

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 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.