QFHSA

2025

ENGAGED PARENTS
STRONG SCHOOLS
SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations

Adopted QFHSA Resolutions

From the 2025 Annual General Meeting

SIX (6) RESOLUTIONS

1. **INCREASED FUNDING FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**
2. **MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN SECONDARY GRADUATION RATES**
3. **CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS THROUGH POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**
4. **LACK OF RESOURCES FOR POST-SECONDARY INSTRUCTION IN FRENCH**
5. **BUDGET CUTS DERAIL THE *PLAN STRATÉGIQUE 2023-2027* DU MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉDUCATION**
6. **CALL TO WITHDRAW BILL 94**

Resolution 2025-01: Increased Funding for Post-Secondary Education

WHEREAS the **Gouvernement du Québec** has impacted the finances of English-language post-secondary institutions in recent years by capping their enrollment numbers and introducing a more complex immigration process for researchers and professors;[1] and

WHEREAS these limitations have resulted in budget deficits requiring reductions to program offerings, and employee layoffs which will affect Québec's economy; and

WHEREAS the **Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur**'s *Plan Stratégique 2023-2027* states its vision as "L'accès, la réussite et l'excellence en enseignement supérieur **pour tous**, au cœur de nos actions,"[2] emphasis added, and one of its values as "Équité: un système favorisant l'égalité des chances et l'accès **pour tous** à l'enseignement supérieur,"[3] emphasis added, but the same limitations are not imposed on French-language institutions; and

WHEREAS the lack of diverse offerings will further erode the appeal of our institutions, already suffering both nationally and globally by the perception of inaccessibility, running counter to the **Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur**'s wish for a welcoming, forward-looking network open to the world;[4] and

WHEREAS a high World University Rankings placement entices students, which in turn will sustain Quebec's ability to develop economically, socially, and culturally as desired,[5] and also create a more knowledgeable, more successful, and more invested population for a prosperous society.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** urges the **Gouvernement du Québec** and the **Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur** to remove enrollment caps in line with its stated goals of Equality, Excellence, and Openness; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** urges the **Gouvernement du Québec** and the **Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur** to reinstate the previous international student fee funding structure, with universities given full control of the funds.

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[1]Riga, Andy. "U de M, McGill, Concordia denounce Quebec's new cap on international students." *The Montreal Gazette*. Updated February 26, 2025.
[2]Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur. "Plan stratégique 2023-2027." p.11
"Access, success and excellence in higher education for all, at the heart of our actions."
[3]Ibid p.11
"Equity: a system that promotes equal opportunities and access to higher education for all."
[4]Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur. "Plan stratégique 2023-2027." p.41 Enjeu 2
[5]Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur. "Plan stratégique 2023-2027." p.41 Enjeu 1

Resolution 2025-02: Measures to Strengthen Secondary Graduation Rates

WHEREAS the graduation rates of students in Québec are consistently lower than the **Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec**'s own targets; and

WHEREAS the graduation rates of male students in Québec are consistently lower than those of the graduation rates of female students in Québec; and

WHEREAS the **Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec** is instituting changes in secondary graduation requirements; and

WHEREAS the removal of '*déboulage*' will further diminish the graduation rate; and

WHEREAS the **Gouvernement du Québec** is predicting more budget cuts in the education sector in Québec.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Association Inc.** strongly demands that the **Gouvernement du Québec** allocate additional financial resources to:

- address the constantly increasing teacher shortage in Québec;
- examine the graduation requirements of other successful jurisdictions;
- reinstate '*déboulage*' to enhance the opportunities for academic success of prospective graduates;
- supplement the budgets in the education sector in Québec;
- increase consultations with associations of administrators, teachers, parents, and students, to properly formulate an improved plan for academic success.

