



**CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS  
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ  
CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN**

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*For immediate release*

**BILL 96: AN ACT RESPECTING FRENCH,  
THE OFFICIAL AND COMMON LANGUAGE OF QUÉBEC;**

***THE CHC'S POSITION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK  
OF THE QUEBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
PUBLIC HEARINGS***

**Montreal, September 26, 2021**--- The Canadian Hellenic Congress (CHC) submitted its position brief last week, within the context of the special consultations being held on Bill 96. Bill 96; An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec, was introduced in the National Assembly last May by Simon Jolin-Barrette, the Minister responsible for the French language.

*“We are deeply concerned about the extensive impact that Bill 96 will have in Quebec. We view the scope of Bill 96 as broad and far-reaching, impacting all aspects of Quebec society, from business to access to justice, health, social services and education, and proposing changes to several statutes, including the Canadian Constitution and the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, amongst others”* stated Dr. Theodore Halatsis, CHC President, adding that *“It is abundantly evident that Bill 96 – which seeks to amend a substantial number of Quebec’s laws, as well as, the 1867 Constitution Act – is not simply an update to Bill 101, Quebec’s Charter of the French Language. It is our opinion that Bill 96 evidently seeks to fundamentally modify Quebec’s governance structure”*.

While the Quebec government is holding public hearings, from September 21 to October 6, on Bill 96, and has invited 50 groups and individuals to present before the National Assembly’s Committee on Culture and Education, only three groups representing Quebec’s English-speaking community have been invited to participate, including the Quebec Communities Group Network (QCGN). The QCGN – a not-for-profit organisation bringing together English-language community organisations across Quebec – stated its deep disappointment that the Quebec government has severely limited the participation in the public hearings on Bill 96 and, in an effort to amplify the voices of those who are seeking modifications and amendments to the bill in question, has hosted its own public consultation activities prior to the start of the National Assembly hearings. Within the framework of these public consultations, the CHC submitted its formal position on Bill 96 – which will contribute to inform the QCGN’s brief to the National Assembly next week.

***The full text of the CHC’s position brief is attached.***

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**For information: [chc@chcongress.ca](mailto:chc@chcongress.ca)**

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***The Canadian Hellenic Congress is a national democratic communal institution that represents, advances, advocates and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic descent and Hellenism in general. The Congress is the national voice of Hellenes and their communities and/or organizations across Canada.***