying a new logo to existing tools, we used the opportunity to rethink how we communicate and ensure each tool serves a clear and intentional purpose. Central to this transformation was the complete rebuild of our website, which was redesigned from the ground up to function as a streamlined and accessible reference point. By prioritizing usability and relevance over volume, the new platform better reflects how audiences consume information today while providing a stronger digital foundation for the TALQ brand moving forward.

At the same time, we restructured our communications tools to make them more dynamic, engaging, and strategically aligned. We introduced TALQ's Take within the Daily Briefing to provide timely perspective and analysis when immediate context matters most. The TALQ Update replaced the Weekly Update, giving us the flexibility to share information when it is timely and relevant rather than tied to a fixed publishing schedule. We also launched The Accent in place of The Network News, shifting the balance toward greater audience engagement while continuing to deliver meaningful and relevant information. Alongside these changes, our Daily Briefing, press releases, and social media channels were reimaged under the TALQ identity to become more tactical, responsive, and engaging. Collectively, these changes have made our communications more efficient, more strategic, and more impactful – deepening the conversation while broadening its appeal.

Welcome to the conversation



Our voice is growing louder

In 2025–2026, TALQ expanded its digital reach through more than 520 organic social media posts across Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. This work generated over 1,000,000 Instagram profile views, more than 200,000 Facebook views, and 74,000 LinkedIn impressions, while growing TALQ’s online audience by more than 740 followers across all major platforms. With an additional combined increase of 920 subscribers over the past year, the Daily Briefing, and The Accent performed well, too.

Instagram

+203

followers

LinkedIn

+340

followers

Facebook

+201

followers

Daily
Briefing

+341

subscribers

The
Accent

+579

subscribers

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Sharing Common Ground

A true expression of the TALQ brand was our 30for30 event held in November as part of our 30th anniversary celebrations. The initiative honoured 30 community leaders from across Quebec, each nominated by their peers and selected by a committee composed of Judy Martin, Karen MacDonald, and Richard Walling. While the event recognized individual achievements, it ultimately became a celebration of our community as a whole.

At a time when language politics often dominate public discourse, 30for30 refocused attention where it belongs: on the daily lives, contributions, and vitality of English-speaking Quebecers. The event reflected everything TALQ aspires to represent – positive, inclusive, community-driven, and rooted in conversation.

None of us is as strong as all of us

While we may have initiated the TALQ rebrand, the community helped give it meaning. We were thrilled to have more than 200 people attend our brand launch party last June at Maison Alcan as part of our 30th anniversary celebrations – a powerful reminder that TALQ is not just a brand, but a reflection of a community united by shared purpose. Many of you also joined us at our annual holiday party in December – an opportunity for us all to pause at year's end and remind ourselves of the strength that comes from staying connected across our network.

These gatherings reflected the very spirit of TALQ: the belief that meaningful change begins when people come together to talk, listen, and show up for one another. Through collaboration and shared purpose, we continue to amplify the voices of Quebec's English-speaking community and inspire meaningful action, because our collective strength has always been our greatest strength.





talq

Talking.
Advocating.
Living in
Québec.

Canada 

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