

Quebec Community Groups Network

**Creating Spaces for Young Quebecers: Strategic
Orientations for English-speaking Youth in Quebec**

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What is the QCGN?

Founded in 1995, the Quebec Community Groups Network is a not-for-profit organization linking **51 English-language community organizations** across Quebec.

Vision for English-speaking Quebec

English-speaking Quebec is a diverse, confident, recognized and respected national linguistic minority that actively participates in and contributes to the social, economic, cultural and political life of Quebec and Canadian society.

Mission

The QCGN is a centre of evidence-based expertise and collective action on the strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of English-speaking Quebec.

***Youth are the future of our
community***

***Les jeunes sont l'avenir de
notre communauté***

Policy By & For Youth

- 300 youths consulted on challenges facing young English-speaking Quebecers during **regional consultations**
- 100 English-speaking youth collaborate on developing solutions at **GENERATION Provincial Youth Forum**
- *Creating Spaces* is developed to carry forward the solutions created **by** and **for** youth



Creating Spaces for Young Quebecers:

STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING
YOUTH IN QUEBEC

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Aspirations of English-speaking Youth

- Youth in Quebec are **full participants** in Quebec society
- Youth are **fully bilingual** (biliterate)
- Youth feel **a valued part of Quebec** and see themselves **reflected in their society**
- Youth feel **connected to each other and to their Francophone counterparts**
- Youth have **strong identities**
- Youth have **a strong sense of belonging to their communities and to Quebec**
- Youth have **increased access to education and employment opportunities in Quebec**
- Youth **instigate change in an inclusive, bilingual and empowering way**

Priorities of English-speaking youth

1. English-speaking **youth want to stay in Quebec and contribute to Quebec society**
2. English-speaking **youth want to be bilingual**
3. English-speaking **youth wish to foster better relations with Francophone youth**
4. English-speaking **youth want to use collaborative and inclusive, youth-led approach**

Challenge #1:

Sense of Identity

- English-speaking **youth do not all share a strong sense of belonging** to an English-speaking community
- **Youths have other identities** that are often stronger, such as their age group, cultural roots, or being raised in a bilingual environment

Challenge #2:

Language Skills & Education

- **Language skills are often inadequate** to move forward e.g. solid writing skills
- **French-language instruction and immersion programs are lacking** in many regions, particularly outside the Montreal area

Challenge #3:

Economic Opportunity

- The youth workforce is increasingly mobile due to **in-migration and out-migration** (regions move to Montreal, while Montreal youth leave the province), because of a common perception that opportunities are better elsewhere
- **Essential work skills are changing dramatically**. New economies will be based on entrepreneurial initiatives and service industries which require higher levels of education as well as higher levels of bilingualism

Challenge #4: Presence & Participation

- English-speaking **youth lack visibility and decision-making power**
- **Youth are under represented** in English-speaking organizations
- Failure to transfer leadership to the next generation is creating **a void in youth representation within Quebec's English-speaking institutions**

Challenge #5:

Access to Information & Services

- **General lack of information** available to English-speaking youth on how to become involved in the community
- **Need for greater vocational/leadership programs**
- **Limited access to local English-language cultural activities** (In many communities there is little opportunity for youth to learn about their cultural heritage that would foster a greater sense of identity.)

Strategy #1:

Increased Bilingualism

- Increase awareness of and access to opportunities for **improving the French-language skills of English-speaking youth**
- Increase the level of **bilingualism among English-speaking school graduates**
- Increase the opportunities for English-speaking youth have for **formal and informal linguistic exchange with Francophone youth**

Strategy #2:

Identity & Isolation

- Increase the **opportunities for exchange and identity affirmation between** English and French-speaking youth
- Provide English-speaking youth with **increased access to arts culture and heritage** that reflects the experience of English-speakers in Quebec
- Ensure that more English-speaking youth feel a **strong sense of belonging to their communities** and to Quebec

Strategy #3:

Education

- Increase the awareness of and access to **post-secondary learning opportunities among English-speaking youth**
- Increase access have to **informal learning opportunities**
- Work at the school level to increase awareness of **the importance of teaching the history and multicultural heritage of the English-speaking community**

Strategy #4:

Employment & Entrepreneurship

- Increase the awareness of and access to employment and **entrepreneurship resources for English-speaking youth**
- **Increase real-life employment-related learning opportunities**
- Increase access to **French-language learning opportunities which have a real-life context**

Strategy #5:

Community Life

- Decrease the linguistic and socio-cultural barriers English-speaking youth experience to participation in community life
- Provide English-speaking youth with access to arts, culture and heritage that reflects the experience of English-speakers in Quebec
- Increase English-speaking youths' perception of their communities as open, supportive and democratic spaces

www.voteitup.ca

www.youthleadingway150.org

French Immersion Part of the Solution

- **Quebec's English-speaking youth want to be fluently bilingual**, spoken and written, so that being an English-speaker does not pose a barrier to fully participating in the workplace and Quebec society
- Youth emphasize the need for a truly bilingual secondary education and envision **graduating from high school fully bilingual**
- It is important to note that while becoming fluently bilingual, **youth do not wish to lose their English-speaking identity or cultural heritage**

**We welcome your questions
and comments**

**Nous sommes à l'écoute
de vos questions et
commentaires**