



Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations
The Voice of the Parent in Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The QFHSA Strongly Supports
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Request
to the Supreme Court of Canada
to Investigate the Possibility of
Regulating the Use of the Notwithstanding Clause**

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, Friday, February 3, 2023 — The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. (QFHSA) strongly supports the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, asking the Supreme Court of Canada to investigate the possibility of regulating the use of the Notwithstanding Clause.

The Notwithstanding Clause, contained in Section 33 of the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**, allows the federal parliament or provincial legislatures to override certain sections of the Charter and invoking it ahead of time prevents courts from weighing in.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has stated that provinces should not be pre-emptively using the Notwithstanding Clause, because it means "suspending fundamental rights and freedoms."

The present government of Québec has made use of the Notwithstanding Clause twice since forming government in 2018 — for Bill 21: *An Act respecting the laicity of the State* and Bill 96: *An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*.

The present government of Ontario pre-emptively used the Notwithstanding Clause to stop workers in the province's education sector from striking in 2022.

The QFHSA believes in an open and democratic society, one in which basic human rights and freedoms are protected and citizens have the right to challenge discriminatory legislation before the courts in Canada.

About Us: *The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. (QFHSA) is an independent, incorporated, not for profit volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the education and general well-being of children and youth. Since 1944, the QFHSA has been promoting the involvement of parents, students, educators and the community at large in the advancement of learning and acting as a voice for parents. For more information on the QFHSA, please visit qfhsa.org, follow us on [Facebook.com/qfhsa](https://www.facebook.com/qfhsa)*

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Carol Meindl at 514-481-5619 or email carolmeindl@qfhsa.org.

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