

Association des comités de parents anglophones English Parents' Committee Association



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

September return to school: Parents must be involved in process

(Quebec, June 16, 2020) — The English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) is pleased that most Quebec students will be returning to full-time in-class learning next September.

Tuesday's Quebec government announcement details a scheme that includes full-time classes for all Elementary and Secondary 1, 2, and 3 students, with possible alternating schedules of in-school classes for Secondary 4 and 5, buttressed by online learning.

The plan employs sub-groups of students, renewed hygiene standards, physical distancing, personal protective supplies, technology and contingency plans, all elements demanded by parents of students in English language public schools.

“In principle, this reflects the clearly stated views of our stakeholders,” said EPCA President Katherine Korakakis, adding that EPCA has surveyed thousands of Quebec families for their views in regard to online learning, returning to class, and other considerations and concerns.

“In extensive correspondence, numerous consultations, surveys and a multitude of varied discussions over several months, we have garnered our parents' opinions on this matter, and the return at 100 percent suggests a return plan that parents have been asking for.”

EPCA insists that any contingency plans put in place are solidly defined and communicated to *all* stakeholders, particularly parents, who demand a ready and realistic blueprint should a second wave of the pandemic change the course of the rollout come the fall. In such a scenario, Quebec parents will once again be at the forefront of this new reality and will again be called upon to steward their children through the next evolution of learning for Quebec youth.

Parents have always been – and will continue to be – indispensable partners in education, and EPCA expects that parents will continue to be involved in the process.

“With new challenges and methodologies, no endeavour to return to some semblance of normalcy can succeed without the full engagement, buy-in and active participation of parents,” adds Korakakis. “Our parents have been indefatigable partners, not only of their beloved children, but with their representatives, educators, and their communities. They have participated in extensive dialogues, demonstrating generosity, patience and resilience, handling themselves and these unprecedented, multi-faceted challenges with aplomb.”

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EPCA again thanks all its partners for lending their voice to this ongoing process, but especially its parent community, which has never failed to demonstrate genuine, tireless concern and love for their own children and their communities.

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About the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA)

The English Parents' Committee Association represents eight Quebec English-language school boards. With a team of Directors chosen by member Parent Committees, it is the official voice of Quebec's English public school parent community, representing almost 100,000 students.

Speaking with one voice for parents and their children, EPCA represents parent interests in all dealings with the *Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* and across all levels of government. By providing the tools and information parents need to serve and represent their communities, EPCA is a singular reference point for English parent governance.

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