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# QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

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## 1997 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### BOOK OF REPORTS

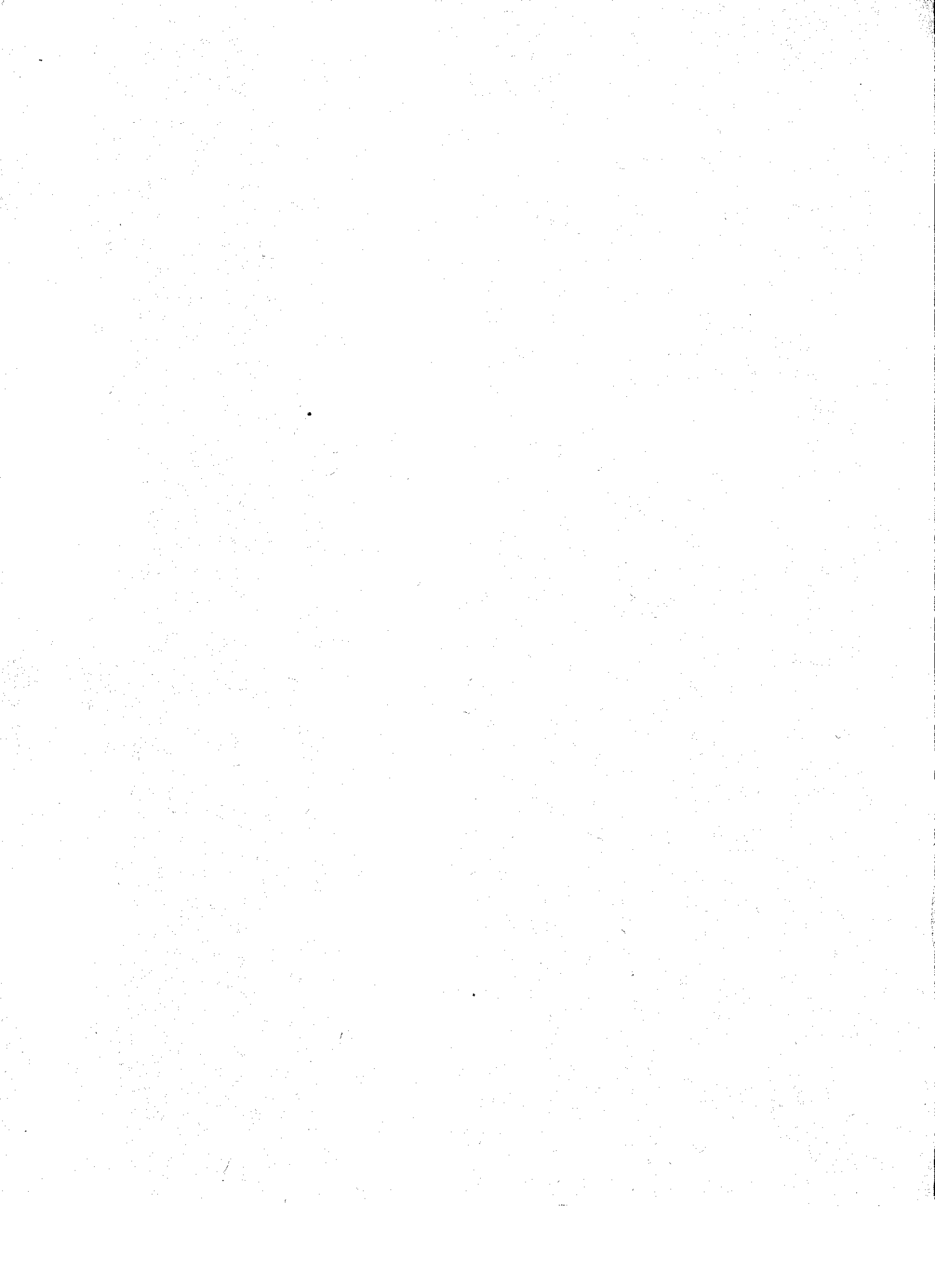
April 26, 1997

Meeting held at:  
Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire  
6700 Trans-Canada Highway  
Pointe-Claire, Quebec

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A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN HOME AND SCHOOL AND PARENT-TEACHER FEDERATION



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## MINUTES OF THE 52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS HELD MAY 04, 1996, AT THE ROYAL MONTREAL GOLF CLUB

Registered and present during the May 03-04, 1996, Annual General Meeting (AGM) were 91 people, including six guests. Twenty-four local Home & School Associations (out of a possible 50) were represented. Due to space limitations and a very crowded schedule, we did not have any commercial or educational displays.

The Annual Business Meeting was officially opened on Saturday morning, May 04, 1996, by the President, Patricia Waters (8:45 am).

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The President welcomed delegates and others present at our 52nd AGM. Mentioned that the delegates were welcome to take a tour of the club house during a break period. The head table was introduced: Helen Koeppe, Past President of the Canadian Home & School and Parent-Teacher Federation and Special Advisor to the Executive Committee; Miriam Lalande, Executive Vice-President; Debi Brown, Treasurer; Wendy Buchanan, Past President and Acting Recording Secretary. Other members of the Executive Committee were introduced: Vice-Presidents Rickhey Langlois, Barbara Page (in charge of AGM arrangements), Margaret Funnell, Jocelyne Pickler, Ann Bishundayal (helping with registration), and Allan Locke, Past Co-President.

### 2. Appointments

#### Parliamentarian

**MOTION:** Koeppe (Director)/Amarica (Director) to appoint Marion Roberts as parliamentarian. CARRIED

#### Credentials Chairman

**MOTION:** Marrett(Westmount High)/Pickler(Director and Courtland Park) to appoint Ann Bishundayal as Credentials Chairman. CARRIED

#### Scrutineer

**MOTION:** Solomon (Director and Westpark)/Koeppe that Nancy Peppy and Ben Durand be appointed as scrutineer. CARRIED

Ann Bishundayal reported that, at this moment, there were 15 schools present and that, therefore, we have a quorum.

### 3. Adoption of Agenda

**MOTION:** Langlois(Director and E.P. Harwood)/Page(Director and E.P. Harwood) to adopt agenda. CARRIED

### 4. Adoption of Minutes 51st Annual General Meeting (1995) (pp.1-6, Bk of Rpts)

**MOTION:** Cumyn(Director)/Bishundayal(Director and Elizabeth Ballantyne) to adopt the 1995 Minutes. CARRIED



5. Presidents' Report (p.7, Book of Reports)

Pat Waters spoke briefly to her report; said she really appreciated all the help she had received.

**MOTION:** Waters(Director and Beaconsfield High)/Straughton(Director and Macdonald High) that this report be accepted. **CARRIED**

6. Finance Committee Report (p.23, Book of Reports)

Debi Brown, Treasurer, reported that QFHSA had a surplus this year. Thanked the Board of Directors for keeping budget on track. Noted they had purchased one new computer last year; in process of acquiring another one.

**MOTION:** Brown(Director and Aylmer)/Koepe moved adoption of auditor's report, circulated to local associations prior to the annual meeting. **CARRIED**

Proposed Budget 1996/97 (p.24, Book of Reports)

We are anticipating an increase in membership. Would also like to return to five issues of the NEWS per year rather than current four. Would like to have two full-time staff and bring in proper work stations for the computers.

With regard to the Membership Development Grant from the Canadian Heritage department, it is expected to remain the same (\$17,000). It may be possible through the Quebec Community Groups, which encompasses QFHSA and other anglophone groups in Quebec, to receive help with obtaining the second computer; they want everyone to be capable of communicating electronically.

**MOTION:** Brown/MacWhirter (Director and New Carlisle High) to accept the budget.

**CARRIED**

Helen Koepe extended a vote of thanks to our treasurer for her service for past five years.

