



**QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**

**DRAFT RESOLUTIONS  
FOR 2021**

**Eight (8) Resolutions:**

1. REQUEST FOR FREE FRENCH INSTRUCTION SERVICES
2. EVALUATION, IMPROVEMENTS, AND INVESTMENTS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS
3. MAIL-IN BALLOTS FOR SCHOOL ELECTIONS
4. REQUEST TO REVISE AND IMPROVE THE SECONDARY III AND SECONDARY IV HISTORY OF QUEBEC AND CANADA CURRICULUM
5. PERMANENT ENGLISH VOTERS' LIST FOR SCHOOL ELECTIONS
6. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT
7. ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF THE TEACHER SHORTAGE IN QUEBEC
8. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

RESOLUTION 2021-01

**REQUEST FOR FREE FRENCH INSTRUCTION SERVICES**

**WHEREAS** in 2019, Bill 590 – *An Act to amend the Charter of the French language (chapter C-11, section 6)* had been introduced during the first session of the forty-second legislature of the National Assembly of Québec by Mr. Gregory Kelley, Member of the National Assembly for Jacques-Cartier, to establish the right to free French instruction services for every person who resides in Québec; and

**WHEREAS** English-speaking residents of Québec have clearly expressed their wish to become more bilingual in English and French; and

**WHEREAS** the Government of Québec clearly favours the promotion of the French language in Québec and the rest of Canada; and

**WHEREAS** the Government of Canada is presently in the process of a proposed renewal of the Official Languages Act of Canada;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. strongly recommends to the Minister Responsible for the French Language of Québec:

that section 6 of the Charter of the French language be amended by inserting section 6.1: *“Every person who resides in Québec has a right to free French instruction services. The Government shall determine by regulation the French instruction services that must be offered free of charge.”* and

that the Final Provision would be: *“ This Act comes into force on the date to be set by the Government.”* ; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. strongly recommends to the Minister of Education of Québec that cooperation be assured so that the free French instruction services be provided as soon as possible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. strongly recommends to the Minister of Higher Education of Québec that cooperation be assured so that the free French instruction services be provided as soon as possible.

RESOLUTION 2021-02

**EVALUATION, IMPROVEMENTS, AND INVESTMENTS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

**WHEREAS** the 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the foreground long standing deficiencies in school buildings across Québec; and

**WHEREAS** these deficiencies may include but are not limited to: air quality due to poor ventilation, the presence of mold, asbestos, or radon and non-potable water; and

**WHEREAS** natural ventilation (opening windows) is not always a practical solution in Québec winters, and the use of bottled water is not environmentally responsible; and

**WHEREAS** students and school staff have a right to well-ventilated spaces with uncontaminated air and access to potable water;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. demands that the Minister of Education of Québec and, where applicable, the implicated municipalities (water), conduct air quality, ventilation, and water tests in all school buildings, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. demands that these tests be conducted by independent companies free of political bias, that the test results be compared to international standards, and that the test results be made public;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Québec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. urges the Minister of Education of Québec or the municipality (if applicable) to make immediate financial investments to resolve the issues that affect the health of students and school staff in school buildings.

Background:

QFHSA Resolutions: 1994/12 School Hygiene

2010/06 Budget for Indoor Air Quality in Schools

2015/03 School and School Yard Maintenance

RESOLUTION 2021-03

**MAIL-IN BALLOTS FOR SCHOOL ELECTIONS**

**WHEREAS** Law 40: *An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance ((chapter I-13.3)* was passed under closure in the early morning hours of February 8, 2020, along with 160 last minute amendments and disallowed the democratic tradition for the English sector to hold school elections; and

**WHEREAS** a stay in the application of Law 40 for the English-speaking sector was granted and the merits of the case are now before the courts; and

**WHEREAS** the COVID-19 pandemic has caused much disruption for all Quebecers including miscommunications by the Government of Québec as to when these elections will take place; and

**WHEREAS** past governments have failed to act upon the many requests made to streamline elections, upgrade electoral list procedures, twin school board elections with municipal elections, and implement the sensible recommendations found in the *English School Boards Election Systems Panel Report 2015* (popularly known as the Jennings Report); and

**WHEREAS** the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. has a long standing tradition of promoting community involvement in education and that of parents in local schools which has helped maintain the English-speaking sector schooling school system in Québec's top ranks; and

**WHEREAS** the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. has been involved in the promotion of previous school board elections and worked with other partners in education to allow for fair democratic elections that are so important to the vitality of the English-speaking community; and

**WHEREAS** the COVID-19 pandemic has caused Québec citizens concerns over their safety;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. requests that the Government of Québec allow the use of mail-in ballots for all eligible electors who ask for them in the upcoming English school elections.

