



Association des comités de parents anglophones English Parents' Committee Association

Montreal, April 20, 2020

Dear parents,

Following weeks of uncertainty about the fate of the current school year, there have been many discussions about reopening schools in Quebec. Many of you have questions, concerns and suggestions about potential scenarios that could see students return to school in the coming weeks or months.

While there have been ideas circulating about a possible rollout of the balance of the school year, much of them are based on speculation or opinion, and the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) has been actively monitoring and participating in all dialogue as the official voice of parent governance on this vital matter, in this historic time.

In recent days, there have been more substantive discussions with our educational partners and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEES) about reopening schools, including how this could work, and what it could look like.

Our Quebec parent community is diverse, with multiple perspectives, hailing from different regions and with varied concerns and preoccupations for their children's individual and collective educational needs.

While there are numerous scenarios that can emerge about reopening schools, and a diversity of opinions among parents, educators, and the community-at-large about how this could or even should proceed, EPCA's position remains very clear: We will only support a plan to reopen schools in Quebec, once parent governance is assured that all Quebec public health authority advisories, recommendations and rules are sufficiently defined, explained with crystalline clarity, and fully respected.

Simply put, the health and well-being of our students, employees and all educational partners is the primary concern when making any decision on reopening schools, whenever that may occur.

EPCA will be at the forefront of any discussions affecting our community, and will participate in the formulation of any plan, while receiving more information from the Ministry, as well as feedback from our parent community province-wide, and from discussions with our Directors from the various school board committees.

The English Parents' Committee Association will also work closely with our educational and community partners, and in cooperation with our Francophone parent governance counterparts – the Fédération des comités de parents du Québec (FCPQ) – to ensure that any return-to-school project is developed and implemented with transparency, consideration and in a responsible fashion.

The English Parents' Committee Association remains committed to obtaining the best possible outcome for English-speaking students in Quebec and will continue to ensure that parent voices are heard at any table where the education of Quebec's English-speaking students is deliberated.

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