Resolution 2025-03: Continued Support for Students with Special Needs through Post-Secondary Education

WHEREAS the success of all students should be the ultimate goal; and

WHEREAS in order to promote that success, students with special needs in the youth sector are afforded certain accommodations that have proven effective; and

WHEREAS those accommodations, such as Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), include provisions for adapted or modified language programs; and

WHEREAS the new French-language course requirements in post-secondary institutions create additional, perhaps ***insurmountable***, obstacles for these vulnerable students; and

WHEREAS this will deter these students from pursuing post-secondary education and/or negatively impact their success therein.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** requests that the **Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec** adapt and/or modify the French-language course requirements based on students' individual language skills; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** requests that the **Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec** and **Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur** continue providing additional support to students with special needs at post-secondary institutions, by way of these accommodations, in order to ensure equitable access.

Resolution 2025-04: Lack of Resources for Post-Secondary Instruction in French

WHEREAS starting with the Fall 2024 semester, in order to obtain a diploma from an English-language CEGEP, students with a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) have to take three program courses in French OR three additional French language courses to improve their French language skills, and students without a COE will have to take three of their program courses in French; and

WHEREAS the goal of these requirements should be to ensure students have the necessary ability, knowledge, and skills to function in French; and

WHEREAS there is an ongoing shortage of qualified teachers, professors, and instructors to administer those courses; and

WHEREAS the unavailability of courses that meet the requirements will discourage students from continuing their education in our institutions, and lead to a decrease in pre-university and technical program graduates;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** demands that the **Governement du Québec** pause the implementation of the French-language requirements for post-secondary students to graduate, until there is a sufficient supply of qualified teachers, professors, instructors, and resources.

Resolution 2025-05: Budget Cuts Derail the *Plan stratégique 2023-2027* du Ministère de l'Éducation

WHEREAS the **Gouvernement du Québec** has imposed extensive 'emergency' budget cuts to the youth sector; and

WHEREAS the last-minute directive to decrease school board and/or service centre expenses may result in hasty and imperfect reallocations of resources; and

WHEREAS the **Gouvernement du Québec** has claimed that these cuts should not affect students' learning experiences[6]; and

WHEREAS cuts to special education, library, and information technology services, as well as to building maintenance, are unavoidable and WILL inevitably affect the student learning experience; and

WHEREAS the stated mission of the **Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec** is "Faire de la réussite de nos élèves la raison d'être des écoles et des centres, du réseau et du Ministère"[7] and their motto is "Viser l'excellence pour leur réussite : notre engagement!"[8] and

WHEREAS these budget cuts are counter-productive to some of the **Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec**'s own priorities as listed in its *Plan Stratégique 2023-2027* [9], namely:

- Offrir du renfort aux enseignants dans les classes
- Avoir des projets pédagogiques particuliers plus accessibles et plus nombreux
- Investir dans la formation professionnelle
- Rendre le réseau scolaire plus performant
- Rénover les écoles; and

WHEREAS these budget cuts create uncertainty over future funding, which in turn makes it extremely difficult to direct the allocation of resources for coming years; and

WHEREAS the youth sector provides the foundation necessary for pursuit of higher education that results in a more knowledgeable, more successful, and more invested population for a prosperous society.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc.** urges the **Gouvernement du Québec** and the **Ministère de l'Éducation** to reinstate previous funding and furthermore, increase investments in education in order to achieve its stated objectives as listed in its *Plan Stratégique 2023-2027.*

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[6]Jordan, K.C.. "Province forces school boards to make last-minute cuts." *The Equity*. Dec. 31st, 2024
[7]Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur. "Plan stratégique 2023-2027." p.3
"Make student success the raison d'être of our schools and centers, the network and the Ministry."
[8]Ibid. p.6
"Striving for excellence to ensure their success: our commitment!"
[9]Ibid. p.9
"Provide teachers with extra support in the classroom; More accessible and numerous special educational projects; Invest in professional training; Improve school network performance; Renovate schools."

