



# ANNUAL REPORT

20|24  
25

# OUR MISSION AND VISION

Housed at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, the Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network (QUESCREN) provides opportunities to promote the understanding and vitality of Quebec's English-language minority communities through research, knowledge mobilization, networking, and outreach.

QUESCREN envisions an inclusive Quebec where the vitality of English speakers is enhanced through easy access to clear, relevant, evidence-based, and collaborative research.

QUESCREN's offices are at the Loyola Campus, Concordia University.



# OUR TEAM

## Co-directors



**Chedly Belkhodja, PhD**  
Professor,  
School of Community and Public Affairs



**Brian Lewis, PhD**  
Professor,  
Department of Communications Studies

## Staff



**Lorraine O'Donnell, PhD**  
Senior Research Manager, QUESCREN  
Affiliate Professor, School of Community and  
Public Affairs



**Patrick Donovan, PhD**  
Research Associate and Advisor, QUESCREN  
Affiliate Professor, Department of History



**Lina Shoumarova, MA**  
Research Associate



**Anita Aloisio, MA**  
Research Associate



**Anna Hunt, MA**  
Research Associate



**Shannon Bell, MPA**  
Research Associate



**Ana Gomez, MPPA**  
Office Coordinator and Community Knowledge  
Open Library (CKOL) Project Officer



**John Dickson**  
Financial Officer

# OUR MEMBERS

## Researcher-members

QUESCREN's **81 researcher-members** specialize in many fields related to English-speaking Quebec. They work in different institutions in Quebec, Canada, and abroad. [Consult our researcher-member directory](#) and see their latest publications below.

## Open members

QUESCREN's **865 open members** subscribe to our [newsletter](#) and follow our activities. [Become an open member](#) today.

# OUR WORKING GROUPS

## Advisory Board

The Advisory Board provides advice to support QUESCREN's strategic directions and securing of resources. [Consult our Advisory Board member list](#).

## Inter-Level Educational Table (ILET)

ILET brings together representatives from the continuum of Quebec's English-language educational institutions and associations, along with community groups and the public sector. QUESCREN supports the Table through research, knowledge mobilization, and promoting collaboration. [Consult our list of ILET members](#).



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Research Requests

This fiscal year, QUESCREN responded to **22 research requests** on a range of topics related to English-speaking Quebec, including vetting research projects, questions on history, the trajectories of bilingual Quebecers, etc.

## Community Development Plan

QUESCREN has also been working with QCGN and other community organizations in developing a [2022-2027 Community Development Plan](#). Lorraine O'Donnell co-chairs one of the four Community Vitality Roundtables, the Data Roundtable.

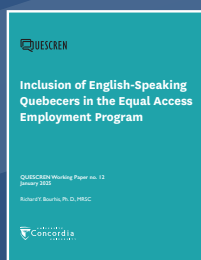


# PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED BY QUESCREN

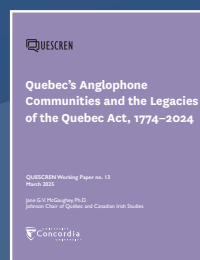
QUESCREN produced more publications this year than any other since its establishment 16 years ago.

## Working Papers

QUESCREN released two new working papers during this fiscal year, one of them in both English and French.



Bourhis, R. Y. *Inclusion of English-Speaking Quebecers in the Equal Access Employment Program.* Working Paper no. 12. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))



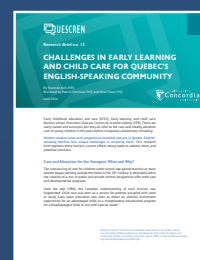
McGaughey, J. *Quebec's Anglophone Communities and the Legacies of the Quebec Act, 1774-2024.* Working Paper no. 13. [Link](#)

## Research Briefs

We published ten new research briefs in English and French.



