



The English Speaking Catholic Council

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Le conseil catholique d'expression anglaise

Excerpt of letter to Yolande James, Minister for families, re. Directives on daycares - Montreal, June 8, 2011 (in English)

The English Speaking Catholic Council wishes to register its opposition to the provincial government restrictions directed at faith-based early childhood centres or daycare centres which receive subsidies from the government of Quebec. The regulation requires such institutions to cease all activities "aimed at learning a religious belief, a dogma, or a practice" by June 1, 2011. In response, the English Speaking Catholic Council wishes to once again re-affirm the critical importance of parental choice in the domain of education. The government should allow for healthy forms of educational pluralism so that parental choice can be meaningfully expressed. As long as these institutions meet basic curriculum requirements, these choices should not be unduly constrained by discriminatory governmental restrictions that target institutions solely on the basis of religion. Religious freedom and the co-existence of diverse religious identities are not threats to Quebec's liberal democracy but vital expressions of the pluralism and open secularism essential to all genuinely free societies.

