

News Release
For Immediate Release

Pioneering agreement to strengthen Quebec English language culture signed by the National Film Board of Canada, the English Language Arts Network, and the Quebec English-language Production Council

Three-year partnership: a first for a federal cultural agency in Quebec



From left to right (bottom): Claire Benoît (Co-chair, QEPC), Claude Joli-Cœur (President, NFB), Daintry Dalton (Co-Chair, QEPC), Guy Rodgers (Executive Director, ELAN)
From left to right (top): Kirwan Cox (Executive Director QEPC), André Picard (DG Creation & Innovation, NFB)

November 5, 2015 – Montreal – National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

The [National Film Board of Canada](#) (NFB), the [English Language Arts Network](#) (ELAN), and the [Quebec English-language Production Council](#) (QEPC) have just signed a **three-year co-operation and collaboration agreement** that will help strengthen Quebec’s English-language audiovisual sector and culture, building on the NFB’s commitment to official-language minority communities across Canada.

The NFB is **taking the lead among federal cultural agencies** with this agreement, the first between a federal cultural institution and the official-language minority groups in Quebec, and part of a broader commitment by the NFB to English and French linguistic-minority communities across Canada in content creation and accessibility.

The agreement between the NFB, Canada’s public producer, ELAN and QEPC covers **four main areas**: research, production, accessibility, and improved consultation, with **highlights** as follows:

- o In **research**, the NFB is committing to developing new ways to measure the vitality of Quebec’s English-language community and the fulfillment of the NFB’s objectives in this area, establishing key performance indicators and baseline benchmarks for the next three fiscal years.

- In **production**, the NFB will take steps to continue to improve its communication with Anglophone Quebec producers, filmmakers and their associations and work to stabilize overall production levels with this community.
- In **accessibility**, the NFB will work to make its wealth of contemporary and historical material about Quebec's English-speaking communities more accessible for schools and communities, including on its [CAMPUS](#) educational portal.
- In addition to taking part in annual **consultation** with partners, the NFB will establish a forum for ongoing discussions with the anglophone Quebec film sector.

Quotes

“This agreement demonstrates the NFB’s leadership in supporting English-language culture in Quebec, from Montreal to regions like the Côte-Nord, the Eastern Townships and the Gaspé Peninsula. It also matches what the NFB already has in place for the French language minority outside of Quebec, strengthening our commitment to official language minority communities across Canada.”

Claude Joli-Coeur
Government Film Commissioner and Chairperson of the National Film Board of Canada

“This ground-breaking agreement guarantees future English-language production levels in Quebec, and is a huge step forward in meeting the needs of our official language minority community. Bravo NFB.”

Kirwan Cox
Executive Director, Quebec English-language Production Council

“ELAN and the NFB have collaborated together informally for several years at the annual Arts, Culture and Heritage Working Group for Quebec's official language minority artists. This collaboration has produced a much appreciated Playlist of NFB films by and about Quebec's English-speaking community. ELAN applauds the NFB for setting a new standard for federal cultural agencies with this multi-faceted co-operation and collaboration agreement.”

Guy Rodgers
Executive Director, English-Language Arts Network (ELAN)

“I congratulate the NFB for this ground-breaking agreement, and for its good faith and pioneering efforts in support of linguistic duality in the field of the arts both in Quebec and in the rest of Canada.”

Graham Fraser, Canada’s Commissioner of Official Languages

“The vitality of our minority language community is closely linked to our cultural expression. Evidence suggests that as groups become invisible in portrayals of civil society, successive generations lose their sense of attachment and identity. A society that can’t see itself, doesn’t know who it is. For that reason, we are extremely pleased that the NFB has signed this Agreement to ensure a stronger collaboration with our community, that leads to a good number of productions where our communities are reflected on our screens.”

Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General of the Quebec Community Groups Network

Associated Links

[English Language Arts Network](#)
[Quebec English-language Production Council](#)
[CAMPUS](#)

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Media Relations

Pat Dillon
Publicist, NFB
Tel.: 514-283-9411
Cell: 514-206-1750
Twitter: [@PatDoftheNFB](#)
E-mail: p.dillon@nfb.ca

Lily Robert
Director, Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs
Tel.: 514-283-3838
Cell: 514-296-8261
E-mail: l.robert@nfb.ca

About the NFB

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) creates groundbreaking [interactive works](#), social-issue documentaries and auteur animation. The NFB has produced over 13,000 productions and won over 5,000 awards, including 14 Canadian Screen Awards, 11 Webbys, 12 Oscars and more than 90 Genies. To access acclaimed NFB content, visit [NFB.ca](#) or download its [apps](#) for smartphones, tablets and connected TV.