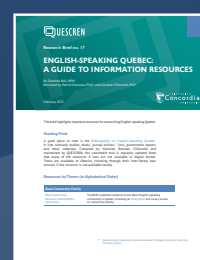
Bell, S. *A Complex Puzzle: Realities of English-speaking Seniors in Quebec.* Research Brief no. 19. Reviewed by S. Smele, L. O'Donnell, and P. Donovan. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))



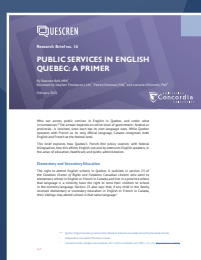
Bell, S. *Challenges in Early Learning and Child Care for Quebec's English-Speaking Community.* Research Brief no. 13. Reviewed by P. Donovan and N. Howe. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))



Bell, S. *Community Vitality: What Is It and How Does It Apply to English-Speaking Quebec?* Research Brief no. 21. Reviewed by R. Bourhis and P. Donovan. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))



Bell, S. *English-Speaking Quebec: A Guide to Information Resources.* Research Brief no. 17. Reviewed by P. Donovan and L. O'Donnell. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))



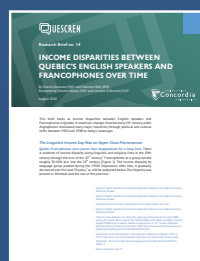
Bell, S. *Public Services in English Quebec: A Primer.* Research Brief no. 16. Reviewed by S. Thompson, P. Donovan, and L. O'Donnell. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))



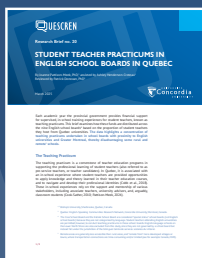
Bell, S. and P. Donovan. *Demographic Decline of English Speakers in Certain Regions of Quebec.* Research Brief no. 12. Reviewed by J-P Corbeil and L. O'Donnell. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))



Donovan, P. *Linguistic Identity Complexities in English-Speaking Quebec*. Research Brief no. 15. Reviewed by K. Vieux-Fort and L. O'Donnell. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))



Donovan, P. and S. Bell. *Income Disparities Between Quebec's English Speakers and Francophones Over Time*. Research Brief no. 14. Reviewed by V. Geloso and L. O'Donnell. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))



Pattison-Meek, J. with the assistance of A. Henderson-Croteau. *Student Teacher Practicums in English School Boards in Quebec*. Research Brief no. 20. Reviewed by P. Donovan. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))



Shoumarova, L. and C. Belkhodja. *The Role of English-Language Community Organizations in Quebec's Immigration Ecosystem*. Research Brief no. 18. Review by P. Donovan. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))

## Policy Briefs

We also prepared four briefs to government.

Donovan, P. and L. O'Donnell. *Mémoire présenté à la Commission des relations avec les citoyens concernant le projet de loi 84, Loi sur l'intégration nationale*. Mars 2025. [Available only in French](#)

Donovan, P. and L. O'Donnell. *Mémoire sur le Musée national de l'histoire du Québec*. September 2025. [Available only in French](#)

Shoumarova, L. *Challenges and Priorities for Quebec's English-Language Education Continuum*. Brief prepared for the Standing Committee on Official Languages in the context of the study on the minority-language education continuum. December 2024. [Link](#)

Shoumarova, L. *Access to Health and Social Services for Quebec's English-Speaking Minority Communities: Recent Challenges, Legislative Context, and Research Recommendations*. A brief presented to the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages for its study on access to health services in the minority language in Canada. November 2024. [Link](#) (Also available [in French](#))

## QUESCRENews

Our quarterly bilingual e-newsletter provides information on projects under way, new publications and grants, and events related to research on Quebec's English-speaking communities. [Read past newsletters here and subscribe today.](#)



## External Publications by QUESCREN Researcher-Members

In addition to the documents listed above, QUESCREN researcher-members published the following research relating to English-speaking Quebec over the past fiscal year. Please note that **the name of the researcher-member is in bold**.