President wished delegates to note that all members of the Executive are wearing yellow and green crocheted flowers thanks to Barbara Page and her mother. Evaluation forms are on bright pink paper in delegates' kits; please do not forget to fill them in before leaving.

7. Book of Reports 1995 - recommendationsNominations Committee (p.32, Book of Reports)

Chairmen Wendy Buchanan and Allan Locke noted that all positions had been filled with exception of Recording Secretary.

**MOTION:** Buchanan(Director)/Locke(Director) to accept the slate as presented.

**CARRIED**

Resolutions Committee (p.35, Book of Reports)

#1**MOTION:** Koepe/Langlois that a Resolutions How-to and information workshop be considered as part of the Fall Leadership Conference 1996. **CARRIED**

#2**MOTION:** Koepe/Tansey(Director and E.P. Harwood) that all Statements of policy be studied and reaffirmed ten years following their adoption. **CARRIED**

#3**MOTION:** Koepe/Tansey that the Resolutions Committee meet early in the new school year to review current Statements of Policy. **CARRIED**

Student Accident Insurance (p.38, Book of Reports)

**MOTION:** Lalonde(Director and Lachine High)/Locke to continue with the Reliable Life Insurance Student/Family Accident insurance plan for the 1996/97 school year. **CARRIED**

Remaining Reports (see Book of Reports)

**MOTION:** Page/Straughton to accept remaining reports en bloc. **CARRIED**

Education Committee (p.21, Book of Reports)

Ann Cumyn, chair, noted that 22 schools had made submissions to QFHSA Booklet of Children's Writings. Canada Post has given us \$300 toward the cost of printing the booklet, with the stipulation that we publicize their contribution.

Health Issues Committee (pp.25-26, Book of Reports)

Shirley Straughton, chair, reported on the compulsory CPR project for grade 9 students, to take place within the phys. ed. curriculum. Boards signed up for the pilot project are Lakeshore, PSBGM and Baldwin Cartier. Cost of the project: West Island \$35,000; PSBGM \$80,000. Macdonald High Home & School has donated \$200 towards the project; Dorset Home & School \$100. Shirley challenged other schools to match this, also asked if anyone could help in any way at all.

PAPT/PACT Curriculum Council (p.17, Book of Reports)

Alice MacLeod, liaison, was asked if it were true that English speaking students will have their own exams this year, as she had reported. Answer: yes.

Prior to the Nutrition Break and the two Caucusing Sessions, the President explained the slightly different format for caucusing this year.

Following the two caucus sessions, while waiting for the Resolutions Chair and caucus leaders to discuss changes brought forward, Anne MacWhirter, Gaspé Area Rep, spoke about the Computer/Circus Camp for Kids/Bread & Breakfast raffle available from their area. Schools sell tickets (usually \$1/ticket) for the package (can sell as many or as few as they wish). Reported that Baie Comeau Home & School had held a raffle and made \$1200; PEI \$400. The camp package is for one child; the accompanying B&B for two adults; transportation is responsibility of the individual.

8. Resolutions (on green, circulated prior to AGM)

Helen Koepp, Resolutions Chair, spoke briefly to the disposition of 1995 resolutions (p.35, Book of Reports).

96/1 - DIPLOMAS - EQUIVALENT HIGH SCHOOL LEAVING

**MOTION:** Brown/Cumyn to adopt the resolution.

Debi Brown spoke in favour of the resolution. There is only one High School Leaving recognized and you must pass it. Students who are learning disabled with severe language

processing difficulties, who are capable of passing the HSL requirements, except for the second language are few, but the impact on them of this "failure" is far reaching and not, we feel, fair.

Ann Cumyn, QFHSA Education Committee Chair, suggested that the two "resolveds" in this resolution be separated with the first Be It Resolved remaining a part of the resolution and that the second one be tabled for study by the Education Committee, and to be brought forward for the 1997 AGM. This amendment was accepted by Aylmer Home & School, the movers of the resolution, voted on and carried.

Helen Koepp reported that the caucusing sessions had made changes to the Therefore Be It Resolved, so that it now reads:

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED .... Minister of Education to *extend the derogation from the second language requirement in the High School Diploma* to students with documented speech/language disabilities. [italics represent proposed amendments]

The resolution, and the problems facing this group of students, was discussed.

**Vote on amended resolution.**

**CARRIED**

#### 96/2 - ACCESS TO ENGLISH EDUCATION

**MOTION:** Cumyn/Langlois to adopt the resolution.

Ann Cumyn spoke to the resolution. This resolution is an up-date from our 1993 resolution on the Task Force on English Education. We wanted to reconfirm this resolution for the new Minister of Education's scrutiny to see if she shows signs of wanting English people to remain, and flourish, in this province, and to reaffirm our memberships' desire to widen access to English language education.

Suggestion made that we bring the resolution forward again in 1997 and change "parent" to read "parent/legal guardian" [this is part of Recommendation (1) of the Task Force Report].

Suggestion also made that our resolutions should be translated into French.

Add to destinations: Alliance Quebec and the FCPPQ.

**Vote on resolution.**

**CARRIED**

#### 96/3 - LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR PARTICIPANTS OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**MOTION:** Lalande/Funnell(Director) to adopt the resolution.

Miriam Lalande, Exec. V.P., spoke to the resolution which is an up-date of one we passed in 1990. Local associations should be approaching their school boards to make certain they are covered by their insurance policy.

Suggestions put forward from caucusing: In the third WHEREAS delete "physical" from phrase "within the physical premises of the school". Accepted.

In the THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, item #1. Add "liability" so that it reads "comprehensive *liability* insurance coverage" and delete the words "for students of the school".

(1) now reads: to provide the necessary comprehensive liability insurance coverage protecting all the participants from any and all mishaps which may occur during extra-curricular activities organized by Home and School Associations; and

**Vote on amended resolution.**

**CARRIED**



Added to destinations: Quebec Association of School Administrators and the FCPPQ.

**96/4E - EFFECT OF BUDGET CUTS ON EDUCATION**

**MOTION:** Pickler (Director and Courtland Park)/Page to accept this emergency resolution.

Proposed amendment to the **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** had been put forward by E.P. Harwood. This was accepted by caucusing sessions, but was broken into two **Therefore Be It Further Resolved**. This now reads:

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations urge the Minister of Education to concentrate on providing, as an absolute minimum standard, the current level of support services and assistance available to students at the classroom level in the public schools of Quebec; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations urge the Minister of Education to intensify its commitment to increasing the minimum standards of service for the benefit of all students and the society in which they will live.

It was also suggested that the word "strongly" be inserted before "urge the Government of Quebec" in the **Therefore Be It Resolved**. Accepted.

**Vote on amended resolution.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Added to destinations: Conseil du patronat du Québec, Conference Board of Canada and Ministre de l'industrie, commerce, science et technologie.

**96/5E - THE NEED FOR SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH DIFFICULTIES THROUGH THE FIRST CYCLE OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**MOTION:** Cumyn/Tansey (E.P. Harwood) to accept this emergency resolution.

Small changes were proposed by the caucusing sessions. To add to the **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** .... to provide the means of identification of difficulties and *to provide* the support to address these difficulties not only for 4 and 5 year old kindergarten children but *also* for students in the first cycle of elementary school. [This final **Therefore be it resolved** incorporates the QFHSA motion and the one proposed by E.P. Harwood.]

This resolution was thoroughly discussed by the voting delegates.

**Vote on resolution with changes.**

**CARRIED (2 abstentions)**

[Abstentions were: F Agnew (E.P. Harwood) and D Lanyi (Aylmer)].

**96/6E - THE NEED FOR ACQUIRING EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS IN HIGH SCHOOL**

**MOTION:** Cumyn/Rodgers (Beechwood) to accept this emergency resolution. E.P. Harwood had proposed a slightly different **Therefore Be It Resolved** and this was accepted by the Caucusing Sessions, with changes. It now reads:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** .... to encourage throughout the curriculum the opportunity for all students to develop job search and employability skills.

