



CALL FOR PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

For the
Community Forum:
MINORITY COMMUNITY VITALITY THROUGH EDUCATION II
November 1 - 3, 2020
Concordia University, Montreal

Organized by the Inter-Level Educational Table
of the Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network

Deadline for proposals: March 9, 2020

SUMMARY

Once again, the Inter-Level Educational Table ([ILET](#)), a committee of the Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network ([QUESCREN](#)), is organizing a forum on education and minority community vitality.

It will take place from November 1st to 3rd, 2020.

Would you like to give a presentation or workshop at the forum? **If so, please fill out an online form on the [event website](#) by Monday, March 9, 2020.**

Details below.

CONTEXT

The “Minority Community Vitality through Education II” forum is QUESCREN’s second biennial forum. Like the [first forum](#), it will explore ways in which minority language education can contribute to community vitality in different geographical settings, with the focus on Quebec’s English-speaking minority community.

The vitality of a language community is “that which makes a group likely to behave as a distinctive and active collective entity in intergroup settings” (Giles, Bourhis & Taylor, 1977). Vitality allows communities to “survive and thrive as a collective entity in [a] given intergroup context.” Key elements that affect the vitality of language communities are “demography, institutional support and status” (Bourhis & Landry, 2012).

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There have been English-speaking minority language communities in Quebec for over 250 years. Today, 1.1 million Quebecers have English as their first official language; two thirds of this number has English as their mother tongue. Quebec's English-speaking population is ethnically diverse and makes important social, economic and cultural contributions to the province. These communities are largely bilingual, well integrated in Quebec, and committed to bridging cultural solitudes, while also nurturing links with international networks across the globe.

However, research shows that Quebec's English-speakers face significant community vitality challenges. These cover many interrelated spheres including employment, education, health, culture, access to municipal and provincial services, outmigration, newcomer and ethno-cultural group integration.

References

Giles, H. Bourhis, R.Y. Taylor, D. (1977). Towards a theory of language in ethnic group relations. In H. Giles (Ed.). *Language, Ethnicity and Intergroup Relations*. (pp. 307-348). London: Academic Press.

Bourhis, R.Y. & Landry, R. (2012). Group vitality, cultural autonomy and the wellness of language minorities. In R.Y. Bourhis (Ed.). *Decline and Prospects of the English-Speaking Communities of Quebec* (pp. 23-69). Ottawa: Canadian Heritage.

(Contact: Bourhis.richard@uqam.ca for pdf copies of these chapters)

ORGANIZERS

The Inter-Level Educational Table ([ILET](#)), a committee of the Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network ([QUESCREN](#)), is organizing the event.

QUESCREN was established in 2008 at Concordia University in Montreal to improve understanding of Quebec's English-speaking communities and promote their vitality. It is a collaborative network of researchers, stakeholders, and educational and other institutions. Members engage in research, training, knowledge mobilization, networking and outreach. QUESCREN exists through a partnership of Concordia, where it is housed; the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities in Moncton; the Government of Quebec; and Canadian Heritage.

In 2017, QUESCREN created ILET as a space where representatives of Quebec's English-language educational institutions and associations, along with community groups and the public sector, could address community vitality issues.

This event is ILET's second biennial forum addressing education and to minority community vitality. It will take place in November 2020 at Concordia University.

FORUM PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **Brian Lewis**, Co-Director, QUESCREN; Professor, Dept. of Communications Studies, Concordia University
- **Lorraine O'Donnell**, Coordinator-researcher, QUESCREN; Affiliate Assistant Professor, School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University
- **Patrick Donovan**, Associate Coordinator, QUESCREN
- **Richard Bourhis**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology, UQAM

