



Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations

Resolutions Adopted at the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Five (5) Resolutions:

- 1. FRENCH INSTRUCTION AVAILABILITY**
- 2. THE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS OF TUITION FEE INCREASES ON QUÉBEC'S ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES**
- 3. PERMANENT ENGLISH VOTERS' LIST FOR SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS**
- 4. PROVINCIAL IN-SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAM**
- 5. CELLPHONE BAN**



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Resolution 2024-01: French Instruction Availability

WHEREAS starting in 2024, passing the Level 5 Second language (French) course (*Programme de Base* or *Programme Enrichi*), which is necessary to obtain a Secondary School Diploma, requires a passing grade in all three sections of the course (written comprehension, oral interaction, written production) rather than a passing grade based on the average of the three scores; and

WHEREAS starting with the Fall 2024 semester, in order to obtain a diploma from an English-language CEGEP, students with a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) will have to take three program courses in French OR three additional French language courses to improve their French language skills, and students without a COE will have to take three of their program courses in French; and

WHEREAS starting with the Fall 2024 semester, the Government of Québec is requiring out-of-province students at English-language universities to attain an intermediate level of French by the time they graduate; and

WHEREAS the goal of these requirements should be to ensure students become fluent in French; and

WHEREAS there is an ongoing shortage of qualified teachers, instructors, and professors to teach in French.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** demands that the Government of Québec delay the implementation of the French-language requirements for secondary and post-secondary students to graduate until there is a sufficient supply of qualified teachers, instructors, and professors.



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Resolution 2024-02: The Far-Reaching Effects of Tuition Fee Increases on Québec's English Universities

WHEREAS the Government of Québec has mandated that as of the 2024-2025 academic year, Canadian students coming from outside the province will pay a minimum of \$12,000 in tuition fees; and

WHEREAS the increase has been rationalized by the Government of Québec as a measure to reduce the decline of French and "correct the financial imbalance between the anglophone and francophone university network and ensure a better retention and integration rate of Canadian and international students to Quebec society;"¹ and

WHEREAS students will be less inclined to come and experience Québec culture and the French language and consequently there will be fewer students studying and settling in Québec, fewer students contributing their skills to Quebec society, and there will be a significant negative economic impact on the cities of Montréal and Sherbrooke as well as the universities themselves; and

WHEREAS this would have the effect of making other Canadian universities more attractive alternatives and also lower Québec's position in the World University Rankings, potentially limiting Québec's ability to attract professors and secure grants and fellowships; and

WHEREAS the self-image of Québec as a welcoming society is being called into question; and

WHEREAS the damage has already been demonstrated in the marked decrease in applications received by English-speaking universities in Québec for 2024-2025.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** urges the Government of Québec to reverse the decision to increase the tuition fees for out-of-province students.

1 From Higher Education Minister Pascale Déry's letter of December 14, 2023, to the heads of Québec's English-language universities.



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Resolution 2024-03: Permanent English Voters' List for School Board Elections

WHEREAS the English school system is still governed by elected school board commissioners; and

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 children attend English public schools to be placed on the permanent English Voters' List; and

WHEREAS upon turning eighteen (18) years of age, individuals 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 upon turning eighteen (18) years of age, individuals who attended public schools in the English sector be automatically registered on the permanent English Voters' List.

Background:

QFHS 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
- 2021-05 English Voters' List



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Resolution 2024-04: Provincial In-School Food Program

WHEREAS many children start their day hungry because they do not have access to a healthy meal before they go to school; and

WHEREAS there is an ever-increasing number of children experiencing food insecurity, which creates additional barriers to accessing nutritious food; and

WHEREAS a recent survey indicates one in five Québec parents “fear food insecurity” and one in three parents are concerned about their financial situation;¹ and

WHEREAS it is estimated that only 9% of Québec schools have an in-school food program;² and

WHEREAS proper nutrition, along with a wellness policy that promotes student well-being and their ability to learn, is imperative to the health, development, and academic achievement of children; and

WHEREAS food insecurity in children is linked to lower reading and math scores, slower academic and social development, and may also lead to an increased risk of anxiety, hyperactivity, and aggression.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** advocates for a fully funded provincial in-school food program that will reduce food insecurity for children and youth across Québec; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** supports legislation to that end, along with provincial policies that include measurable goals and standards regarding child nutrition.

1 *From One Upheaval to the Next: The Impact of Social Crises on the Well-Being of Quebec Families (2024)*, The English Parents’ Committee Association (EPCA) and The Fédération des comités de parents du Québec (FCPQ)

2 Ibid.



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Resolution 2024-05: Cellphone Ban

WHEREAS the Government of Québec has ruled that all public elementary and secondary schools must have a policy restricting the use of cellphones in classrooms effective December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS school boards and school service centres will be responsible for establishing these rules and penalties; and

WHEREAS several countries have banned cellphones on school grounds for students of certain ages; and

WHEREAS these jurisdictions have found very positive outcomes as students are less distracted, more engaged, and show academic improvement and increased social interaction.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** supports a ban restricting cellphone use in the classroom; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** suggests that rather than penalties, the focus be placed on promoting responsible use of cellphones by educating students on such topics as phone etiquette, media literacy, technology addiction, reputable source recognition, safety, and security.