



**Quebec Community Newspapers Association
L'Association des journaux régionaux du Québec**

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For immediate release

QCNA Named as Part of Special Advisory Panel on \$660M Journalism Fund

Gatineau, May 23, 2019 - The Quebec Community Newspapers Association is pleased to have been named as one of the eight Canadian organizations that will sit on a special advisory panel tasked with making recommendations on the eligibility criteria for tax measures announced in the 2019 federal budget to assist Canadian journalism organizations.

“Today, we are happy to have the opportunity to work with the government in establishing important criteria for the initiatives designed to help local media working in under-served communities,” said Lily Ryan interim president of QCNA. “The journalism community is optimistic with the government’s attention on the future of democracy in Canada, and the role healthy newspapers play in a functioning country.”

As the official representative of minority-language community newspapers in Quebec, QCNA is looking forward to working alongside the seven other named organizations to ensure that the programs will better support all media, including the smaller community newspapers serving English Quebecers.

In moving ahead, it is important for QCNA that this initiative remains inclusive and transparent, specifically for newspapers who do not necessarily meet all the specifications of the eligibility criteria. “The guidelines that were previously announced exclude many smaller papers, and so we will work with our colleagues to help achieve better access to these important funds. This is a crucial role and the outcome can have a very positive impact on our remote and minority communities across Quebec,” explained Ms. Ryan. We hope this initiative will directly benefit the economic and professional standing of community newspapers as means to ensure the continued democratic spread of information in minority-language settings.

QCNA’s share of the \$50 million-dollar fund over the next five years will enable us to target communities needing news coverage or better access to information. “We are well positioned to target news-impovertished communities having recently emerged from a provincial-wide study. We are pleased to be chosen to be a member of the advisory panel of this fund for the English local community newspapers in Quebec. It will not solve all the problems long term, but it is a good start.” concluded Ms. Ryan.

QCNA is optimistic with the overall announcement today; and while these new initiatives are a positive reinforcement on the importance of a solid, independent news media, it does not represent a substantial enough financial investment to ensure the long-term longevity of community newspapers. We will continue to work with the government towards our goal of financial stability and success for all community newspapers.