



## 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 and social justice sectors.

A recent 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 post-secondaire en Outaouais*, Montreal, August 2018 - confirms that the Outaouais region has been underfunded for decades, with the resulting underdevelopment of the health and education sectors.

The time has come to unite our voices 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 and social services.

Through our action, we aim to mobilize people in order to improve the quantity and quality of health, education and social services in the Outaouais region.

Everyone throughout the Outaouais region is invited to work with Équité Outaouais to bring an end to this injustice in 2018.

**CONTACT US :**  
[equiteoutaouais@gmail.com](mailto:equiteoutaouais@gmail.com)

**INFO :**  
[Equiteoutaouais.com](http://Equiteoutaouais.com)

**FACEBOOK :**  
Équité Outaouais



The people of the Outaouais region demand adequate and quality public services. More specifically, the people of the Outaouais region claim their right to:

## 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<sup>1</sup>.” (IRIS)*

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 it that, on average, \$107 million of the Outaouais region's healthcare budget is spent in Ontario each year?

*“If funding ... was proportional to the size of the population, the Outaouais would receive more than \$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”, which has a major impact on the number of students in our region. 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 the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region, 19 in the Mauricie region et 21.1 in the Estrie region?

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.” (IRS)*

## 3) 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 and community sectors has not kept pace. There is an increasing gap between funding for our region and that for other comparable regions. We must correct this situation, for we desperately need major public investments and additional resources in order to provide quality services for our population. The region cannot wait any longer. There is an urgent need for greater inter-regional fairness.

### ÉQUITÉ OUTAOUAIS

In support of equitable public funding for the health, education and social justice sectors between the Outaouais region and other comparable regions of Quebec.

<sup>1</sup> All the statistics quoted in this leaflet are taken from the IRIS study.