Resolution was discussed by the delegates.

**Vote on amended resolution.**

**CARRIED (For 34; Against 12; Abstentions 3)**

Added to destinations: Conference Board of Canada, Conseil du patronat du Québec, Ministre de l'industrie, commerce, science et technologie, Fédération du CEGEPs, and all local Home & School Associations.

The delegates were thanked for their participation. Suggestion made that some of the resolutions be sent to selected MNAs. Also felt, very strongly, that translation into French be considered.

Additions to QFHSA Statement of Policy, April 1995 (circulated earlier)

The two new proposed additions, under HEALTH, were:

Add #18: Inclusion of Hepatitis B vaccination under the Québec Medicare Plan.

Add #19: Provision of readily accessible and appropriate professional intervention and support for children at risk, regardless of where they live.

The additions were accepted by the delegates.

President thanked Helen Koeppé for ably chairing the Resolutions portion of the AGM.

9. Adjournment

Just prior to adjournment, it was noted that the Think Tank would be held at our office on Wednesday, September 04; the Fall Conference on Saturday, October 26 at John Rennie High School.

**MOTION:** Langlois/Solomon that there being no further business the meeting be adjourned [12:40 pm].

## QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

President's Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Pat Waters, President

As President of QFHSA for the second year of my term, I discovered that it really is the energy and dedication of volunteer power that holds this organization together. As these volunteers worked through the Fall of our "New Directions in Education" theme year, we were able to discuss and expand on new and innovative ideas at the annual Think Tank and Fall Conference.

Sue Spencer and Anna Marrett were our presenters at the Think Tank on September 4th. We brainstormed, we laughed and we cried through their presentations on an analysis of the logo for "New Directions in Education" and "Membership - a 1996 Priority."

Our Fall Conference on October 26 at John Rennie High School, Pointe-Claire, was a huge success thanks to the hard work and dedication of Wendy Buchanan and her committee. We ran 12 workshops, served a light buffet lunch and window-shopped through a hallway filled with interesting and colorful displays. Thanks also to Norma Cheng for organizing the luncheon and hospitality.

On January 30, 1997, the Mid-Term Executive workshop featured another talented volunteer, Lynda Kowalenko, who presented "Building a Strong Team." This was a presentation on goal setting and working towards Home and School objectives. She emphasized the need to team-build while striving towards a common vision for your school.

On the educational side, we continued our liaisons with the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers (PAPT); Superior Council of Education, Protestant Committee; the Quebec School Boards Association (QSBA); the PAPT/PACT Curriculum Council; the Association of Moral and Religious Educators of Quebec (AMREQ); and the Council on English Language Education (CELE).

The second phase of the Estates General proved to be a challenge as we were invited to present at the provincial meetings in September. A team of six very capable Home and Schoolers presented over the five days: Allan Locke, Rickhey Margolese, Miriam Lalande, Alice MacLeod, Terri Tansey and Pat Waters.

As we entered into our new theme year, "Adjusting to Change," we were presented with changes within our own organization. Miriam Lalande investigated the need for the Board of Directors liability insurance and spearheaded the "Good Business Practices" project. She chaired the Constitution Committee as it pursued the need for changes to the Bylaws. We now find ourselves facing the future with a smaller, more efficient Board of Directors and possibly fewer meetings! Our committee network will be more important than ever, as well as input from the local level.

cont'd...

Being President of the Association has proved to be a real learning experience. I refer back to our 1996 Think Tank presentation on "Managing Volunteer Time," when I say I felt like a master juggler trying hard not to drop any of the plates. Some of these plates stayed up for a few minutes, some for the whole act, and one or two hit the floor with a crash! The important thing is to remember "why" we are even performing the juggling act.

To the new Board of Directors for 1997-98, I wish you wisdom in choosing your goals and the strength to accomplish them. Thanks to all of the staff in our QFHSA office!

## CANADIAN HOME & SCHOOL FEDERATION

Report to the Annual General Meeting, April 26, 1997

Submitted by Pat Waters, President

Events at the Canadian Home & School office have been interesting this year as sudden and unexpected changes have brought some instability. The fragile state of our national organization is due to the loss of our project coordinator and acting executive director and the transition the national office is going through. The new Executive Director, Joan Berntson, has been struggling to run an office, fundraise and write applications for federal projects. Due to the lack of funds we are looking for cheaper office space, we have let the secretary go and Joan has not been paid since Christmas! Needless to say, C.H.S.F. is hanging by a thread!

Highlights of the year are as follows:

1. Pat Waters and Executive Vice-President Miriam Lalonde attended the Canadian Home & School Federation Mid-term meeting in Ottawa, November 7-9, 1996.

On the Thursday evening we listened to a panel discussion on "What's Happening to Public Education in Canada". How will we cope with the next round of cuts? To sum things up, they said that education should be simpler; it is becoming too complex! The curriculum should be designed so that our children can move into the 'world of work' and be prepared with the necessary skills. "STUDENTS ARE OUR FUTURE. THEY WILL DETERMINE THE SURVIVAL OF OUR SOCIETY".

The remainder of the meetings covered provincial issues and concerns and CHSF business. Highlights were:

- the introduction of Joan Berntson, Executive Director
  - discussion on the fee structure
  - Sharon Hurd of New Brunswick was proposed for Life Membership
  - Anne White, the Past-President, asked to be excused from duties as she is the new executive director of N.S.H.S.A.
  - fundraising schemes were discussed and "The Spirit of Christmas" poster sales took place as well as Optex Safety straps and the "Two Ravens" book set.
2. Helen Koepp and Pat Waters attended the Council of Ministers of Education (CMEC) meetings in Edmonton May 9-12, 1996. Partners from across Canada met and discussed such issues as the values and quality of our Canadian education system.
  3. The booklet "The Electronic Classroom" was printed and is available from our office.
  4. A "Computers for Schools, Phase II" project is about to take place and will continue to feed our schools with much needed computers.

## **GASPÉ AREA REPORT**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Anne MacWhirter, Area Rep

We continue to have three active Home and School groups on the Gaspésie.

In **New Richmond**, parents continue to be involved in many activities such as:

September	-	supplying hot dogs on "Hat Day"
November	-	annual book fair
December	-	Christmas dinner for all staff and students
February	-	participated in Drug Awareness Week
March	-	providing nutritious snacks
May	-	sponsoring public speaking events

In addition, hot lunches are served as a fund-raiser as well as a service to parents and students. Money raised goes towards small excursions at the end of the year for each class.

In **New Carlisle**, the Home and School remains a vital part of school life. Last year, a breakfast program was begun and continues on this year as well. Parents and teachers feel that this is a worthwhile program.

The Annual Bazaar and casserole supper was once again a success. Meetings are held alternate months with an executive meeting held before each regular meeting.

In **Shigawake, Port-Daniel**, a small group of parents keeps Home and School running smoothly.

A Hallowe'en basket (not all candy) was raffled. On Hallowe'en, parents came in to paint faces. This was appreciated by the children in all grades.

A book fair was held in November, bringing in some new books to the library. Some funds were given to the school to purchase computer software.

A full buffet breakfast has been served twice this year to all students. Parents supply the groceries and students pay a small fee.

Home and School helped to fund a first aid training course given to Grades 5 and 6 by a local ambulance driver. It was given in school time with students paying only \$5.00 per child and Home and School funding the balance.

The group assists the end of the year trips and engraving of trophies for graduation day.

The Gaspé area Home and School groups continue to be very active and involved.

**LAKESHORE III - AREA REPORT**  
 Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997  
Submitted by Sue Spencer-Embury

The schools included in this area include: Dorset Elementary in Baie d'Urfé, Edgewater Elementary in Pincourt, Evergreen Elementary in Saint-Lazare, École Primaire Harwood in Dorion-Vaudreuil, Hudson High School in Hudson Heights, and Mount Pleasant Elementary in Hudson. The schools located off the island of Montreal represent an enrollment of approximately 2,500 students in the Lakeshore School Board.

