

## **The contribution of education to the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking communities**

### **Forum at Concordia University runs October 28 through 30**

Montreal, October 26 - How should education contribute to the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking minority community? This will be the subject of discussion by dozens of researchers, practitioners, community stakeholders and policy makers who will gather at Concordia University for a three-day conference October 28 through 30.

The "Minority Community Vitality through Education" forum will examine the state of Quebec's English-speaking minority, communities who have been present in Quebec for more than 250 years.

The forum is being organized by the Inter-Level Educational Table (ILET), which brings together representatives of Quebec's English-language educational institutions and associations, along with community groups and the public sector. ILET is a key initiative of the Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network (QUESCREN) a collaborative network of researchers, stakeholders, and educational and other institutions. Established in 2008 and housed at Concordia University's School of Community and Public Affairs, QUESCREN aims to improve how Quebec's English-speaking communities are understood and to promote their vitality.

"Educational institutions are the cornerstone of our community and essential to the transmission of the language and unique culture of English-speaking Quebec," says Chedly Belkhodja, Co-Director of QUESCREN and professor in Concordia University's School of Community and Public Affairs. "This diverse community, which is increasingly bilingual and integrated into Quebec society, is committed to continuing excellence in its educational institutions and to taking steps to ensure its vitality."

Research reveals that the challenges facing English-speaking communities include employment, education, health, culture, access to municipal and provincial services, outmigration and more. Through panels, workshops and discussions, this forum aims to address these challenges and bring forward solutions.

"The 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," says Richard Schmid, forum program committee member and professor in the Department of Education at Concordia University.

Funding for this forum comes from several sources including the government of Quebec's Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise, [which awarded QUESCREN \\$350,000 earlier this year](#) to be distributed over a two-year period. Canadian Heritage, Concordia University, the Canadian Institute for Research

on Linguistic Minorities, Via Rail, Bishop's University and the Quebec Community Groups Network are also providing support for the Forum.

The conference program, speaker list and registration page may be viewed at [https://whova.com/web/fmcvt\\_201810/](https://whova.com/web/fmcvt_201810/) .

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