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EPCA QUEBEC RAISES SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO ENGLISH ADULT EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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Montreal, Quebec – June 4, 2026 – The English Parents' Committee Association of Quebec (EPCA Quebec) is deeply concerned by the Government of Quebec's introduction of Bill 8, which would significantly restrict access to English-language Adult General Education and Vocational Education and Training programs across the province.

"This bill is not about protecting French. It is about restricting educational opportunities for Quebecers," said Katherine Korakakis, President of EPCA Quebec. "The government is proposing to close doors for adults who are seeking a second chance, newcomers working to integrate into our society, parents trying to provide for their families, and workers looking to gain the skills needed to succeed in today's economy."

English-language vocational training and adult education programs serve a diverse population, including newcomers, individuals returning to school after many years, parents seeking new career opportunities, and workers looking to upgrade their skills. Many of these learners have successfully contributed to Quebec's economy and communities while also developing strong French-language skills.

At a time when Quebec continues to face labour shortages in critical sectors such as healthcare, construction, transportation, information technology, and skilled trades, EPCA believes the proposed restrictions could have unintended consequences for the province's work and economic development efforts.

"Rather than limiting educational opportunities, Quebec should be investing in solutions that promote bilingualism and strengthen French language acquisition while preserving access to training and education," added Korakakis. "These goals are not mutually exclusive."



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Access to educational opportunities is not a language policy; it is a barrier to social and economic mobility.

EPCA is particularly concerned about the impact this legislation could have on vulnerable families. Adult education programs often serve as a second chance for individuals who were unable to complete their studies earlier in life. Many rely on these programs to obtain the credentials needed to secure stable employment and provide for their families.

The organization is calling on the Government of Quebec to undertake meaningful consultations with education partners before proceeding with legislation that could affect thousands of Quebecers.

About EPCA Quebec

The English Parents' Committee Association, the EPCA, is a coalition of parents' committees of Quebec's English school boards; it represents nearly 100,000 students in the young anglophone sector. The EPCA advocates for public education in English in Quebec and lobbies for issues and questions that concern members of our parent committee.

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