- Auger, N.**, M. Bilodeau-Bertrand, A. Ayoub, N. Lafleur, and S.Q. Wei. (2025). Increasing Risk of Gestational Diabetes in an Ethnocultural Minority of Canada. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*. [Link](#)
- Auger, N.**, A. Ayoub, M. Bilodeau-Bertrand, N. Lafleur, and S.Q. Wei. (2025). Ethnocultural Status and Risk of Preeclampsia in a Canadian Setting. *Pregnancy Hypertens*. [Link](#)
- Braucourt, L., **R. Fralich**, and F. Couture. (2024). Le lancement du festival littéraire Metropolis bleu : enjeux liés à la création d'un OBNL culturel à Montréal. *Revue internationale de cas en gestion*. 22(5). [Link](#)
- Byers-Heinlein, K.**, A.M. Gonzalez-Barrero, E. Schott and H. Killam. (2024). Sometimes larger, sometimes smaller: Measuring vocabulary in monolingual and bilingual infants and toddlers. *First Language*, 44(1), 74–95. [Link](#)
- Cappiali, T. and **J. Jean-Pierre**, eds. (2024). *Promoting Inclusion and Justice in University Teaching: A Transformative-Emancipatory Toolkit for Educators*. Edward Elgar Publishing. [Link](#)
- Gómez Díaz, M., L. Fibla, R.K.Y. Tsui, and **K. Byers-Heinlein**. (2024). Testing Theories of the Vocabulary Spurt with Monolingual and Bilingual Infants. *Developmental Psychology*, 60(8), 1357–1371. [Preprint](#)
- Huston, L.** (2024). Femmes artistes à Montréal au XIXe siècle : L'apport de la recherche généalogique. *Histoire Québec*, 30(2), December, 28–31. [Link](#)
- Johnson, H., **D. Williams**, K. Theliar-Charles, and J. Dube-Andoh, ed. (2024). *Bibliography of Black Montréal artists and exhibitions 1950–1995*. Black Art Histories Montreal, Fall. [Link](#)
- Lew, E., **K. Byers-Heinlein**, M. Deroche. (2024). Navigating The Bilingual Cocktail Party: A Critical Role for Listeners' L1 in the Linguistic Aspect of Informational Masking. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*. [Link](#)
- Mitchell, L., R.K.Y. Tsui and **K. Byers-Heinlein**. (2024). Cognates are advantaged in early bilingual expressive vocabulary development. *Journal of Child Language*, 51(3), 596-615. [Link](#)
- Moore, C. and **K. Byers-Heinlein**. (2025). The effects of referential continuity on novel word learning in bilingual and monolingual preschoolers. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, vol. 252, April. [Link](#)
- Quirk, E.**, M. Brouillard, A. Ahooja, S. Ballinger, L. Polka, **K. Byers-Heinlein**, & **R. Kircher**. (2024). A Corpus-Assisted Discourse Study of Parental Concerns Regarding Multilingual Child-Rearing. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, November. [Link](#)
- Quirk, E.**, N. Hadeed and **K. Byers-Heinlein**. (2024). Trilingual families' language strategies: potential predictors and effect on trilingual exposure. *International Journal of Multilingualism*, January. [Link](#)
- Quirk, E.**, M. Brouillard and **K. Byers-Heinlein**. (2024). Reading in two languages: Parents' strategy and language use across book formats during bilingual shared reading. *Bilingual Research Journal*, March. [Link](#)
- Sander-Montant, A., R. Bisonette and **K. Byers-Heinlein**. (2025). Like Mother Like Child: Differential Impact of Mothers' and Fathers' Individual Language Use on Bilingual Language Exposure. *Child Development*, 96(2), 662-678. [Link](#)
- Williams, D. W.** (2025). "No sir, it's St. Henry for me!": A Black history of St. Henri. *Quebec Heritage News*. Winter. [Link](#)



# EVENTS

QUESCREN hosted **8 events** in the past year.

