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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (QFHSA) DEFENDS ITS BRIEF ON BILL 14 BEFORE THE QUEBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**PRESS RELEASE March 26, 2013 – The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations defended its Brief on Bill 14 before the Committee on Culture and Education on March 19, 2013 at the National Assembly in Quebec City. The QFHSA believes that the perceived threat to the French language comes principally from being a smaller population in proportion to the Canadian and American cultures, not from the English speaking community in Quebec.**

Most Anglophones enjoy the right to choose the language of instruction for their children. Francophones lost that right to choose in 1977 with the implementation of the Charter of the French Language and Bill 14 does nothing to correct this in-equality. The QFHSA continues to support wider access to English education for all students who desire it.

It is also our firm belief that the supportive bilingual minority English-speaking communities in Quebec do not threaten the French language. We enhance it through our immersion and bilingual schools. We are deeply concerned about the government of Quebec's decision to replace the term 'ethnic minorities' in the preamble of the Charter of the French Language and to replace it with the term 'cultural communities'. This creates a dangerous precedent and puts the rights of Ethnic Minorities in Quebec in question.

The QFHSA also believes that children of parents serving in the Armed Forces should remain exempt from restrictions on language of education and urges the Government of Quebec not to repeal Section 3 of the *Regulation respecting the exemption from the application of the first paragraph of section 72 of the Charter of the French language that may be granted to children staying in Québec temporarily*. Quebec gains nothing by insisting these children be educated in French for the few years they may be resident in the province.

On these points and on account of many other elements in this divisive and discriminatory Bill, we recommend rejection of the amendments that are being proposed to the Charter of the French Language, the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms and other legislative provisions as not in the best interests of all Quebecers.

**We believe the real desire of all Quebecers – French and English – is to preserve the richness of the French language and culture, without political intervention. There is a will among all Quebecers to make this happen. We call on the Government of Quebec to withdraw Bill 14 in its entirety.**

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For more information, the QFHSA can be reached at [info@qfhsa.org](mailto:info@qfhsa.org) or call 514-481-5619.