



QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS INC.
LA FÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DES ASSOCIATIONS FOYERS-ÉCOLES INC.

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RESOLUTION 2012/3

WIDER ACCESS TO ENGLISH EDUCATION

WHEREAS there continues to be a steady decline of the student population in the English public schools of Quebec; and

WHEREAS the following factors taken together account for the lack of opportunity for the growth and prosperity of a viable English language system of education now and in the future:

- **1977** “Bill 101” (Statutes of Quebec 1977, c. 5), the *Charter of the French Language*, section 73, which limits choice by specifying four categories of students deemed eligible for entry into English schools;
- **1982** *Constitution Act, 1982*, section 59, which excludes the application of section 23 (1) (a) of that Act in the province of Quebec only, by preventing it from coming into force in Quebec without the consent either of the Quebec Executive Government or of the National Assembly;
- **2002** “Bill 104” (Statutes of Quebec 2002, c. 38), amending the Charter of the French Language, sealed an opening whereby parents could establish public school eligibility by sending a child to a private English school [not abiding by “Bill 101”] in grade 1 for one year, thus establishing eligibility for that child and his/her siblings;
- **2010** “Bill 115” (Statutes of Quebec, 2010, c.23), *An Act following upon the court decisions on the language of instruction*, was the Government of Quebec’s response to the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in 2009 that sections of “Bill 104” were unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS the loss of an English-language school system would result in the loss of a cultural identity which pre-dates Confederation (1867); and

WHEREAS the protection of the majority official language and culture in Quebec should not diminish the historic language rights and cultural heritage of the minority official language population of Quebec; and

WHEREAS one should always seek to expand on rights, never to diminish them,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations Inc. once again urge the Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women in conjunction with the Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport, to recommend to the Government of Quebec that access to education in English be widened;





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RESOLUTION 2012/3 WIDER ACCESS TO ENGLISH EDUCATION ...2

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations Inc. request the Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women and the Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport to permit any child who has begun his/her education in English to continue his/her education in English;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that s. 23 (1) (a) of the Constitution Act, 1982, which guarantees access to minority-language education on the basis of a citizen's mother tongue, be brought immediately into force in Quebec, by the exercise of the power conferred by section 59; that is to say, by a proclamation made by the Queen or the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada with the authorization of the National Assembly or Government of Quebec;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prime Minister of Canada and the premiers of the provinces encourage the bringing into force of s. 23 (1) (a) in Quebec, the only province where it does not apply;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. urge the Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport to direct all English School Boards to admit immediately eligible students to their schools, while awaiting an eligibility certificate;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. urge the Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport to recognize that neither the confirmation of a parent's Canadian citizenship, nor the confirmation of the school of attendance of a child in another province of Canada, is a legitimate reason for delaying the child's provisional entry into an English language school.

Destinations: Prime Minister of Canada
Premier of Quebec
Quebec Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport
Quebec Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women
Quebec Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities
Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages
Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity)
Provincial Premiers
Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA)
Association of Directors General of English School Boards of Quebec
(ADGESBQ)
Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT)
Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec (AAESQ)
Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN)