## Conference

May 14-15, 2024

91<sup>st</sup> Annual Acfas Conference, University of Ottawa

***Women in Official Language Minority Communities / Les femmes dans les communautés de langue officielle en situation minoritaire.***

[Link](#) / [Videos](#)

## Lunch & Learns

March 6, 2025

***A Complex Puzzle: The Realities of English-Speaking Seniors in Quebec***

Featuring Shannon Bell

[Link](#) / [Video](#)

February 6, 2025

***Quebec's Anglophone Communities and the Legacies of the Quebec Act***

Featuring Jane McGaughey

[Link](#) / [Video](#)

January 23, 2025

***Preserving Minority and Heritage Languages. The Importance for Families' Wellbeing***

Featuring Andrea Sander

[Link](#) / [Video](#)

December 12, 2024

***Including English-Speaking Quebecers in the Employment Equity Program***

Featuring Richard Bourhis

[Link](#) / [Video](#)

November 14, 2024

***Busting Myths and Building Bridges. Perceptions of English-speaking Quebecers' Relationship with French and Bilingualism***

Featuring Robert Talbot

[Link](#) / [Video](#)

October 17, 2024

Lunch & Learn: ***Challenges in Early Learning and Child Care for Quebec's English-Speaking Community***

Featuring Shannon Bell

[Link](#) / [Video](#)

September 19, 2024

Lunch & Learn: ***Work-Integrated French-Language Training in the Quebec Context*** Featuring Sta Kuzviwanza

[Link](#) / [Video](#)



Advancing knowledge  
through collaboration  
at the 91<sup>st</sup> Congress

# KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION AND ONLINE RESOURCES

Our growing online and media presence allows us to reach out to English-speaking communities in Quebec as well as to people interested in minority language and related issues. In addition, QUESCREN initiatives were featured in **11 media articles or broadcasts**.

## Website

QUESCREN's [website](#) is the central hub for everything we do, with links to all our publications, events, and initiatives. The homepage of our bilingual site—hosted on Concordia's platform—received a significant refresh this past year, with updates to the rest of the site planned for 2025–26. The English site attracted **12,181 visits** (3,234 unique visitors), while the French site saw around **1,600 visits** (380 unique visitors).

## Social Media



### *LinkedIn*

Our new LinkedIn page has already become our most-followed social media platform, with **602 followers** and counting. It's the ideal space to share research and connect with a professional, academic audience. [Follow us today](#).



### *YouTube*

Our [YouTube channel](#) preserves all recorded QUESCREN events. This year we added **38 videos**. The channel received **10,646 views**. We invite you to join the 30 new subscribers who joined us this year by [subscribing to our channel](#). If you don't have time to watch full videos, we have also started providing key takeaways and additional resources for them on our new [Event Videos & Extras](#) page.



**34%**

increase in views



### *Facebook*

This year our bilingual [Facebook page](#) featured an average of two posts per week. We invite you to join our 395 friends if you have not done so.

## Online Databases

QUESCREN manages four online databases that help users discover resources on English-speaking Quebec.

### *Brendan O'Donnell's Bibliography on English-speaking Quebec*

This [bibliography](#), which Brendan O'Donnell has been compiling since the 1970s, contains secondary sources related to the study of English-speaking Quebec. Resources include everything from scholarly studies to magazine articles, by way of films and websites. This year Brendan **added 110 titles to the bibliography, bringing the total number of entries up to 14,604**. This invaluable resource was **searched 55,968 times by 33,521 unique visitors**. Thanks to Brendan for his decades of volunteer work on this!

 **10%**  
increase in unique  
visitors

### *Community Knowledge Open Library (CKOL)*

The [Community Knowledge Open Library \(CKOL\)](#) is a growing online full-text database listing of grey literature sourced from the province's English-speaking community groups. Grey literature is unpublished but non-archival material made available to the public, such as annual reports, PowerPoints, and pamphlets. So far, **51 community partner organizations** from across Quebec have joined the project. At the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, we had catalogued **a total of 4,828 resources**, up from 4,488 the year before.

