



**Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) Submission to the House of
Commons Standing Committee on Science and Research
as Part of Its Study on Research and Scientific Publication in French**

November 24, 2022

List of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That the government significantly and predictably increase its support of French-language universities.

Recommendation 2: That the government demonstrate equity and exemplary support for research in French, whether within its own institutions or through external partnerships with universities or higher-education institutions. And that the government guarantee the opportunity for francophone researchers to be able to present the results of their research in French to the federal government and to be able to pursue any collaboration with the government in French.

Recommendation 3: That the government provide permanent funding for French-language scientific journals and French-language publishing platforms.

Introduction

With 37,000 students and nearly 300,000 graduates, the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), consisting of six faculties and one school, occupies an essential place in the Canadian university ecosystem. A pioneer in social involvement and progress, resolutely francophone, inclusive, always open to diversity and the diversity community, ranked first in Quebec and fourth in Canada by *Research Infosource* in terms of research funding in the comprehensive universities category (large universities without a faculty of medicine), our university innovates every day, and our research findings contribute to providing solutions to social and scientific problems and to transforming society.

UQAM consists of 119 research and creative units, including more than 30 Canada Research Chairs and 18 UQAM Strategic Research Chairs. Six institutes combine research, training and community service in women's studies, heritage, cognitive science, environment, health and society, and international studies. UQAM is also home to the largest number of UNESCO chairs in Quebec, with five chairs (communication, education, environment, philosophy and radicalization prevention) and eight venues for the dissemination of arts and sciences (including the Centre de design, the Centre Pierre Péladeau, the Cœur des sciences and the Galerie de l'UQAM).

UQAM is pleased to be able to share its recommendations to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Science and Research (SRSR) regarding research and scientific publication in French.

Within the context of the vulnerability of the French language in Canada, the federal government must support research and scientific publications in French more than ever. It must also set an example by defending and promoting French, one of Canada's official languages, particularly in the field of science.

Detailed Presentation of the Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That the government significantly and predictably increase its support of French-language universities.

A leader among francophone universities in Canada since it was established, UQAM feels that French-language research and creation are a wealth and a strength for Canada, nationally and internationally. Canada's linguistic duality allows for a much broader spectrum of scientific work and discoveries in all fields of science. This is a source of collective enrichment for all Canadians. It is therefore essential that the Government of Canada make a firm and lasting commitment to increase its support for research, creation and dissemination of knowledge in French across the country.

UQAM recommends that the government adequately fund research projects submitted in French to the three granting councils and hopes that federal organizations (agencies, departments, etc.) will systematically include francophone researchers in their research projects. Because scientific excellence exists in French as well as in English.

Although they are not well known and are underfunded, social innovations are closely linked to achieving Canada's 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) under its 2030 Agenda. The federal government must therefore ensure that it provides adequate support for research and creation in the social sciences and humanities in French, which will contribute to solving social and collective challenges and will lead to innovations that will benefit all Canadians.

UQAM also strongly encourages the government to create a mobility grant program and significantly enhance existing programs for short stays for all francophone students in Canada so they can experience training and research at a French-language university in another province.

Canada can benefit at a scientific level from its membership in the international francophone community, just as much as from its membership in the anglophone community. Thus, research and creation carried out in French must be seen as a strength for Canada that allows it to reach a large scientific community internationally and to establish itself as a scientific leader within the international French-speaking community. To neglect this aspect, or to fail to support it adequately, is to ignore the many development opportunities offered by Canada's linguistic duality, which allows research and creation to be conducted and disseminated in both French and English.

Recommendation 2: That the government demonstrate equity and exemplary support for research in French, whether within its own institutions or through external partnerships with universities or higher-education institutions. And that the government guarantee the opportunity for francophone researchers to be able to present the results of their research in French to the federal government and to be able to pursue any collaboration with the government in French.

The Government of Canada's constitutional obligations regarding French as an official language require it to equitably promote and support the production of internal and external data and research in French. It must be able to make all internal or external data and research available in French. The government must encourage and promote the submission of grant applications for research projects in French. To do so, it must guarantee to any researcher who submits an application for funding or collaboration that applications written in French will be assessed under appropriate and equitable conditions in the evaluation of all projects by the evaluation committees.

Recommendation 3: That the government provide sustainable funding for French-language scientific journals and French-language publishing platforms.

Scientific production in French from French-language or bilingual institutions in Canada between 2011 and 2021 shows a clear downward trend. Production dropped from 595 French-language publications in 2011 to 490 French-language publications in 2021, a decrease of 17.6% (105 publications). In total, 5,997 French-language publications were published between 2011 and 2021 (source: *Direction de la recherche institutionnelle du Réseau de l'Université du Québec, October 2022*).

The number of French and English publications per year by French-language or bilingual institutions in Canada between 2011 and 2021 shows that French production remained stagnant from 2011 to 2021, unlike English production, which steadily increased over the same period.

UQAM is home to nearly 40 scientific journals available in print or electronic format. Many of these journals have a readership in Canada and in the international French-speaking community. To ensure their continued existence, French-language journals need significant ongoing and permanent funding from the Government of Canada to disseminate and promote research in French.

UQAM also recommends that the government require – and provide permanent funding for – the publication of scientific production in both of Canada's official languages in journals funded in whole or in part by the federal government.

UQAM is also asking the government to fund the *Erudit* platform in the interest of disseminating open and accessible knowledge.