- **Alix Adrien**, President, Quebec Board of Black Educators (QBBE), and Principal, LaSalle Elementary School, Junior Campus
- **Anthony Di Mascio**, Associate Professor, School of Education, Bishop's University
- **Lucy Glave**, former Principal, Lester B. Pearson School Board
- **Debbie Horrocks**, Director, Provincial Resource Team - CLC Network, Leading English Education and Resource Network (LEARN)
- **Anna Hunt**, Knowledge Mobilization Officer, QUESCREN
- **Malcolm Lewis-Richmond**, President, Youth 4 Youth Quebec
- **John McMahon**, Director General, Vanier College
- **Dominique Michaud**, Director of Research Development, Office of Research, Concordia University (observer)
- **Gabrielle Thomas**, Interim Executive Director, Literacy Quebec
- **Richard Schmid**, Professor, Department of Education, Concordia University
- **Lisa Storozuk**, Liaison Officer, Ministère du Conseil Exécutif, Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise, Government of Quebec
- **Adrienne Winrow**, Director, Youth 4 Youth Quebec

ROLE OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The forum program committee is inviting researchers, practitioners, community stakeholders and policy-makers to submit proposals for presentations and workshops. The committee will review all proposals sent in and retain a selection of them, which it will put into the forum program.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The forum will assemble researchers, practitioners, community stakeholders and policy-makers. Its overall goal is to encourage mobilization around the development of a healthy and sustainable English-language educational offer, from pre-K to university, that leads to student retention, access to good jobs in Quebec and a strong sense of identity and belonging.

More specifically, participants will have the opportunity to:

- **Increase the synergy and focus** of networks around Quebec's English-speaking communities
- **Identify strategies** for improving the continuum of Quebec's English-language educational offer.
- **Share** findings related to education: up-to-date studies, practical experiences, and stories of success and best practices.

OUTCOMES

- **Research:** Engaged, effective and efficient fundamental, applied, and intervention research on Quebec's English-speaking communities, leading to evidence-based recommendations by research users, advocacy groups and policy makers at provincial and federal levels.
- **Networks:** Enduring individual, community and institutional networks that help structure and support the English-speaking communities of Quebec.

- **Attitudes:** Evolving attitudes and approaches within English-speaking communities and building of social bridges, resulting in increased social cohesion across language communities in Quebec.

LANGUAGES

The Forum will take place in English and French.

REGISTRATION

Forum registration for all attendees including presenters will be opened April, 2020.

TOPICS

The forum will address these themes and suggested topics:

Theme 1: Diversity, disparities and challenges within minority language communities in relation to their education

1. The continuum of the English language educational offer from pre-K to University: gaps and solutions
2. The unique concerns faced in the regions
3. The building of complex, multiple identities within English-language schools
4. Socio-economic realities, including poverty
5. Education issues from the perspective of English-speaking Indigenous Peoples and visible minorities
6. Access to English-speaking CEGEP education
7. Intercultural twinning in schools and crossing the language divide in education
8. LGBT2SQI+: Acknowledging & supporting needs and realities in our school communities
9. Regional and historical profiles of different types of English-language schools
10. Recognizing diverse needs, accommodations and support systems required for those with special needs in our schools and communities
11. Comparing English-speaking communities with other linguistic minority communities in Quebec, Canada and the world
12. Students staying in Quebec: implications for English-speaking community vitality
13. Retention of English-speaking youth in Quebec

Theme 2: Strategies for engaging with the majority population for community vitality

1. Provincial government caps/restrictions on English-language post-secondary education, and the cumulative impact of reduced access to English language services in education
2. Education policies related to minority communities
3. Entente Canada-Quebec funds and official minority education funding in Quebec
4. Impact of Bill 21 on the inclusion of religious minorities
5. French immersion programs in English-language schools
6. The Implication of Bill 40 for the English-speaking school boards
7. Teaching English-speaking community history in Quebec schools; impact on sense of belonging

Theme 3: Innovative practices in education to support community vitality

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1. Distance learning and educational technology use in minority language communities
2. Intergenerational involvement in schools
3. New initiatives or consortiums between educational institutions/organisations
4. Youth engagement in English-speaking communities

YOUR PARTICIPATION

We invite your proposals for:

1. Presentations of **research findings** and **case studies of relevant practices**
2. Workshops sharing and demonstrating **good practices and strategies**

Both presentations and workshops should share knowledge of community-oriented education and research related to Quebec's English-speaking communities: up-to-date studies, expertise, practical experience, and stories of success and best practices.

Submit your proposal on the online form [here](#) by March 9, 2020.

For up to date information about the forum and other QUESCREN activities, please sign up for our newsletter at [here](#).