 **7.6%**  
increase in online  
resources

### *Data Portal on English-Speaking Quebec (DESQ)*

The [Data Portal on English-Speaking Quebec \(DESQ\)](#) is a NEW online database offering custom statistical datasets focused on Quebec's English-speaking population. Created for individual researchers and organizations, the datasets are primarily based on Canadian census data and include information not available on the Statistics Canada website. There are now **150 datasets** on the portal.

### *ILET Research Hub*

The [ILET Research Hub](#) brings together all QUESCREN-produced research-based resources on Quebec's English-language education ecosystem along with [blog posts](#) and [infographics](#). To enhance user experience, we have made improvements to the website interface for smoother navigation and accessibility. The hub attracted 2,131 views in the past year, including 758 unique visitors.

**iLET**  
RESEARCH HUB





## PROJECTS

### Memories of Entry Island

On remote Entry Island, just 60 year-round residents—mostly English-speaking descendants of 19th-century shipwrecked Brits—live between sea and sky. Filmed in 2019 by QUESCREN Co-Director Brian Lewis, *Memories of Entry Island* is a six-part documentary of intimate interviews. [Explore our new project page to experience this special place.](#)

### People's History of English-Speaking Quebec

This project explores the long and diverse history of English-speaking Quebecers from the 1600s to the present. It highlights the contributions of underrepresented groups—ethnocultural communities, workers, women, and others—throughout the province. By focusing on how these communities organized and engaged in collective action, the project reveals a rich legacy of inclusion, diversity, and debate within English-speaking organizations in Quebec. It also challenges the common narrative that portrays English speakers solely as a wealthy, dominant elite.

While much of the work on this project is still happening behind the scenes, we're excited to share one of its key components: a growing series of [oral history videos](#). These videos will serve as primary source material for an upcoming richly-illustrated history book featuring compelling stories intended for a general audience.

Marjorie Goodfellow  
(1938-2024) in front of  
her home in June 2024





# PRESENTATIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, NETWORKING

QUESCREN team members participate in external meetings and events to present and mobilize research and build networks related to Canadian official language minority communities.

## Presentations and Representations

Date	Nature of participation	Participant
February 2025	Represented QUESCREN at Canadian Heritage Information session: Protocol for Agreements 2024-2025 to 2027-2028	Lorraine O'Donnell
February 2025	Represented QUESCREN at the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network launch of its Raising Spirits film series (in Morin Heights, QC)	Lorraine O'Donnell
November 2024	Presentation. "Les frontières de la charité, Évolution des frontières linguistiques et culturelles dans la ville de Québec, de 1759 à aujourd'hui", Symposium international sur les frontières linguistiques et culturelles, Saarbrücken, Germany	Patrick Donovan
October 2024	Guest lecturers, Concordia University School of Community and Public Affairs course 301	Patrick Donovan & Lorraine O'Donnell
October 2024	Represented QUESCREN at the Hydro Quebec inauguration of the new "Irlandais" hydro station and announcement of the transfer of a parcel of land to the Montreal Irish community for the Black Rock commemoration.	Lorraine O'Donnell
September 2024	Moderator, "Workshop D: French Language or FSL," CARE conference (Quebec English School Boards Association), Montreal	Lorraine O'Donnell
June 2024	Represented QUESCREN at the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network event to honour Brendan O'Donnell, bibliographer for the Bibliography on English-Speaking Quebec that QUESCREN produces, recipient of the QAHN Marion Phelps Award	Lorraine O'Donnell
June 2024	Presentation. "The ILET Research Hub: Mobilizing Knowledge on English-Language Education in Quebec." 2024 Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum. Montreal.	Lina Shoumarova & Anita Aloisio
June 2024	Presentation. "The ILET Research Hub: Mobilizing Knowledge on English-Language Education in Quebec." 2024 Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum. Montreal.	Lina Shoumarova & Anita Aloisio
May 2024	Presentation. QUESCREN work and research tools, Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise "Exchange Day," Quebec City	Lorraine O'Donnell & Patrick Donovan

