OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN A FRANCOPHONE MINORITY CONTEXT

For an accessible, committed, excellent, appealing, sustainable postsecondary education in French.

During their postsecondary studies, Francophones:
- are 2 to 4 times less likely to study in French
- have higher student debt
- study in another province almost 3 times more often

OBSTACLES

Too often the student population:
- Does not have access to a full range of programs, especially if they live far from major centres
- Is not aware of the opportunities and benefits of studying in French
- Does not have access to spaces and activities where French and the Francophone community are promoted
- Is not in a situation that is conducive to learning in French
- Does not have access to resources adapted to a variety of cultural and linguistic profiles

Challenges for colleges and universities:
- Lack of resources to fully contribute to the vitality of Francophone communities
- Lack of recognition of the need to invest more in French-language education and in programs that benefit Francophone communities
- Unadapted federal funding programs for French-language postsecondary education
- Faculty overload and isolation, and increasing prevalence of English in the research environment

College and universities must be able to meet the needs of their local communities regarding:
- Population growth
- Socio-cultural networking
- Preparation for the job market
Aspirations

More than 1,400 people who shared their point of view during the National Dialogue want:

- Government action at the provincial, territorial and federal levels, to achieve substantive equality
- Access to a full education continuum
- Strong and dynamic institutions serving communities
- Strengthened capacity of educational institutions to strive for excellence and to collaborate with each other

Recommended priority actions

1. A permanent federal program to support postsecondary education in Francophone minority communities, based on a policy statement
2. A structured and ambitious mechanism to increase the capacity for inter-institutional collaboration and to document related issues
3. A mechanism for collaborative implementation of recommendations

Other recommended actions

- Complete and adapted range of educational programs and resources
- Support for, and appreciation of, a diverse student population
- Scholarships and mobility grants, including internships and incentives to study in remote areas
- Standards and measures to improve linguistic resources, the quality of the French-language student experience, and youth participation in institutional decision-making
- Literacy and essential-skills development
- Emphasis on research in French and in the interest of Francophone communities, particularly in relation to Francophone workforce needs
- Sufficient resources for institutions to increase their contribution to the development of Francophone communities
- Government consultation mechanism for monitoring funding and measuring the achievement of substantive equality

To learn more: www.egpostsecondaire.ca