



QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS INC.
LA FÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DES ASSOCIATIONS FOYERS-ÉCOLES INC.

3285 Cavendish Blvd., Suite 560, Montreal, Quebec H4B 2L9
Tel: (514) 481-5619 Fax: (514) 481-5610 www.qfhsa.org e-mail: info@qfhsa.org

Adopted at AGM, May 2, 2015

RESOLUTION 2015/01 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

submitted by the Rights, Education and Resolutions Committee

Whereas a society that promotes diversity and inclusion in the community-at-large is in a better position to prosper intellectually, culturally and economically; and

Whereas in 2008 the Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sport implemented an Ethics and Religious Culture program whose ultimate goal is to prepare students to live in a pluralistic and democratic society; and

Whereas since the launch of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. in 1944, this organization has consistently upheld its policy of diversity and inclusion through its Constitution: to maintain a non-partisan, non-commercial, non-racial, and non-sectarian organization; and

Whereas in 2013 the Quebec Federation of Home and School Association Inc. upheld this constitutional principle in its brief to the Government of Quebec on *Bill 60: Charter affirming the values of State secularism and religious neutrality and of equality between women and men, and providing a framework for accommodation requests*

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. and its local associations continue to support and promote a policy of diversity and inclusion in all of its activities at home, in the school and in the wider community.

Destinations

Premier of Quebec and Minister responsible for Youth Issues
Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness
Minister of Culture and Communications
Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research
Council of Ministers of Education, Canada
Minister of Multiculturalism of Canada
Minister of State (Multiculturalism) of Canada
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages of Canada
Canadian Home and School Federation
Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada





QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS INC.
LA FÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DES ASSOCIATIONS FOYERS-ÉCOLES INC.

3285 Cavendish Blvd., Suite 560, Montreal, Quebec H4B 2L9

Tel: (514) 481-5619 Fax: (514) 481-5610 www.qfhsa.org e-mail: info@qfhsa.org

Advisory Board on English Education in Quebec
Conseil supérieur de l'éducation
Quebec English School Boards Association
Commission scolaire Littoral School Board
Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec
Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec
Association des cadres scolaires du Québec
Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers
Fédération des syndicats de l'enseignement
Fédération autonome de l'enseignement
English Parents' Committee Association
Fédération des comités de parents du Québec
Quebec Community Groups Network
Coalition for the Future of English Education in Quebec
College des medecins du Quebec
Federation des medecins specialists du Quebec
School Board Special Needs Committees
Ordre des Psychologues du Quebec
Ordre des travailleurs sociaux et therapeutes conjugaux du Quebec
LGBTQ Youth Centre
LAMBDA Foundation

BACKGROUND

This is a formal resolution based on a draft resolution presented for discussion at the 2014 QFHSA AGM. It was agreed by delegates to move forward with a Resolution to the 2015 QFHSA AGM.

- Quebec Education Act section 37

37. A school's educational project shall set out the specific aims and objectives of the school, and objectives for improving student success. It may include actions to promote those aims and objectives and integrate them into the life of the school.

Needs and priorities.

The aims and objectives of the project objectives shall be designed to ensure that the provincial educational policy defined by law, the basic school regulation and the programs of studies established by the Minister are implemented, adapted and enriched.

Respect of freedom.





QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS INC.
LA FÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DES ASSOCIATIONS FOYERS-ÉCOLES INC.

3285 Cavendish Blvd., Suite 560, Montreal, Quebec H4B 2L9
Tel: (514) 481-5619 Fax: (514) 481-5610 www.qfhsa.org e-mail: info@qfhsa.org

The educational project of the school must respect the freedom of conscience and of religion of the students, the parents and the school staff.

1988, c. 84, s. 37; 1997, c. 96, s. 13; 2000, c. 24, s. 20; 2002, c. 63, s. 4.

- Ethics And Religious Culture Program preamble (2008)

The Ethics and Religious Culture program constitutes the culmination of a long process during which the Québec school system has shifted away from essentially confessional structures and orientations—both Catholic and Protestant- to tentatively nonreligious structures.

While maintaining their specificity, both the ethics and the religious culture areas of instruction grant a common place to the **practice of dialogue** and share the same objectives: **the recognition of others** and **the pursuit of the common good**. By joining together in one program instruction in both ethics and religious culture, a certain continuity is ensured since the optional programs already included moral education...

