



QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS  
*THE VOICE OF THE PARENT IN EDUCATION*

# PRESS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## QFHSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISAPPOINTED BY VACANCIES IN 2024 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

**MONTREAL, QUÉBEC, October 15th, 2024** – The Board of Directors of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) is deeply disappointed by the absence of candidates in multiple wards for the upcoming School Board Elections. While election proceedings should be reopened in these wards, failure to produce a candidate a second time may result in the Education Minister **appointing** a Commissioner; one who is unlikely to represent our community or prioritize our best interests.

Now more than ever it is **imperative** that Quebec's English-speaking population clearly demonstrates its investment in education and its educational institutions. In 2020 due to Law 40, Quebec's nine English School Boards would have been transformed into School Service Centres controlled by Boards of Directors – for the most part appointed rather than elected – alongside their French counterparts if not for the intervention of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA); the stay that the QESBA managed to obtain, however, is only **temporary** pending a final court decision on the law's constitutionality in denying our minority language community's right to self-governance.

In light of this ongoing battle, this year's School Board Elections are our best chance to send the Government of Quebec a strong and unified message: WE TAKE OUR RIGHTS AND EDUCATION SERIOUSLY. So far, with some wards unrepresented and many positions filled through acclamation, our showing has been lacklustre. And make no mistake, the government will consider anything less than large-scale participation to be proof that not only is our community unconcerned and apathetic, but also that our resistance is petty, symbolic, and easily overcome.

But it's not too late. If you're in an unrepresented ward, declare your candidacy in the reopened proceedings. If you're unable to do so, find and support someone who is. Spread the word on the significance of the upcoming elections; how voter turnout will reflect on our values and resilience, and how a lack thereof may have unintended yet devastating consequences. Ensure your family, friends, and neighbours are registered on the voter's list. And most importantly, GET OUT AND VOTE.

**On Election Day, Sunday, November 3rd, we must make ourselves heard!**

Please visit your school board's website for more information.

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**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](http://qfhsa.org), follow us on [Facebook.com/qfhsa](https://www.facebook.com/qfhsa), [Instagram.com/QFHSA](https://www.instagram.com/QFHSA), and [X \(formerly Twitter\) @QFHSA](https://twitter.com/QFHSA).

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