



**Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations**

## **2023 Draft QFHSA Resolutions**

### **Eight (8) Resolutions:**

- 1. REVOKE BILL C-13**
- 2. REGULATE USE OF THE NOTWITHSTANDING CLAUSE**
- 3. BETTER DEVELOP THE NEW *CULTURE AND CITIZENSHIP IN QUÉBEC* PROGRAM**
- 4. MAINTAIN SEXUALITY EDUCATION AS A SEPARATE PROGRAM**
- 5. ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF COVID ON STUDENT LEARNING**
- 6. SUPPORT SCHOOL EMPLOYEES**
- 7. ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF BILINGUAL SERVICES BY STUDENT OMBUDSMEN**
- 8. ACCOMMODATE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE CHILDREN**

RESOLUTION 2023-01  
REVOKE BILL C-13

WHEREAS Bill C-13 acts under the premise that the French language needs further protection **within** Québec, which is not supported by 2021 census results; and

WHEREAS Bill C-13 fails to protect the minority English-speaking community within Québec while the protection of minority language communities is the goal of the *Official Languages Act*; and

WHEREAS Bill C-13 sets dangerous precedents with regards to the asymmetrical treatment of official languages and minority languages, and the circumvention of Charter rights via its endorsement of the newly revised *Charter of the French Language*; and

WHEREAS Bill C-13 fails to put forth **legally enforceable** obligations in proposed protections; and

WHEREAS all of the above deficiencies in Bill C-13 will have a negative impact on Québec's English-speaking minority community in general and on the English education system in specific; and

WHEREAS all attempts to modify Bill C-13 to address the above issues in the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages review have failed.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** demands that the Government of Canada immediately revoke Bill C-13.

RESOLUTION 2023-02  
REGULATE USE OF THE NOTWITHSTANDING CLAUSE

WHEREAS the Government of Québec has pre-emptively used the Notwithstanding Clause to circumvent sections of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* as well as the *Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms* in applying it:

- to sections of Bill 21 (also called *An Act respecting the laicity of the State*), passed by the National Assembly of Québec, and
- to all sections of Bill 96 (also called *An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*), passed by the National Assembly of Québec.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** strongly recommends to the Government of Québec that the application of the Notwithstanding Clause to Bills 21 and 96 cease immediately; and

THEREFORE be it further resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** strongly recommends to the Government of Canada that Bills 21 and 96 be referred directly to the Supreme Court of Canada; and

THEREFORE be it also further resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** strongly recommends to the Government of Canada that use of the Notwithstanding Clause be referred to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

RESOLUTION 2023-03

BETTER DEVELOP THE NEW *CULTURE AND CITIZENSHIP IN QUÉBEC* PROGRAM

WHEREAS implementation of the proposed *Culture and Citizenship in Québec* program has been delayed; and

WHEREAS there has been a disappointing lack of consultation and transparency with regards to development, content, and implementation of the curriculum; and

WHEREAS the curriculum as drafted fails to fairly represent members of the myriad different races, religions, and cultures found in Québec, and these facets of a personal identity are instrumental in the forming of one's ethics, morals, and thought processes; and

WHEREAS parents have expressed grave concern about the inclusion of Sexual Education in this program, both in relation to it being taught by unqualified individuals and concern over the feasibility and accessibility of exemptions.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** strongly recommends that the Minister of Education of Québec:

- ensures that race, religion, and culture remain central themes in the new *Culture and Citizenship in Québec* program, with special focus on Indigenous cultures, as directed by Action Nos. 10 and 17 of the Report of the Groupe d'Action contre le racisme (**GACR**), and
- carry out further consultation with all stakeholders in education, including the QFHSA, before implementation.

## RESOLUTION 2023-04

### MAINTAIN SEXUALITY EDUCATION AS A SEPARATE PROGRAM

WHEREAS both the existing and proposed Sexuality Education programs lack specific materials and/or resources readily available to the teachers, which results in inconsistent education to the students due to teachers having to produce or find their own materials and/or resources; and

WHEREAS both the existing and proposed Sexuality Education programs lack specific material and/or resources to share with parents and guardians, preventing them from preparing their children for the highly personal and sensitive conversations involved and making them more apprehensive of the content being taught; and

WHEREAS neither the existing nor proposed Sexuality Education programs offer separate gender-based lessons, which can cause students to feel uncomfortable and/or intimidated enough to prevent them from being honest and asking important questions they may have; and

WHEREAS imbedding the Sexuality Education program in the new *Culture and Citizenship in Québec* program makes it more likely to be taught by teachers who are not qualified and/or comfortable with the subject matter, affecting the quality of education children will receive; and

WHEREAS imbedding the Sexuality Education program in the new *Culture and Citizenship in Québec* program will make it even more difficult for parents to opt out of certain lessons.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** recommends that the Minister of Education of Québec maintain Sexuality Education as a separate program; and

THEREFORE be it further resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** recommends that the Minister of Education of Québec return to having the biology-based portion of the program taught by qualified medical professionals in separate gender-based lessons; and

THEREFORE be it also further resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** urges the Minister of Education of Québec to make available to parents a comprehensive guidebook to the program – in both English and French – and also a more transparent and accessible exemption process.

