



**Regional Association of
West Quebecers**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 17, 2010

West Quebecers' Annual General Meeting

Gatineau - The Regional Association of West Quebecers held its Annual General Meeting, June 16th at the Western Quebec Career Centre.

Guest speaker John Trent delivered an excellent speech on *Minorities in Canada* saying "If you have heard the expression "acquired rights", forget it. The nature of minority rights is that they are demanded by the minority and granted by the majority. ... In Quebec, the Anglophones fought in the courts for more than a decade to "trim the rough edges off Law 101" but, few challenged Francophone requirements for a language law. Rights are rarely eternal. Sometimes they are taken away, sometimes they just slip away."

On behalf of the Association, Executive Director, Heather Stronach thanked departing directors Bill Cameron, Gilles Poirier and Nancy Peppy for their dedication and diligence working for West Quebecers over the past few years.

Bill Cameron asked everyone to remember that "About half of the 58,000 English-speaking people in the Outaouais are unilingual and the majority of those are seniors and at a point in their lives where learning another language is not an option. They deserve our care and attention now. Besides joining the West Quebecers, helping them to stay informed is something that one neighbour can do for another."

Committee reports were accepted in the annual report and the election of the new Board of Directors took place. Welcome to the new Board: Noel Gates, Richard Turcotte, Mary Tessier, Lydia Richard, Meryl Scott, Lori Roche-Leblanc and Deborah Valdez.

The Regional Association of West Quebecers is a not-for-profit, non-governmental association of individuals engaged in fostering the interests of the English-speaking community of West Quebec.

More information:

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