



Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Resolutions Adopted at the 2022 Annual General Meeting

Resolution 2022-01: Objection to the Definition of “Historic” Anglophones and the Consequent Restrictions to Eligibility for Services in English

WHEREAS during his inaugural address to the National Assembly on October 19, 2021, Premier François Legault stated:

“I want to speak to the historic English-speaking community of Quebec. You are an integral part of Quebec. As a historic community, you have your own institutions: Schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, the media. Canada’s francophone minorities dream of mastering so many institutions. No minority in Canada is better served than English-speaking Quebecers and we are proud of that.”

WHEREAS the following day Premier Legault defined the historic English-speaking community as those individuals who are eligible for English schooling in Quebec;

WHEREAS by this definition Francophones who attended English schools (as well as their children) would be considered historic Anglophones and consequently have access to government services in English;

WHEREAS “English-eligible” as referenced in Law 96 is grossly under-inclusive—eliminating access to services in English for between 300,000 and 500,000 English-speaking Quebecers—and entirely disconnected from the English community’s self-identification;

WHEREAS it is commonly held in international law that a minority is defined both by objective factors such as a shared ethnicity, language, or religion, as well as subjective factors such as individuals identifying themselves as members of that minority¹, narrowing the definition of who is considered part of the English minority denies a large portion of English-speaking Quebecers their self-identity;

WHEREAS discrimination by creating categories of citizens deemed eligible to receive certain government services is deeply troublesome from a public governance perspective;

WHEREAS English-speaking Quebecers are full and contributing members of Quebec society, committed to building an inclusive Quebec where French is the majority common language and English its minority common language.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** demands that the Government of Quebec:

- not relegate English-speaking Quebecers to an ‘historic’ community nor limit their right to receive government communications and services in English;
- never base rights or access to services on eligibility for English education;
- follow International Human Rights tenets to ensure the safeguarding and preservation of the cultural identity of Quebecers who identify themselves as being part of the common English-language linguistic minority group so that they may continue to thrive and help contribute to Québec’s success on the world stage.

¹United Nations Human Rights *Minorities under international law*

