



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

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**Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations
Statement on Bill 21**

May 4, 2019

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. (QFHSA), an integral member of Quebec society for 75 years, is confident that both the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms already safeguard and protect the principles of freedom of religion and the secular nature of the Federal and Provincial governments as presently constituted.

Therefore, QFHSA is opposed to Bill 21, Loi sur la laïcité de l'État / an Act respecting the laicity of the State, in its entirety,

Whenever a charter of rights and freedoms is amended, it should strive to improve on rights, not lessen them. Diminishing rights takes away the inalienability of all rights and weakens a charter. Reducing the right of freedom of expression by restricting the personal choice of wearing religious symbols for some public sector positions does not reflect the inherent values of Quebec.

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. cannot be party to a proposed piece of legislation that runs contrary to what we teach our children insofar as tolerance, respect of individual rights and religious freedoms. Bill 21 undermines the Moral and Religious Education curriculum first implemented in 1997 by the Minister of Education at the time, and later modified in 2008 to become the Ethics and Religious Culture program.

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. therefore, calls for the withdrawal of Bill 21.

This statement was researched by the QFHSA Rights and Resolutions Committee, drafted by delegates at the QFHSA Annual General Meeting, and adopted by resolution at the meeting of the QFHSA Board of Directors on May 4, 2019.

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc., is a federation of over 80 local Home and School Associations and is comprised of over 4000 member families.

Sincerely,

Linton Garner, President
Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations

