

CANADIAN FRENCH-SPEAKING EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

THE FRENCH-SPEAKING POPULATIONOF THE OTTAWA VALLEY AND THECANADIAN CAPITAL REGION

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1. The Canadian French-speaking Education Association now includes two hundred and thirty organizations (230) and some five hundred (500) individual members from all parts of Canada. It has now served the Canadian French-speaking population for almost twenty-nine (29) years and was originally intended mainly for educators. Since 1968 more particularly, the Association gradually extended its influence to all the areas of activity of the French-speaking Canadians through the educative function of community-oriented initiatives. The Association's objective is to improve their standards of living at the educative, political, social, economical, religious and cultural levels.

2. This orientation and also the actions that have permitted its realization have made our Association a rallying point, an information cross-road and an instrument of unity at the service of French-speaking communities in all parts of Canada. On these grounds, we wish to present the Parliamentary Committee on the National Capital Region our opinion on the improvement project of the Canadian Capital Region which, we believe, turns out to be one of the most important elements in the efforts to realize the cultural policy of our country.

3. We do not intend to proceed with a complete analysis of the federal Capital issue. We only wish to draw the attention of the members of the Parliamentary Committee on some essential principles and the consequences on the French-speaking population of their present implementation in the actual development of the region called "National Capital Region."