...The Ethics and Religious Culture program offers students from all backgrounds the tools necessary for a better **comprehension of our society and its cultural and religious heritage**. Students are encouraged to **open themselves to the world** and to develop their ability to act with others. By grouping all the students together, rather than dividing them into groups according to their beliefs, and by promoting the development of attitudes of tolerance, respect and openness, **we are preparing them to live in a pluralist and democratic society**.

- QFHS Historical Context for Resolution 2015/01 - (see Citizenship Attachment)

Citizenship Committee

In 1947 the new Canadian Citizenship Act was passed. The federal government appealed to the public to help foster a sense of citizenship in Canadian children – especially for new immigrants. There was a belief that a nation's strength lay in its grassroots. The Canadian Home and School Parent-Teacher Federation and its provincial federations were expected to instill citizenship through their local associations. QFHS set up its first Citizenship Committee in the late 1940's.

In 1956 the Citizenship Committee, under the very capable chairmanship of Bill Asherman (Devonshire Home and School Association), worked tirelessly to help local associations welcome new immigrants and their children. He had a bank of translators helping to bring the message of Home and School to parents through pamphlets and flyers. Another important initiative was the organization of adult education language classes, particularly for new immigrants. Through the 1950s, 60s and 70s committee members met new Canadians arriving at the Port of Montreal. He sat on the Quebec and Canadian Citizenship





QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS INC.
LA FÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DES ASSOCIATIONS FOYERS-ÉCOLES INC.

3285 Cavendish Blvd., Suite 560, Montreal, Quebec H4B 2L9
Tel: (514) 481-5619 Fax: (514) 481-5610 www.qfhsa.org e-mail: info@qfhsa.org

Councils and took part in the swearing in ceremony of new Canadians. This was a singular accomplishment for QFHSA. Bill was responsible for our first History publication (March 1970).

The Outremont School Question was a situation where QFHSA played a key role in establishing the rights of all Canadians. Jewish children had been attending Protestant schools under special contracts for many years. The Outremont School Board Trustees moved to segregate these children when the contract renewal came up in 1947. There were signs of anti-Semitism in their actions. Outremont parents asked to form a Home and School Association and were accepted by the QFHSA Board of Directors. The Outremont School Board Trustees had said no to this request.

A special QFHSA Committee under the leadership of Muriel Duckworth (Willingdon Home and School Association) conducted a survey which revealed that, city-wide, most parents supported the Jewish community. The trustees were defeated in their move for segregation. QFHSA became an effective watchdog over the next few years, monitoring how well the trustees respected the terms of the contract and promoting the entrenchment of rights that would eliminate the need for any sort of contractual arrangement.

This was an achievement for social justice and laid the groundwork for QFHSA's reputation as a strong proponent of parental rights in education and strengthened their commitment to the values of citizenship. To this day the QFHSA Constitution states that the Federation maintain a non-partisan, non-commercial, non-racial and non-sectarian organization.

It is noteworthy that Muriel Duckworth moved to Nova Scotia shortly after completing this task. She went on to become a leading advocate in Canada in the area of social justice and was later awarded the Order of Canada. The Premier of Nova Scotia said *Muriel will be forever remembered as an ambassador of peace, defender of women's rights and champion of educational development*. Muriel passed away in August 2009 in her 101st year, at her home in the Eastern Townships.

The Committee was guided in its very extensive inquiry and report by the Home and School Creed which includes the following tenets:

That it should learn first hand all school conditions and all community conditions affecting the child. That it should be a co-operative, non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-commercial effort to produce Canadian citizens who shall be capable of perpetuating the best of our national life. That it brings the men and women of the community into touch with one another, thus helping to break down prejudice and misunderstandings, and develops a common interest in the home, the school and the community.

Excerpt from the QFHSA Report of the Committee Appointed to Study the Outremont School Situation, Montreal, May, 1947





QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS INC.
LA FÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DES ASSOCIATIONS FOYERS-ÉCOLES INC.

3285 Cavendish Blvd., Suite 560, Montreal, Quebec H4B 2L9
Tel: (514) 481-5619 Fax: (514) 481-5610 www.qfhsa.org e-mail: info@qfhsa.org

In addition, both the QFHS Education and Rights Committees have been instrumental in promoting and maintaining human rights, equality and social justice for every family in Quebec, regardless of race or creed.

Resource for 2015 AGM Resolution 2015/01 Cultural Diversity and Inclusion

QFHS Archives

Prepared by Marion Daigle, Resource, Rights, Education and Resolutions Committee Meeting,
March 25, 2015