The adjustment of school boundaries has been a major concern, both as a LSB decision regarding the division between Dorset and Edgewater as well as the recent proposals of the Minister of Education to align these western off-island schools with the South Shore Regional School Board. It is possible that these problems are influencing membership in Home and School associations. Government-imposed reductions in education budgets have also resulted in serious concerns about the viability of schools and maintaining the quality of education.

Nevertheless, most of the local associations continue to offer strong support to their schools. Edgewater, for example, sponsored a successful fundraising for its computer program. To the delight of the students, the Edgewater School Playground Committee officially opened the new activity play area. Other events throughout the year have included a Remembrance Day Service, student leadership training, computer classes, Christmas concerts and food baskets for needy families, and the Adopt-a-Reader literacy program involving students and volunteers.

École Primaire Harwood had a new acting principal and a new French immersion program. One of its students, Sean Seeberg, won first place in an international contest held by La Semaine de la Francophonie and was honored in Quebec City in March for his poem. Other school activities included a Bus Driver Appreciation Day in April and a Family Fun Night scheduled for June.

Dorset began the year with its annual Family BBQ which raised funds for playground equipment and celebrated the holidays with a very successful Christmas Fair. A percentage of the book fair proceeds held throughout the year at Mount Pleasant added many books to the school library. The H&S also helps fund many of the special events and programs for the children.

**WESTMOUNT AND OFF-ISLAND - AREA REPORT [CONTACT]**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Margaret Funnell - Vice-President, Membership Development

Roslyn, Westmount High, Howick, Ayer's Cliff and Baie Comeau Home and School Presidents or Liaison Representatives, as well as the Gaspé area representative, were contacted by telephone during the year. In general, QFHSA messages to locals were passed along, questions were answered and concerns were noted. Home and Schoolers were interested in the question of general and personal liability. As a result of these CONTACT calls, trips are planned to Ayer's Cliff, Baie Comeau and the Gaspé.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1996**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by the office

The theme for the 52st Annual Convention was *New Directions in Education*. For the second time the Saturday conference was held at the Royal Montreal Golf Club on Ile Bizard, a gracious setting which everyone enjoyed.

### **Early Bird Special**

For the fourth consecutive year this Friday evening session was held at the QFHSA office. This net-working opportunity was attended by about a dozen people, including the Area Rep from the Gaspé, three delegates from Aylmer, and a representative from the Frontier College literacy project. A catered light meal was served.

### **Business Meeting**

Three resolutions previously circulated and three emergency resolutions were discussed in two caucus sessions and passed in the business meeting. The delegates accepted the proposed 1996/97 budget; there was no change in the family membership fee of \$13. A complete account of the business proceedings appears in the Official Minutes.

### **Awards**

The Gordon Paterson Award for outstanding service to the education of children and for encouraging parent participation in school life was presented to Kathleen Cumming, retiring teacher at Willingdon Elementary School in Montreal.

The recipient of the Buzzell Award for outstanding service to QFHSA was Helen Koepp, past president of QFHSA and CHSPTF, and currently serving as a special advisor to the QFHSA Executive Committee and as chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

During the luncheon the Golden Torch and Unsung Hero certificates were presented to those selected for this honour by their Home & School Associations. Schools recognized for their outstanding achievements for membership & newsletters were given books donated by Reader's Digest.

### **Program**

The installation of officers was conducted by Helen Koepp, Past-President of QFHSA and CHSPTF. Following the luncheon, guest speaker Maureen Morris, president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and a teacher with the Lakeshore School Board, addressed the topic of the CTF study on the state of education, the *National Issues in Education Initiative*.

### **Registration**

There were 91 people attending, of whom 6 were guests. Of the 50 Home and School Associations, 24 schools were represented. Lunch was served to 87. Floral centerpieces for the luncheon tables were made by students of Ecole Primaire Harwood and Ecole Primaire Pierrefonds. Students from five schools created the placemats: Ecole Primaire Harwood, Ecole Primaire Pierrefonds, Aylmer Elementary, Elizabeth Ballantyne Elementary, and New Carlisle High School.



**QFHSA FALL CONFERENCE - October 26, 1996**  
 Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997  
Submitted by the office

**Program**

The very successful 1996 Fall Conference was once again held at John Rennie High School in Pointe Claire. Following the early morning registration and President Pat Waters's opening address, participants could choose from a dozen different workshops divided into three sessions. The theme of the conference was "New Directions in Education: Kids First!"

**Session I Workshops - Educational**

- |    |                                             |                              |
|----|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Exploring the Internet                      | John Closs, Bill Pawlowski   |
| 2. | Curious? Then You're Ready for Science!     | Kevin O'Donnell              |
| 3. | Preparing our Children for "Life's Journey" | Suzanne Longpré              |
| 4. | Responsibility and Homework                 | Charlotte Taylor, Pat Waters |

**Session II Workshops - Leadership**

- |    |                                     |                                                            |
|----|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5. | Executive Challenges & Expectations | Miriam Lalande, Marion Daigle                              |
| 6. | "Reach Out and Touch Someone"       | Dorothy Nixon                                              |
| 7. | Capturing and Keeping Volunteers    | Sheila Dunwoodie                                           |
| 8. | How to Make a Million               | Anne Williams, Debi Book,<br>Johanne Lazniak, Anna Marrett |

**Session III Workshops - Parenting**

- |     |                                    |                         |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 9.  | Tough Love                         | Jim Thomerson           |
| 10. | Identifying and Dealing with Anger | Margaret Mitchell       |
| 11. | Family Matters                     | Beverly & Roger Plourde |
| 12. | Surviving the Adolescent Years     | Eleanor and Ruth Arless |

**Registration**

Of the 182 delegates registered prior to the conference, 22 did not attend, but two additional people came that day. In addition to the delegates, there were twelve workshop leaders, organizers, and resource people.

**Hospitality**

A buffet luncheon was catered by Ste-Genevieve United Church Womens Group. Of the 180 lunches ordered, approximately 174 were served. With the generous servings, the extra sandwiches and vegetables were donated to Le Bon Dieu dans la Rue. Apples were donated by Macdonald College and muffins for nutrition breaks were supplied by the Home & School Associations at Windermere, Edinburgh and Greendale schools.

**Displayers**

There were eleven display tables with a diverse group of ideas and products to share with the delegates.

**THINK TANK**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Pat Waters - President

The Think Tank was held on September 4, 1996 at the QFHSA office and the Szechuan buffet restaurant located on the ground floor of the Cavendish office building. It was one week later this year due to suggestions on the evaluation form last year. The turn out proved to be a few more, but there was no major increase in numbers as we totalled forty-three people for dinner.

Anna Marrett started the program with an open discussion on the program illustration for our theme this year - "New Directions in Education: Kids First!" Each table was given a copy of the drawing and asked to discuss what they see in it. This proved to be a very interesting and insightful way to introduce the Fall Conference! Some comments were:

- education is a journey onward and upward as illustrated by the arrows.
- the upward arrow with the old school house and the row of resource books represents the solid foundation of education.
- the horizontal arrow with the key board and chemistry equipment represents future technology and hands-on learning.
- the children's parade symbolizes the progression of education and that learning can be fun.

Anna's presentation was followed by Sue Spencer who also did an excellent job leading the group in a discussion about membership.

People were asked what their problems and concerns were in recruiting volunteers. Some were:

- How do we reach all of the types of volunteer parents?
- What do we tell people what they are getting for their membership fee?
- Why do we have a Home & School Association?
- We are considered a fundraising committee of the School Committee in some schools!
- How do we deal with "cliques"?
- High School students don't want their parents in the school!