Background: --

RESOLUTION 2021-04

**REQUEST TO REVISE AND IMPROVE THE SECONDARY III AND SECONDARY IV  
HISTORY OF QUEBEC AND CANADA CURRICULUM**

**WHEREAS** Actions # 10, 11, 16, and 17 of *Racism in Québec: Zero Tolerance - the Report of the Groupe d'Action contre le racisme (GACR)* issued in December 2020\* must be reflected in the content of the curriculum offered; and

**WHEREAS** the *Québec Education Program - Secondary School Education - History of Québec and Canada Secondary III and IV* (page 7) suggests that: Resources available in the students' immediate surroundings . . . can help them grasp realities that have affected Québec, Canada and even countries around the world. \*\*; and

**WHEREAS** the present content of the curriculum offered falls woefully short of a fair and balanced presentation of the contributions to the development of Québec over the centuries by the minority communities including those of the Anglophones, Allophones, Indigenous, Blacks, Jewish, Muslim, and other minority groups; and

**WHEREAS** the approved textbooks *Reflections.qc.ca Origins to 1840* for Secondary III and *Reflections.qc.ca 1840 to Our Times* for Secondary IV are both weak uninspired translations from the French and contain historical inaccuracies verified and proclaimed by many respected historians in the field; and

**WHEREAS** those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. strongly recommends to the Minister of Education of Québec:

- that immediate action be undertaken to provide supplementary e-materials to teachers and students of Secondary III and Secondary IV that provide a fair and balanced presentation of the contributions to the development of Québec over the centuries by the minority communities including those of the Anglophones, Allophones, Indigenous, Blacks, Jewish, Muslim, and other minority groups;
- that immediate action be undertaken to ensure that the implementation of Actions # 10 and 17 of the *GACR Report\** is begun in earnest in the schools of Québec;
- that immediate action be undertaken to begin the process for the revision of the content of the curriculum of the History of Québec and Canada course offered in Secondary III and Secondary IV ;
- that immediate action be undertaken to begin the revision of the textbooks *Reflections.qc.ca Origins to 1840* for Secondary III and *Reflections.qc.ca 1840 to Our Times* for Secondary IV;

- that immediate action be undertaken for the inclusion of the exploration of local history as part of the content of the curriculum of the History of Québec and Canada course offered in Secondary III;\*\* and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. strongly recommends to the Minister of Higher Education of Québec:

-that immediate action be undertaken to ensure that the implementation of Actions # 11 and 16 of the *GACR Report\** is begun in earnest in the faculties of education of Québec.

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\*Action No. 10 Include racism and discrimination issues throughout the school curriculum.  
Action No. 11 Include the theme of racism in the mandatory courses for initial teacher training.  
Action No. 16 Make the history and current realities of Québec's Indigenous peoples a mandatory part of initial teacher training. Action No. 17  
Change the academic curriculum at the primary and secondary levels to update concepts related to the history, cultures, heritage and current realities of Indigenous peoples in Québec and Canada and their impact on society.

\*\*Other relevant resources may be used in addition to ICT. Resources available in the students' immediate surroundings, such as those showcased by their local history society, their municipal or community administration, or eyewitness accounts by older people, can help them grasp realities that have affected Québec, Canada and even countries around the world. Visits to libraries, museums and archives may also help students to gain a better understanding of history. The staff at these institutions can guide students and enable them to enrich their knowledge of the past. Indeed, these individuals embody the concern to preserve the memory of a society.

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RESOLUTION 2021-05

**PERMANENT ENGLISH VOTERS' LIST FOR SCHOOL ELECTIONS**

**WHEREAS** all Québec electors who have no children in either the French or English school system may choose to have their names placed on the permanent English voters' list; and

**WHEREAS** School Boards annually submit to the Chief Electoral Officer the names of parents whose child attends an English public school to be placed on the permanent English voters' list; and

**WHEREAS** in 2003, the names of parents whose child had graduated from the English public school sector were transferred from the English voters' list to the French voters' list, and during subsequent School Board Elections, the names of parents whose child graduated from the English public sector remained on the permanent English voters' list; and

**WHEREAS** individuals, upon turning eighteen (18) years of age, and who attended public schools in the English sector, are automatically placed on the Quebec Voters' List, but are not all identified as eligible to be placed on the English Voters' list.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. continues to demand that individuals, upon turning eighteen (18) years of age and who attended public schools in the English sector, should be automatically registered on the permanent English voters' list; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. demands that those individuals be eligible voters and/or candidates of the English school system where they are domiciled.

