



Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations

The Voice of the Parent in Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHERE IS THE SUPPORT FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING STUDENTS?

The QFHS denounces the lack of funding for tutoring for students in the English school system

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, Thursday, February 4, 2021 --Once again, the CAQ Government, the Ministry of Education and, by association, the Minister of Education have made it abundantly clear they have no intention to treat the English-speaking community as full citizens of this province. The recently announced Ministry plans to inject \$12,000,000 into the French education system to assist in providing tutoring for students with not a single penny allocated for the English school system cannot be called anything but blatant discrimination.

Obviously, the Ministry and the government have used this omission as retaliation for our having dared to stand up for our rights when we took the CAQ government to court over the proposed changes under Bill 40, which would have wiped out our constitutional rights to the management and control of our English school system. It is hard to believe that any government in a free and democratic society would enact such a blatant and vengeful discriminatory policy because a portion of the citizens it is sworn to represent and serve disagrees with one of its policies.

Yet we should not be surprised. This government has threatened to tighten restrictions against the use of English in the public sphere under Law 101, where even the use of a two-letter word like "Hi" is seen as an offensive act. The increasingly aggressive rhetoric around language and the protection of the French language amongst our Francophone brothers and sisters has emboldened the government to the point where it no longer hides our classification as second-class citizens. Therefore, the government is unabashed in not rectifying our unequal treatment under the law.

Clearly, failing to provide resources for the English-speaking community to tutor their students during a pandemic is a blatant disregard for the right of English-speaking students to a fair and equal education under the law. We believe the CAQ government regards us with contempt for pursuing our democratic rights. The government will not lift a finger to help us to survive, to live, or thrive as an English-speaking community in Quebec. The evidence is clear: the government is crippling our efforts to educate our children during these unprecedented times.

Sadly, the ones who are really hurt by this are the children. It is unseemly for a government to play politics off the backs of children or to use them in their efforts to make us capitulate and lay down our rights, rights supposedly guaranteed to all citizens regardless of race, colour, or creed. Our community always believed that was the case. Obviously, here in Quebec, we were wrong. Those principles are nowhere in the policies and practices of this government.

On behalf of the over 4,000 families amongst the 85 schools in the 9 English school boards where the Home and School Associations serve the students, parents, and staff in the English system, we publicly admonish the CAQ government, the Ministry of Education and Minister Jean-François Roberge for this petty, discriminatory act and request immediate deployment of additional resources for the English system to respond to its needs for online and in-school tutoring services.

Linton Garner, President
Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations

About Us: *The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. (QFHS) is an independent, incorporated, not for profit volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the education and general well-*

being of children and youth. Since 1944, the QFHSA has been promoting the involvement of parents, students, educators and the community at large in the advancement of learning and acting as a voice for parents. For more information on the QFHSA, please visit qfhsa.org, follow us on [Facebook.com/qfhsa](https://www.facebook.com/qfhsa) and [Twitter @QFHSA](https://twitter.com/QFHSA).

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