**MID-TERM EXECUTIVE MEETING - JANUARY 30, 1997**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Pat Waters, President

The annual Mid-Term Executive meeting was held at the QFHSA office on January 30, 1997. It was a workshop led by Lynda Kowalenko, President of the Lakeshore Regional Council of Home & School Associations, entitled "Building a Strong Team". She emphasized that leadership was a process and had the participants define goals and objectives for their own school communities. It is the job of the president or chairman to help the group define its desires and to plan how this objective will be reached. Tasks are the means to an end. In some cases, fundraising might be the task used to help achieve that goal!

We also reviewed the Mission Statement of QFHSA and parts of the Leadership Handbook.

Anna Marrett wrote a review of this event for the QFHSA NEWS, March edition.

**LAKESHORE REGIONAL COUNCIL (LRC)***Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997*Submitted by Lynda Kowalenko, LRC President

Throughout the year presidents or the designated representative of Home and School School Associations of the Lakeshore School Board meet to exchange information, offer support and leadership to new executives. Guest speakers are often invited to share their expertise on topics relating to education and the welfare of children. Liaison is maintained with the Lakeshore School Board. Meetings were chaired by the president, Lynda Kowalenko, of Dorset Home & School Association.

Although many interesting topics were on the agenda, some of the subjects discussed during the course of the year were:

- Consultation on the LSB Calendar
- Criteria for selection of school principals
- School operating budgets
- Possible changes in school board boundaries
- Priority of physical education in elementary schools
- Ideas for the celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week
- Community programs for children with specific needs

**PAPT/PACT CURRICULUM COUNCIL***Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997*Submitted by Alice MacLeod, Liaison

Meetings of the Curriculum Council were held on October 2/96, November 6/96 and February 5/96.

There has been much discussion at Curriculum Council about the continued difference in failure rates in MEQ exams in science and math between the English sector and the French sector. The revised exams given in June 1996 did not result in a marked decrease in the difference in failure rates between the two sectors as had been anticipated – the failure rate in the English sector is still 5% to 19% higher than the French sector and remains a serious concern. Further analysis is being done on the results to see if the reasons for this can be determined. An analysis will be done of the June 1997 mathematics results. The outcome of the Estates General was also discussed as well as the timeline and measures to be taken under the "New Directions".

Evaluation reports for Mathematics, Cycle I, Secondary and Elementary Sciences programs should be complete by June 1997. The evaluation of Physical Science 416/436 should be ready for initial review by then as well.

The list of proposals received and those accepted under the Professional Enhancement Opportunities for Practicing Teachers was received.

Work is ongoing with examination of the teaching of mathematics and the new mathematics program for Secondary I and II.

**QUEBEC SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (QSBA)**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Pat Waters, President

The QSBA meeting of September 20th was held at Centennial High School in Greenfield Park. Members attending were given a quick tour of the school and heard a presentation by the Principal on how their school has managed to produce a 0.2% drop-out rate!

Business discussed was as follows:

- Canadian School Boards Association - new president is Donna Camsfield (Toronto board).
- Joint conference for '98 tentatively planned for July or September in Quebec City.
- National Consultation on School Success with Mme Blackburn presentation made in August. This was the first round. QSBA might have observer status at the second consultation.

At the meeting of October 25, it was reported that:

- The Minister of Transport was to release a report within the next few weeks. Reduction in future funding is forecast.
- For World Teachers Day, QSBA along with the Fédération des Commissions Scolaire du Québec and the Minister of Education signed a joint declaration in tribute to teachers (October 5).
- QSBA was invited by Premier Lucien Bouchard to attend the recent Economic Summit in Montreal as an observer.
- A Coalition Press release was circulated regarding opposition to the future cuts in education.
- A protocol is being developed jointly by the PSBGM and the MUC Police regarding tracking of pedophiles seeking employment.

In January 1997, items of business included:

- Elaine Freeland, MEQ Assistant Deputy Minister, presented findings on high school leaving exams and made recommendations for next year.
- More teacher training will take place for the new math program in the high schools.

**AWARDS**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Wendy Buchanan, Past President

The Awards Selection Committees met on March 21, 1997 to open the letters of nomination for the Buzzell and Paterson awards and the Lewis Peace Prize. It was difficult to make decisions *due to the caliber of the nominees. The members of the committees were:*

Buzzell Award:	Pat Waters, Miriam Lalande, Debi Brown Jocelyne Pickler, Sue Spencer
Paterson Award:	Wendy Buchanan, Allan Locke, Margaret Funnell Rickhey Margolese, Shirley Straughton
Lewis Peace Prize:	Miriam Lalande, Karen Bilton, Ann Cumyn, Barbara Page

The winner of the 1997 Paterson Award, given to an educator for long service to the education of children in Quebec and who has encouraged the participation of parents in the educational scene, is Lois Pineault. Ms. Pineault is currently teaching at Valois Park School in Pointe-Claire.

The winner of the 1997 Buzzell Award, designed to recognize outstanding service to QFHSA and to the cause of furthering the aims of Home & School and education in general, is Margaret Funnell. Margaret is currently a Vice-President and Chairman of the Membership Development Committee of QFHSA.

The winners of the 1997 Lewis Peace Prize, given for the first time this year, are the student councils of John Rennie High School/Ecole Secondaire Pointe-Claire. This award recognizes an individual, or a group, who has made a significant contribution towards peace.

The Committees express appreciation to the Local Associations for their essential participation in this process and encourage even more to take part next year.

## CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Miriam Lalande, chairman

In reviewing Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations By-Laws as part of our board *development process*, we were advised by our legal counsel that we should compare our current by-laws to the standard set of by-laws recommended by Quebec for all corporations falling under Part III of the Quebec Companies Act - as does QFHSA. Legal counsel suggested that we should use the standard set and make recommendations for changes where appropriate to create an amalgam between the current by-laws and the standard.

As part of its work for this year, the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules Committee is **recommending the following amendments to the BY-LAWS for consideration at the 1997 Annual General Meeting:**

- A: That Quebec Federation of Home and Schools Associations Inc. adopt and confirm the Quebec Companies Act, Part III, BY-LAW NUMBER 1: GENERAL BY-LAWS as the basis of its By-Laws, with the following nuances to be noted for clarity: That the **Directors shall be elected** at the Annual General Meeting, that the **quorum** at all Board and Committee meetings be a simple majority.
- B: That the **Financial Year** be January 1 to December 31. Note that the membership year will remain September 1 to August 31.
- C: That the **number of Directors** elected to the Board be limited to fifteen, including the Past President who will de facto become a member of the Board of Directors.
- D: That each Director shall hold **office** for a **term** of two (2) years; to allow for continuity, only half the number of Directors will be eligible for election every year.
- E: That the **Officers shall be elected from amongst the Board of Directors** at the Annual General Meeting and may consist of the following: President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Executive Vice-President and **two** Vice-Presidents.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS YEAR ONLY:**

- F: That the **Membership Status** of the Family, Local Associations and Affiliates remain as stated in the present By-Laws of QFHSA until reviewed for presentation at the next AGM.
- G: That the **Voting Rights** of the Local Associations and **Quorum for the Annual General Meeting** remain the same as stated in the present By-Laws of QFHSA until reviewed for presentation at the next AGM.

**RECOMMENDATION:** -----  
That the voting delegates at the Annual General meeting of April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1997, ratify the adoption of the resolution to amend the By-Laws of QFHSA as passed by motion at the Board of Directors meeting of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1997.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Ann Cumyn, Chairman

The work of the Education Committee this year has been confined to the production of the annual Literary Booklet and to helping with QFHSA's input to the final session of the Estates General.