**Background:**

QFHSA Resolutions

-1997/06 Rights of citizens with regard to the electoral lists for linguistic school boards -2005/02  
Permanent Linguistic Voters List for School Board Elections -reaffirmed 2007/06 ,  
2014/02

RESOLUTION 2021-06

**CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

**WHEREAS** school curriculum is ever-evolving and needs to pull together the best from modern learning theories and teachers' lived experience; and

**WHEREAS** school curriculum must be sustainable – ongoing, properly resourced, and strategically planned; and

**WHEREAS** curriculum needs to be flexible so as to better enable teachers to innovate, to focus on higher-order learning, to address core competencies, to integrate world-views and knowledge to include respect for the unique nature of disciplines while supporting cross-curricular learning; and

**WHEREAS** technology is rapidly developing, necessitating the transition to digital textbooks and resource materials;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. urges the Minister of Education of Québec to include all partners: parents, teachers, and subject experts in the development of school curriculum (the best partnership would be an independent advisory panel); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that curriculum development must provide teacher training for textbooks and materials prior to implementation, that materials be evidence and fact-based, and that that online resources be developed in conjunction with printed texts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that future development ensure that the rollout of new curricula and related materials be available simultaneously in both English and French; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that future development utilize standard methods and tools to evaluate the quality and outcomes of the new curriculum through pilot projects and that subsequent evaluations be made available to the public.

**Background Material:**

Curriculum is a live subject that needs to:

- be flexible to inspire the personalization of learning and to address the diverse needs and interests of students
- provide teachers with greater flexibility in creating learning environments that are relevant, engaging and novel, giving consideration to local context and place-based learning.
- focus on essential learning and core competencies
- recognize that literacy and numeracy foundations {text literacy (reading and writing), number and financial literacy, visual literacy, and digital literacy} are fundamental requirements for full social and economic participation in today's world and should be considered key components in all curriculum development

- be developed as concept based and competency driven; with emphasis on deeper understanding of concepts and the application of processes rather than on rote memorization of isolated facts and information; what students are expected to know, be able to do, and understand at each grade level

- include in curriculum redesign: core competencies of intellectual, personal, social, and emotional proficiencies needed for students to develop and engage deeper learning; to develop core competencies of creative and critical thinking, communication, and social and personal competencies (positive personal/cultural identity, personal and social awareness and responsibility).

RESOLUTION 2021-07

**ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF THE TEACHER SHORTAGE IN  
QUEBEC**

**WHEREAS** Quebec school boards and service centers face serious problems trying to recruit and retain teachers; and

**WHEREAS** Quebec teachers are amongst the lowest paid in Canada; and

**WHEREAS** a significant number of new teachers leave their profession within the first five years; and

**WHEREAS** funding for students with special needs is inadequate and “weighting” of students in classrooms is not always calculated, thus adding to an already excessive workload for teachers; and

**WHEREAS** educated individuals with a Bachelor’s degree who would like to become teachers must complete an additional 4-year B. Ed. program;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations urges the Minister of Education to provide teachers in Quebec with equitable, competitive pay so as to ensure high-quality education in the province of Quebec; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations urges the Minister of Education to consult with teachers to reevaluate their working conditions and also find ways to lift the burden off teachers with additional funding for resources, specifically towards an increased number of aides for students with special needs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations urges the Minister of Education to reinstate the one-year post-degree program to train teachers from amongst people with Bachelor’s degree.

RESOLUTION 2021 08

**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

**WHEREAS** Climate Change is now the critical issue for the future of our children, and the Government of Quebec and the Government of Canada are scrambling to meet their 2030 and 2050 emission reduction targets; and

**WHEREAS** plastic items are choking our oceans and waterways; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. promotes environmental awareness by strongly recommending that all Home and School associations consider the environmental impact of their fundraising and activities:

- by sourcing environmentally friendly products for fundraising,
- by recycling and composting all items (leftover food and packaging), and
- by reducing and eventually eliminating all single use plastics from all their activities.

References <https://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/conservation/issues/single-use-plastics.htm>  
<https://www.earthday.org/fact-sheet-single-use-plastics/> <https://www.factretriever.com/single-use-plastic-facts> <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/net-zero-emissions-2050.html>  
<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/n>

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