RESOLUTION 2023-05

ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF COVID ON STUDENT LEARNING

WHEREAS Québec schools were closed March, 2020 by order of the CAQ Government in order to limit the spread of the COVID virus; and

WHEREAS it was weeks before School Service Centres and School Boards were able to implement Remote Learning; and

WHEREAS not all teachers had adequate skills or training to make the transition to online teaching; and

WHEREAS not all students had access to adequate and/or reliable technology for Remote Learning; and

WHEREAS while some students thrived with Remote Learning, many were unable to succeed without the interaction with teachers and other children; and

WHEREAS Québec students have lost three years of proper learning and socializing.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations Inc.** demands that the Minister of Education introduce and implement strategies to help students recover both academically and socially from the pandemic.

RESOLUTION 2023-06  
SUPPORT SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS in Québec there exists a general shortage of teachers, teachers leaving the profession after five (5) years, teacher burnout, students who have fallen behind due to the pandemic and a higher number of students with special needs per classroom in the public system.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** urges the Minister of Education to attract candidates to the profession and to retain those currently in the profession by:

- Increasing the salaries of teachers to reflect their worth to society and to be competitive with salaries in the rest of Canada, and
- Decreasing the number of steps on the salary grid so that teachers can benefit from maximum compensation earlier in their careers, and
- Instituting a one-year university teaching certificate for people with a Bachelor's degree in a teachable subject, and
- Decreasing workloads to allow teachers time to work on the increasing number of IEPs in the classroom; and

THEREFORE be it further resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** encourages the Minister of Education to:

- Invest more funds for classroom aides and specialists to deal with children with special needs and compensate these employees adequately, and
- Make funds available for smaller class sizes if the class composition (percentage of students with special needs) warrants it, and
- Invest additional funds for tutoring and resource teachers to help students who fell behind during the pandemic years, and
- Divert funds from subsidized private schools into the public system.

RESOLUTION 2023-07

ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF BILINGUAL SERVICES BY STUDENT OMBUDSMEN

WHEREAS Bill 9 (also known as *An Act respecting the National Student Ombudsman*) was passed by the National Assembly of Québec and restructures services available for students, parents, and guardians in all regions of the province of Québec; and

WHEREAS it is important to note that French and English schools exist in all regions of the province of Québec; and

WHEREAS it is important that services in both French and English be available to students, parents, and guardians in all regions of the province of Québec; and

WHEREAS it is important that the National Student Ombudsman be capable of offering services in both French and English; and

WHEREAS it is important to have a designated Student Ombudsman capable of offering services in French and English for the students, parents, and guardians of the nine (9) English-language School Boards, the Littoral School Service Centre, the Cree School Board, and the Kativik Ilisarniliriniq School Board; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Education of Québec is responsible for the administration of Bill 9.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** demands that the Minister of Education of Québec guarantee that the National Student Ombudsman be capable of offering services in both French and English in all regions of the province of Québec; and

THEREFORE be it also resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** demands that the Minister of Education of Québec appoint a designated Student Ombudsman capable of offering services in both French and English in all regions of the province of Québec.



## RESOLUTION 2023-08

### ACCOMMODATE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE CHILDREN

WHEREAS Québec is facing several demographic challenges that have significant economic and social impacts:

1. Aging population: Québec has an aging population, which means there are more retirees than young people entering the workforce. This can lead to labour shortages, increased healthcare costs, and a smaller tax base to support social programs.
2. Low fertility rate: Québec's fertility rate is below the replacement level, meaning that the population is not growing naturally. This can lead to a smaller workforce and a shrinking tax base.
3. Outmigration: Many young people leave Québec for other provinces in search of better job opportunities or a different lifestyle. This can exacerbate labour shortages and leave the aging population more vulnerable; and

WHEREAS Québec's language laws and cultural isolation make it challenging to attract immigrants and integrate them into the province's workforce and society; and

WHEREAS Québec needs workers (immigrants and refugees) to keep its economy and social programs functioning; and

WHEREAS many immigrant and refugee children who arrive in Québec have knowledge of English but not of French; and

WHEREAS allowing children to attend school in a language with which they are already familiar will promote their success both socially and academically, allowing them to better contribute to Québec society.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** urges the government of Québec to allow immigrant and refugee children who arrive with the ability to speak English but not French to attend English schools.