The title of this year's Literary Booklet is "Friendship" and at the time of writing submissions have been received from eighteen schools. The selection has not been done yet, but if the trend of past years continues the selection process will continue to delight those involved. One problem that arises each year is the receipt of submissions that either bear no relation to the designated topic or are far too long; in these latter cases the submissions are automatically excluded from the booklet. Thanks are due to Wendy Buchanan, Dorothy Nixon and Esther MacLeod for their continued interest in this project.

Information regarding the final session of the Estates General was received at the end of June. The final session was an opportunity for provincial organizations who had a direct or peripheral interest in education to comment on the interim report from the Estates General Commission. For instance the organizations invited included school board associations, teacher and other unions, cultural and business associations. QFHSA's President selected persons to attend the Estates General from those who had been involved in writing the QFHSA brief to the Estates General and others who had shown an interest in this exercise. A meeting of these persons was convened to discuss the questions posed by the Estates General commission and to determine the input for each chapter, in the light of our brief and previous statements of policy. It should be noted that for each chapter discussed at this final session of the Estates General, organizations wishing to speak had to confine their remarks to less than two minutes! The persons involved in this matter were Pat Waters, Miriam Lalande, Allan Locke, Alice MacLeod, Terri Tansey, Rickhey Margolese.

Finally, the Education committee will be bringing an emergency resolution to the AGM on the matter of cuts to government funding for education.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Debi Brown, Chair

The Finance Committee has been challenged this year on a couple of fronts. Firstly, a discrepancy with the Minister of Education over the time frame for the grant has resulted in no grant being received during the financial year for 1995-96. Secondly, the introduction of liability insurance and legal costs have caused the committee to review the budget allocations. Thirdly, as economic realities face families, membership is on the decline.

On a more positive note QFHSA was able to have a small surplus without the government grant. This is the result of cutting to the bone our operation expenses. However, we must remember that it was not so long ago that we had a deficit for several years. Without continued vigilance and new sources of revenue the viability of QFHSA may be in jeopardy. Changes in the economic resources, structure, and philosophy of the Ministry of Education will trickle down to our organization. Are we prepared to go forth as a viable organization, being proactive rather than reactive?

**LIABILITY, LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Miriam Lalande

Further to our 1996 resolution on the issue of liability there was a thorough investigation into the actual coverage in place for volunteers of Home & School at the local level as well as at the provincial level.

Provincial:

- 1) The QFHSA office is covered by property insurance for office contents and commercial general liability, which includes tenants' liability and personal injury. 25 January 1997 to 25 January 1998.
- 2) The Directors of the Board and Committee Chairmen as well as Committee Members are covered by Directors and Officers Insurance for errors and omissions. 1 January 1997 to 1 January 1998.

Local Associations:

- 1) Home and School and School Committee volunteers in the PSBGM school system are protected by General Liability (slip & fall), Errors and Omissions, for all activities sanctioned by the Principal of each school. There are a few exceptions: one is unlawful dismissal of an employee and another is sexual harassment.
- 2) Home and School volunteers in the Lakeshore School Board system have limited protection in some areas for activities sanctioned by the Principal of each school.

**Recommendation:** That Local Associations approach their school boards to advocate purchase of insurance to cover volunteers in their schools.



**HEALTH ISSUES COMMITTEE**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Shirley Straughton, Chairperson

**High School CPR**

1996-97 saw the official launching of the Mandatory High School CPR Program in Quebec. The initial reaction has been positive from students, teachers and parents.

QFHSA has been represented at press conferences and the QFHSA logo is printed on each student manual in appreciation of our support for the program.

**Hepatitis B Vaccine**

In addition to immunizing all grade four students annually, some areas of Quebec now have the Hepatitis B Vaccine available to all children free of charge via local CLSCs. In 1995, QFHSA had submitted a resolution to the Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services requesting free Hepatitis B vaccines for **all** Quebec children.

An article was written for the *QFHSA NEWS* to inform parents of this latest development and to urge them to take advantage of this opportunity. Readers were encouraged to contact their local CLSCs for information.

**Anaphylaxis**

The Canadian School Boards Association has prepared a handbook on anaphylaxis – a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction – to provide information, advice and guidelines for school boards. It describes anaphylactic reactions and treatments as well as legal issues. It also stresses the need for co-operation within the school community to ensure a safe environment for all children.

QFHSA has commended the CSBA for its leadership in formulating this excellent manual for their school boards.

**Think First For Kids**

A new program, geared to students in grades one to three, has been designated by the Think First Foundation. The goal is to prevent head and spinal cord injuries by educating children about safety.

The program is integrated into the curriculum and focuses on vehicle, water, playground, bicycle and weapon safety. Teachers are given a workshop by a "Think First" co-ordinator and receive an animated video, comic strip pages and posters.

*The cost for the program has been funded by some local Home & School Associations and they have recommended it as an excellent teaching tool.*

## LITERACY IN THE INFORMATION AGE PROJECTS

Report to the Annual General Meeting – April 26, 1997

Submitted by Marion Daigle, Resource

### Activities to Date:

1. May 27, 1996 - **Literacy Partners of Quebec Golf Tournament**- represented QFHSA at registration desk for this day-long event to raise funds for literacy projects.
2. September 8, 1996 - **International Literacy Day** - *The Montreal Gazette* "Building Family Literacy": an excellent supplement in the Sunday edition featured the QFHSA Literacy project, among others. There has been feedback on this.
3. January 31, 1997 - **Success for All (SFA)** - information session - Concordia University. The Centre for the Study of Classroom Process - the SFA program out of Johns Hopkins University focuses on reading and parental involvement for children at risk of dropping out due to school failure. Hampstead Elementary School is the first Canadian site to pilot this project. The school has achieved dramatic results in reading achievement since its implementation.
4. February 6, 1997 - **Montreal Children's Library** - Annual General Meeting - Attended as guest speaker describing the Literacy Project with particular emphasis on the Born to Read project and family literacy. Very well received.
5. February, 1997 - **Born to Read project** - Gaspé Region - a box of books sent to Ann MacWhirter for distribution to children. In addition a set of cookbooks in the same box has sparked a fund raising Born to Read dinner among teachers at Shigawake Port Daniel School.
6. March 15, 1997 - **Raising Good Learners** - Ayers Cliff - prepared workshop with Leila Atkin, St. Francis Literacy Council on conference theme - the 90's - Children - Parenting - Parenting - Learning. This conference, organized by QFHSA Membership Development Committee, was postponed until Fall, 1997, due to poor weather conditions.
7. March 17, 1997 - **John Abbott College Library Systems and Documentation Centre** - workshop on literacy for students who annually raise funds for QFHSA literacy projects. This John Abbott department has established the Carole Green literacy fund for this purpose.

Marion has continued to work as a resource with the Membership Development Committee where literacy and PALS projects are concerned.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by the office

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>April 01/97</b>	<b>April 01/96</b>
Associations submitting membership lists	43	48
Associations which have not submitted lists	7	2
Number of Family Memberships through H&S locals	4,064	4,943
Supporting Members (not through a local H&S)	24	21
Group Affiliate Members	69	84

N.B. The figures for Family Memberships indicate paid memberships; they do not include associate members (families who have joined at more than one school).

