



WE DEMAND JUSTICE!

The Outaouais is a neglected region of Quebec. Whether it's in urban or rural areas, the Outaouais region does not receive the funding it should for the health, education, cultural and social justice sectors.

The 2018 study by the Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques (IRIS) - *Effets du retard de financement public sur les systèmes de santé et d'éducation postsecondaire en Outaouais* - confirmed that the Outaouais region has been underfunded for decades, with the resulting underdevelopment of different sectors.

There is currently an important imbalance in the funding provided to the different regions of Quebec in the health, education, cultural and social sectors. Nothing can justify such important differences.

The time has come to speak with one voice and denounce this injustice so that the people of the Outaouais region are recognized as full-fledged citizens of Quebec.

WE DEMAND A FAIR DEAL FOR THE OUTAOUAIS REGION!

Équité Outaouais is a non-partisan citizen organization that brings together people in the Outaouais region who are concerned about the injustice to our region in the delivery of health, education, cultural and social services.

Équité Outaouais aims to mobilize people in order to obtain increased and better health, education, cultural and social services in the Outaouais region.

We need your involvement and your support! Everyone throughout the Outaouais region is invited to work with Équité Outaouais to bring about an end to the underdevelopment of our region.

CONTACT US!



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Équité Outaouais

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Équité Outaouais demands adequate and quality public services. More specifically, Équité Outaouais demands for the people of the Outaouais region:

1) HEALTHCARE. TO ENSURE A FULL AND DIGNIFIED LIFE

The IRIS study emphasizes that although *“the Outaouais region comprises 4.7% of the population of Quebec, programme spending for 2015-2016 in this region represented just 3.5% of total Quebec government spending for health and community programmes.”*

Why is the funding we receive for healthcare only 75.4% of the Quebec average, that's to say \$1,938 per capita annually compared with \$2,569 elsewhere in Quebec?

Why are we short of 202 specialist doctors and 1,050 nurses compared to the average in Quebec, and why are we short of 185 short-term beds, which represents an entire hospital?

Why is more than \$100 million of the Outaouais region's healthcare budget spent in Ontario each year?

“If funding ... was proportional to the size of the population, the Outaouais would receive over \$250 million more annually for the region's healthcare and social services programmes.” (IRIS)

2) EDUCATION. FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD TO UNIVERSITY. PROVIDING THE MEANS FOR COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The IRIS study confirms that *“the number of programs offered in the Outaouais is lower than in the other administrative regions”*. The lack of programs leads to an exodus of students to Ottawa, in spite of the fact that 25% of the qualifications obtained in Ontario are not recognized in Quebec.

Why does the Outaouais region have only 8.4 students per 1,000 inhabitants in professional studies programs, whereas the average for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Estrie and Mauricie regions is 14.5?

Why does the Outaouais region have only 16.1 students per 1,000 inhabitants at the college level, whereas the ratio is 25.4 in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, 19 in Mauricie and 21.1 in Estrie?

Why does the Outaouais region have only 8.6 students per 1,000 inhabitants at the university level, whereas the average for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Mauricie regions is 27.6?

“In order to have a student population equivalent to the other comparable regions ... the number of professional and post-secondary programs would need to be increased to allow for 12,000 additional students in the Outaouais region. This would require an estimated \$141 million in expenditure annually.” (IRIS)

3) CULTURE. TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CULTURE AND IDENTITY

The Outaouais region has a rich and diverse history and heritage. This has left visible traces and a tangible and intangible heritage of great regional and also national interest. The Conférence Régionale des Élus (CREO) has underlined the importance of valuing regional heritage, making it one of its priorities:

“Promote initiatives that value and foster regional identity by emphasizing the history and heritage of the region, in order to increase the sense of belonging of people to their community.” (CREO, Plan Stratégique 2012-2017).

Why is the Outaouais to this day one of the only regions of Quebec not to have a regional museum?

Why does the Outaouais region receive only \$2.52 per capita in heritage funding, whereas the average for Quebec is \$33.16?

Culture sustains a people, it's a society's lifeblood, but it requires funding and we are under-funded in a completely arbitrary way. We have a rich heritage to share. To develop our culture is to develop our identity.

4) SOCIAL JUSTICE. TO ENSURE ADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS

The IRIS study reports that *“the Outaouais region has the lowest GDP per capita in Quebec, after the Lanaudière region. Disposable income per capita was \$25,610, or nearly \$1,250 below the Quebec average.”* The Outaouais region has three of the poorest MRC in Quebec, with a considerable gap between the better off and poorer inhabitants.

Why therefore is the per capita funding provided for community organisations much lower than in comparable regions? For example, the funding for the Outaouais region is only 68% of that for the Bas-Saint-Laurent region and only 78% of that for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region.

Over the last 15 years, the population of the Outaouais region has increased by over 20%, but funding for the health, education, cultural and social sectors has not kept pace. There is a marked and increasing gap between funding for our region and that for other comparable regions of Quebec. We must correct this situation, for the Outaouais desperately needs major public investments and additional resources in order to provide quality services for its population.

WE DEMAND INTER-REGIONAL EQUITY!