Resolution 2025-06: Call to Withdraw BILL 94

WHEREAS Bill 94: ***An Act to, in particular, reinforce laicity in the education network and to amend various legislative provisions*** in its fifty (50) sections over twenty-one (21) pages and more specifically in Sections 10, 11, 16, 18, 32, and 39* among others, continuously violates Section 3 of the **Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms of Québec**: 3. **"**Every person is the possessor of the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, freedom of opinion, freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association." as well as Section 2 of the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms:** 2. "Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: *(a)* freedom of conscience and religion; *(b)* freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication; *(c)* freedom of peaceful assembly; and *(d)* freedom of association" and Articles 2, 14, and 30 of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** to which both Canada and Quebec are signatories.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. demands that the Government of Québec immediately withdraws **Bill 94:** ***An Act to, in particular, reinforce laicity in the education network and to amend various legislative provisions*** in its entirety.

***10. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 40:"40.1. No premises, such as a room or an immovable, placed at the school's disposal may be used, in fact and in appearance, for the purposes of religious practices such as overt prayers or other similar practices."**

11. Section 71 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentence at the end: "Their conduct must be free of religious considerations and be guided by democratic values and Québec values, including the equality of women and men, and by State laicity."

16. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 96.21:

"96.21.1. When a request for an accommodation on religious grounds by a school staff member involves an absence from work, the principal shall, in addition to the elements that must be specifically considered in accordance with the Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for requests for accommodations on religious grounds in certain bodies (chapter R-26.2.01), ensure that educational services and childcare services are not compromised.

Despite the first paragraph, the employee who makes the request for an accommodation shall not be granted more days of leave than those provided for in the conditions of employment applicable to the employee."

18. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 101:

"101.1. No premises, such as a room or an immovable, placed at the centre's disposal may be used, in fact and in appearance, for the purposes of religious practices such as overt prayers or other similar practices."

32. The Act is amended by inserting the following sections after section 258.0.2, enacted by section 14 of chapter 9 of the statutes of 2024:

"258.0.3. The school service centre shall ensure that the conduct of the members of its personnel and of any person required to provide services on its behalf or as part of the carrying out of a special school project is free of religious considerations.

"258.0.4. The following are prohibited from wearing a religious symbol within the meaning of section 6 of the Act respecting the laicity of the State (chapter L-0.3):

(1) any member of the school service centre's personnel, other than a member to whom the Act respecting the laicity of the State applies, who, for the purposes of their employment, is on the premises, such as a room or an immovable, placed at the disposal of a school or centre or is in the presence of a student;

(2) the director general and the assistant director general in the exercise of their functions;

(3) any person who regularly provides services on the premises, such as a room or an immovable, placed at the disposal of a school or centre, when the person is on those premises; and

(4) any person when providing services to students.

Any provision of an agreement or decree within the meaning of the Act respecting labour standards (chapter N-1.1), of a regulation made under section 451 or of any other contract relating to conditions of employment that is incompatible with the prohibition set out in the first paragraph is absolutely null.

Where the prohibition on wearing a religious symbol applies to a person who is not a member of the personnel of a school service centre, that prohibition is deemed to be part of the contract binding the person to the school service centre.

Subparagraphs 3 and 4 of the first paragraph do not apply to the driver where student transportation is provided under a contract with a public transit authority or with the holder of a bus transport permit.

"258.0.5. Any person present on the premises, such as a room or an immovable, placed at the disposal of a school or centre who is required to be in contact with students must have their face uncovered, unless their face must be covered for health reasons or because of a handicap or of requirements tied to their functions or to the performance of certain tasks."

39. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 479.1:

"479.2. It is prohibited to influence or attempt to influence, when motivated by a religious conviction or belief, the exercise of a power or function or the performance of a duty or obligation provided for by this Act.

A person who influences or attempts to influence the exercise of a power or function or the performance of a duty or obligation in a manner contrary to the separation of State and religions, the religious neutrality of the State, the equality of all citizens, freedom of conscience or freedom

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (adopted 1989, signed by Quebec Dec 13, 1999)

Article 2.1: "States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status."

Article 14.1: "States Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion."

Article 14.3: "Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others."

Article 30: "In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language."