**1996/97 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS (based on number of families)**

<b>ON ISLAND BOARDS - Elementary Schools</b>	<b>%</b>	<b><u>Membership Chairmen</u></b>
Royal Vale	100.0%	Pam Wener
Beacon Hill	90.0%	Kersti Leetmaa
Edinburgh	84.3%	Sharon Martin
Merton	82.1%	Kathleen Fauteux
<b>Honourable Mention</b>		
Westpark	64.4%	Joanne Mackarous
Dunrae Gardens	60.2%	Flora Lopes
<b>ON ISLAND BOARDS - Secondary Schools</b>		
Royal West Academy	31.9%	Carol Stenhouse
<b>Honourable Mention</b>		
Macdonald High	22.5%	Susan Tweddell
Hudson High	21.6%	Angela Brisbane
<b>OFF ISLAND BOARDS</b>		
Baie Comeau Elementary/High	54.3%	Cécil Burton
<b>Honourable Mention</b>		
New Carlisle Elementary/High	28.1%	Brenda Gallan
Shigawake-Port Daniel	24.4%	Barbara Hottot
<b>Special draw for school staff/teachers</b>		
Winner:	Nancy Bulow, Ecole Primaire Harwood	
Membership Chairman:	Sue Spencer-Embury	

**MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Margaret Funnell - Vice-President, Membership Development

In 1996 the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations [QFHSA] again received a Department of Canadian Heritage [CANHER] Program Grant for the purposes of membership development. QFHSA was fortunate to have received no decrease in its grant this year though there was an overall decrease in the global mass available to groups such as ours. The grant pays for a share of the QFHSA Annual General Meeting and Fall Leadership Conference and covers workshops for Home and School presidents and executives, on-island workshops for parents and workshops on membership, newsletters and publicity.

Out-reach to off-island parents either by means of workshops off-island or by other work done with or for these parents is especially important. The grant funds also enable off-island parents to attend on-island meetings, workshops and conferences. QFHSA representation to outside educational groups, off-island Board member attendance at QFHSA meetings, materials to promote leadership and parenting skills and a share of the *Home and School NEWS* are also covered by the grant funding.

A mid-March trip to Ayers Cliff to discuss the formation of a regional Home & School was planned, but had to be cancelled because of weather conditions. QFHSA hopes that the meeting plus the PALS [Parents Assist Learning and Schooling], communication skills, dealing with anger, and learning styles workshops can be rescheduled. Nomad Scientists might also be free. Trips to the Gaspé and Baie Comeau are planned for next year.

QFHSA has applied for another Program Grant in 1997 under the title of "Adjusting to Change". The grant will also help supplement the work done by the PALS project. QFHSA also received a CANHER Development Grant specifically to update and distribute the Leadership Handbook. For next year, QFHSA hopes to submit a CANHER Development Grant application for the creation of a Home Page.

QFHSA is a member of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) which has signed a four year agreement with the Federal Government for the disbursement of the Official Languages Communities Support Program funds. There are still two years to go in this agreement. QCGN previously received a National Grant, i.e., across Canada eligibility, from the Department of Canadian Heritage to look at diversification of funding sources. As government funding decreases, other sources of funding must be found by the groups. These QCGN projects are continuing.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Wendy Buchanan and Allan Locke, Co-chairmen

We are very pleased to announce that the following members have agreed to allow their names to stand for nomination to the QFHSA Board of Directors for 1997-98:

Director/Treasurer	Karen Bilton
Director/Vice-President	Debi Brown
Director	Norma Cheng
Director/Vice-President	Margaret Funnell
Director	Helen Koeppe
Director/President	Miriam Lalande
Director	Alice MacLeod
Director	Dorothy Nixon
Director/Executive Vice-President	Barbara Page
Director	Don Smith
Director	Sue Spencer
Director	Shirley Straughton
Director	Rod Wiener
Director/Recording Secretary	vacant

The Constitution Committee is proposing an amendment to the By-Laws that the number of Directors be limited to fifteen (15). This number includes the Past President who is a de facto Director.

We continue to search for one more Director to serve in the office of Recording Secretary.

The members of the Nominations Committee for 1997/98 were:

Wendy Buchanan	Allan Locke
Norma Cheng	Alice MacLeod
Lynda Kowalenko	

**PARENTS ASSIST LEARNING AND SCHOOLING PROGRAM [PALS]**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Pat Waters, President

The Parents Assist Learning and Schooling /PALS program has proved to be in demand again this year. We continued to do workshops as follows:

September 18, 1996 - St Mary's Church, Kirkland

Pat Waters: "Role Models" for the youth committee of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal.

October 16, 1996 - Dollard des Ormeaux/Pierrefonds Library

Pat Waters: "Building Self-Esteem" for 40 parents.

October 23, 1996 - Dollard des Ormeaux/Pierrefonds Library

Jocelyne Pickler: French Self-Esteem Workshop.

October 26, 1996 - QFHSA Fall Conference

Charlotte Taylor (assisted by P.Waters): "Responsibility and Homework" for approximately 40 parents.

November 13, 1996 - Moms of Preschoolers group, Rosemount

Pat Waters: "Building Self-Esteem" workshop for 6 moms.

November 20, 1996 - Royal West Academy, N.D.G.

Pat Waters: "Responsibility and Homework" for approximately 30 parents.

November 23, 1996 - Gatineau, Quebec

Charlotte Taylor: "Self-Esteem" workshop for parents attending an FCPPQ Conference. She has already been invited back for next year.

March 10, 1997 - Beaconsfield High School

Pat Waters and Sue Short: a discipline workshop entitled, "Disciplining Teens - Who is Really in Charge?" It was based on the PALS program with additions to make it more geared to teenage problems.

March 12, 1997 - Rosemount Bible Church Mothers Group

Pat Waters: a second workshop to these keen moms on Discipline. Many discipline issues and worries were discussed.

April 6, 1997 - Ecole Primaire Pointe-Claire

Pat Waters and Jocelyne Pickler: gave consecutive French and English workshops on "Responsibility and Homework".

On May 31 1997 - Pat Waters will be giving a PALS "Self-Esteem" workshop in Quebec City at the annual FCPPQ Conference.

**QUEBEC HOME & SCHOOL NEWS**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Dorothy Nixon, Editor

*The Quebec Home & School NEWS* marches on, with four issues, which is better than three but not as good as five. Our contributors remained the same as the year before: Social Affairs by Pat Lewis, Health Issues by Shirley Straughton, Safety by Don Smith, Book Reviews by Kenneth Radu, Ann Bishundayl and others, and sexuality issues by John de Nora. Thank you all very, very much for your dedication to the cause. Also a huge thank you to Anna Marrett and Norma Ewen, our talented writers with no special niche, who add so much to the paper with their wit and wisdom and immense talent. Pleeeasse, don't ever leave me!

Thank you, Diane Radu, for editing the popular *Focus on the Locals* section and Joan Daigle for laying it out.

And thank you, Pat Waters, for your President's Reports during your tenure. As if you didn't have enough on your plate! Take a breather, you are a great communicator!

Next year, for those who don't know, will be the 50th anniversary of the *NEWS*, a very special time. And we have reason to celebrate, because next year may see the arrival of the first electronically assembled paper. Yes, we are entering the 90's ... the early nineties, perhaps, but still the nineties. Although we won't be able to lay out the paper with a program that is state-of-the-art due to technological limitations, we should be able to put together a glossy vibrant edition on something a little less up-to-date.

Preparations are underway, and if it is at all feasible, it should happen by December at the latest!

A great big thank you to all the locals that have so faithfully sent in their reports all year — and their fancy photos. Stay tuned for news about any special editions celebrating our anniversary!

**NEWSLETTER AWARDS 1997**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Diane Radu, Editor, *Focus on the Locals*

Windermere Elementary  
Macdonald High School

*At Home and School*  
*The Mac Link*

Diane Corona, Editor  
Sunita Prasher, Editor

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Helen Koeppe, Chairperson

**Disposition of Resolutions [1996]:**

Six resolutions were adopted by the delegates to the 1996 Annual Meeting, all of which were addressed primarily to the Minister of Education, as well as to others.

QFHSA received an acknowledgment and a thank you for our concerns from the office of the Minister of Education, noting that many of the same issues were being debated during the hearings of the Estates General.

Resolution 96/4E: Effect of Budget Cuts on Education was acknowledged by the Office of the Vice-Premier, Bernard Landry, who is also Minister of State for the Economy and Finances.

An acknowledgment was received for the two resolutions: 96/4E Effect of Budget Cuts on Education and Resolution 96/6E The Need for Acquiring Employability Skills in High School sent to the Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de la Science et de la Technologie.