## Research Team Membership

Research Team	Participant
Collaborator, Équipe de recherche en partenariat sur la diversité culturelle et l'immigration dans la région de Québec ( <a href="#">ÉDIO</a> )	Patrick Donovan
Collaborator. SSHRC Insight Grant entitled Revendication et reconnaissance curriculaire des minorités de langue officielle : comparaison Alberta-Québec, developed by Raphaël Gani, Université Laval.	Patrick Donovan
Member, <a href="#">engAGE</a> : Concordia's Centre for Research on Aging	Lorraine O'Donnell
Project: People's History of English-Speaking Quebec (PHESQ). Funded by Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise.	Lorraine O'Donnell & Patrick Donovan
Project: Advancing Equitable Access to Healthcare for Quebec English-Speaking Minority Communities. Led by Dr. Sathya Karunanathan, University of Ottawa. Funded by Canadian Institutes of Health Research.	QUESCREN

## Consultations and Advisory Panels

Date	Nature of participation	Participant
February 2025	Quebec Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers, Éric Girard: pre-budget consultation	Lorraine O'Donnell
January 2025	Quebec Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration and Minister of the French Language, Jean-François Roberge: consultation meeting	Lorraine O'Donnell
December 2024	Canadian Heritage Consultation Session on the Implementation of the New Centre for Strengthening Part VII of the Official Languages Act	Lorraine O'Donnell
May 2024	Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise "Exchange Day," Quebec City	Patrick Donovan & Lorraine O'Donnell
April 2024	Witnesses to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages (virtual)	Patrick Donovan & Lorraine O'Donnell

## Committee Work

Committee/Network	Participant
Co-chair, Data Roundtable of the 2022-2027 Community Development Plan for English-Speaking Quebec, organized by the Quebec Community Groups Network	Lorraine O'Donnell
Co-chair, "Section 23 and the Legal Challenges Concerning English-Language Education in Quebec" conference organized by QUESCREN. Held at the annual Acfas congress, May 9, 2025, Montreal.	Patrick Donovan
Co-chair, "Women in Official Language Minority Communities" conference co-organized by QUESCREN and the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities. Held at the annual Acfas congress, May 14, 2024, Ottawa	Lorraine O'Donnell
Collaborator, Blue Metropolis "Planet, My Love..." storywriting contest	Lorraine O'Donnell
Co-organizer, CARE Conference (Community + Action + Resolve = Education) produced by the Quebec English School Boards Association that took place September 25-26, 2025	Lorraine O'Donnell
Member, Advisory Committee on Language Statistics, Statistics Canada	Patrick Donovan
Member, Board of Directors, Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities	Chedly Belkhodja
Member, Board of Directors, Organization for the Memory, Heritage, and History of Official Language Minorities of Canada (MPH/MHH)	Patrick Donovan
Members, Concordia University School of Community and Public Affairs Council	Chedly Belkhodja & Lorraine O'Donnell
Member, Editorial Board, Minorités linguistiques et société / Linguistic Minorities and Society	Lorraine O'Donnell
Member, Working Group on Data and Research on Official Language Minority Communities and Health, Health Canada	Lina Shoumarova

# OUR FUNDERS

Funding Source	Project/Program name	Date of agreement
Department of Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada	Project: QUESCREN Education Research and Network Strengthening Initiative (2024-2027)	February 2025 (ongoing)
Department of Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada	Program: Support for regular QUESCREN activities (2024-2027)	April 2024 (ongoing)
Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise, Gouvernement du Québec	Program: Support for the Mission of the Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network (2023–2025)	July 2023 (ongoing)
Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise, Gouvernement du Québec	Project: Production of a Series of Research Briefs on English-Speaking Quebecers (2023–2025)	March 2023 (ended March 2025)
Concordia University	Annual in-kind support for QUESCREN activities	2008 (ongoing)

QUESCREN recognizes support from the following funders:







QUEBEC ENGLISH-SPEAKING  
COMMUNITIES RESEARCH NETWORK

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