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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (QFHSA) PLEASED TO BE CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION

MONTREAL, May 12, 2014 – The Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations kicked off celebrations of their 70th anniversary of parental participation in education in the province of Quebec on May 3, 2014. In response to ongoing concerns of parents in regards to the health and well-being of children, Quebec Home and School Associations have been acting as a voice for parents and volunteering in their schools since 1944. The Annual General Meeting of the QFHSA, with the theme “70 years of Challenge and Change” was held at the Novotel Hotel in St Laurent on May 3rd, 2014 with keynote speaker *Clifford Lincoln* addressing the delegates.

The Annual General Meeting brought together Home & School parents from across the province to discuss policy and determine the future direction of the organization. Two resolutions were passed: one on Financial Literacy and the other on Permanent Linguistic Voters Lists for School Board Elections. It was an opportunity to celebrate what Home and School has accomplished in the past and to look forward to the challenges and inevitable changes in the years to come.

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) has been active in many aspects of community life in the past 70 years, from health and welfare, citizenship, education (Operation Bootstraps was a major brief undertaken in response to the Parent Commission, 1962), literacy projects, child safety, school bus transport and rights. It has written many briefs and position papers over the years, from the Outremont School Question in 1947 to its recent responses to Bill 104, Bill 56, and Bill 60. It continues to advocate for the rights of parents.

This year, the national body, the **Canadian Home and School Federation** held its own Annual General Meeting in Montreal and joined QFHSA at the evening Awards Banquet, where together they honoured outstanding individuals, whose dedication and generosity to enhancing the school experience for all students serves as such an example to all.

Canadian Home and School Federation honoured **Leo LaFrance** with their Samuel R. Laycock Award for making real contributions to relations between the school and the home, among other credits. Also honoured this year was **Eddy Nolan**, of **Roslyn School**, with the Maybelle Durkin Health Advocacy Award, for an individual who has worked to improve the health awareness of children and to emphasize the importance of each individual who attempts to make a difference. **Anne MacWhirter** received the



CHSF Volunteer Recognition Award for 2014 for her 45-year long service to Home and School at the local, provincial and national level.

QFHSA presented four awards of its own this year: the Gordon Paterson Award, for an outstanding educator who believes in involving parents, to **Craig Hodgson**, Music teacher at John Rennie High School; The Lewis Peace Prize, for an individual, or a group, who has made a significant contribution towards peace, to **Dorset Elementary's Peace Pals Program**; The Pat Lewis Humanitarian Award that recognizes an individual, or group, at the elementary school or high school level, who has made an outstanding effort for a humanitarian cause, to **Westwood High School's Senior's International Development Program**; and the Pat Lewis Environmental Award, that recognizes an individual, or group, at the elementary school or high school level, who has made an outstanding effort for an environmental cause, to **Gardenvue Elementary's Science teacher, Valerie Honig-Nandhra**, for her extraordinary work with the students through their Earth Club.

Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (www.qfhsa.org) is a not for profit organization that promotes the involvement of parents, students, educators and the community at large in the advancement of learning and acts as a voice for parents.

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<http://www.qfhsa.org/agm.htm>