For Resolution 96/2 Access to English Education, an acknowledgment was received from the Office de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications et ministre responsable de l'application de la Charte de la langue française, Louise Beaudoin. The letter was also forwarded by the political attachée to the Secrétariat de la politique linguistique on our behalf.

Further to the subject of resolutions:

Following the 1996 Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors was alerted to a situation on the West Island regarding the removal of the Youth Court from Pointe-Claire and sent a resolution supporting the retention of the court to various parties. Allan Rock, the federal Minister of Justice, took time to thank us for our concerns noting that maintenance of court services is a provincial responsibility.

A happy update for the 1995 resolution concerning Hepatitis B Vaccine: Shirley Straughton, Health Issues Chairman, reports that recently a decision has been made to extend the free vaccinations to all children on the island of Montreal. These are available at all locals CLSCs. Additional information appeared in the Health Issues column of the *Home and School NEWS*, March 1997 edition.



**SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Donald Smith, Chairperson

1. Attendance at Board of Directors meetings.
2. Continued participation on the *Comité provinciale de concertation des programmes de sécurité routière en milieu scolaire*.
3. Regular contributions to the *Safety Scene* in the *Quebec Home & School NEWS*.

**STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Miriam Lalande

QFHSA endorses carrying additional personal coverage of our children in school with the following companies:

Reliable Life Insurance Company  
Family Accident Insurance  
PO Box 67  
Ste-Hyacinthe, Que J2S 9Z9

Industrial-Alliance/Life Insurance Co.,  
Accident Insurance  
PO Box 1907 Stn Terminus  
Quebec QC G1K 9Z9

**SOCIAL ISSUES REPORT**

Report to the Annual General Meeting - April 26, 1997

Submitted by Pat Lewis

**Smoking**

A new book has been published recently called Know Smoking by Simon T. Bryant, MD. This is a paperback novel that seeks to give information and inspiration to the 80% of Canadian smokers who are not even thinking about quitting. Dr. Bryant lives in Alberta where 20.4% of all deaths are caused by cigarette smoking. His book covers such things as benefits of quitting, weight gain and stress control, patterns of nicotine delivery, nicotine replacement, gender and smoking ... and much more. One-fourth of Canadians smoke and 1 in 2 of them will die of a smoking-related illness. Nobody is unaffected, especially when you consider second-hand smoke which affects children more than anyone else. If you would like this book, write to: MiddleWay Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 70008 (BPO), Calgary, Alberta T3B 5K3. Tel: (403) 247-8139.

In Ottawa the House of Commons voted in favor of Bill C-71, the government proposed law to restrict the sale and advertising of tobacco products. Now the Senate must approve the law. Senators from Quebec, in particular, are concerned that restrictions on advertising will prompt tobacco companies to stop sponsoring many cultural and sports events, such as the Montreal Jazz Festival and the Formula One Grand Prix race. About half of the \$60 million that tobacco companies spend on annual sponsorship goes to Quebec festivals and events. Health Minister David Dingwall urged senators to make the health of young Canadians their priority. He noted that one in three young Canadians do smoke, and half of them will die prematurely of a disease which is caused by smoking. A few weeks ago there was demonstration in Montreal against Bill C-71 by restaurateurs, store-owners and taxi-drivers. Now the federal government has delayed the advertising restrictions until October 1998, to give people time to find other sponsors. According to one poll, 75% of Canadians back Bill C-71. Some smokers switched to low-tar filtered cigarettes, but the National Cancer Institute says that these people are now dying from a once-rare lung cancer. Between 1974 and 1994 adenocarcinoma increased dramatically in both men and women, even though about 58% of cigarettes are now low-tar. Young people know tobacco perils, and many would like to quit smoking. Smoking is still allowed in the yards of the schools in the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. In Ontario many cities are passing bylaws requiring restaurants to be smoke-free by 2000 except in separately ventilated areas.

**AIDS Update**

A new treatment for AIDS is now on the market, but the new drug plan by the government may limit its use, as seniors and people on welfare may not be able to afford the medications. The number of people in Canada who have HIV infections has been decreasing, but there is still a huge epidemic in most Third World countries, especially in Africa and Asia. February was a month when a number of events were held in Montreal to help raise funds for helping people who do have AIDS.

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## Social Issues cont'd

### Child Labor

In Amsterdam at the end of February, at a meeting of the **Child Labor Conference**, the head of the *International Labor Organization* told the delegates that they are convinced that a *breakthrough can be made on this issue*. Child labor affects up to 250 million children. This is no longer defensible, and there is a real hope of ending the worst abuses. However, India's labor minister pointed out that parents send children to work instead of to school, not because they want to, but because there is no alternative for their biological survival. A declaration was made calling for an immediate end to the most extreme or compulsory labor and the use of children in prostitution, pornography and the drug trade. Canada's representative, Christine Stewart, said we have to look after Canada as well. Slave labor is just one element; we're also concerned about sexual abuse of children. Our large urban centres have their share of underage workers and streets kids being exploited in the commercial sex trade. The conference also proposed establishing a world-wide monitoring system to track progress.

In Ontario and Quebec there are several organizations for kids that are tackling the question of child labor. Free the Children with Craig Kielburger heading it has been waging a worldwide campaign to end this abuse. In Quebec and other parts of Canada the Beacon Hill School **Kids for Peace** have a petition campaign which has been very successful and is not yet finished. In Ontario there is another organization called **Save the Children** which has as a part of its program the elimination of child labor. For more info call 1-800-668-5036 or write Save the Children - Canada, 3080 Yonge Street, Suite 6020, Toronto, ON M4N 9Z9.

### Child Poverty

Recently, the connection between child labor and child poverty was the subject of a meeting of federal and provincial social ministers. The deep recession in Canada in the early 1990's and the slow recovery resulted in at least six years of double-digit unemployment, soaring welfare case-loads, stagnant family incomes, cutbacks harming more women than men and a big jump in poverty today. Human Resources Minister Pierre Pettigrew said that Ottawa will put up an additional \$600 million in an enriched child tax benefit. Provinces are supposed to reform their welfare programs to dovetail with the federal monthly program of payments. One decision is that the provinces will cut welfare payments for children, and put the money into other anti-poverty programs like daycare, bus service, school lunches or income supplements for the working poor. Suddenly it appears that the pendulum has swung from dismantling big parts of the old social security system to reconstructing a new one for year 2000.

### School Systems

Conflicts over the reorganization of our school systems is a major topic today. Some more problems to be solved.

**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK (TAW), February 9-15, 1997**  
 Report to the Annual General Meeting – April 26, 1997  
Submitted by the office

TAW Orders 1997

21 schools  
 4 private schools

**TOTAL ORDERS:**  
 1997 - 25

TAW Orders 1996

29 schools  
 4 private schools  
 1 liaison person

1996 - 34

TAW Orders 1995

34 schools  
 1 private school

1995 - 35

CHSF Idea Files were once again sent out to all Home and School Associations and Group Affiliate members. We are not sure whether or not the MEQ is still sending out TAW information.

The number of schools ordering materials has been decreasing over the past few years (down from 39 in 1994 to 25 this year). Only seven of the twenty-five schools are repeats from last year, two of them private schools. Orders from Group Affiliate members made up just over half the total orders, the remainder coming from Home & Schools. Participating schools came from the Montreal area and the South Shore, as well as the Townships, western Quebec, the Lower North Shore, and the Gaspé area. We feel that there was perhaps less enthusiasm this year due to the fact that there was nothing new to offer to our members.

Many schools honour their teachers without purchasing TAW materials from us. From the Participation Forms we receive, we can tell that ideas are often taken from the Idea File, and also that posters from previous years are reused. Many schools have very innovative ideas and plans. The Participation Forms are sent on to CHSF.

No press releases were sent out this year, although TAW information usually appears in several newspapers.