



Press Release

For Immediate Distribution

Townshippers' Association reacts to Bill 96

SHERBROOKE, May 21st, 2021 – While in full agreement that the protection and promotion of the French language and culture is imperative to preserving Quebec’s unique character, the Board of Directors of Townshippers’ Association deplores Quebec’s attempts to achieve this through Bill 96’s sweeping use of the notwithstanding clause and an attempt to unilaterally amend the constitution.

Association President Gerald Cutting also expressed his disappointment at recent comments made by Canada’s Prime Minister on the matter stating that, “at the very least it would appear that our federal government misunderstands the far-reaching and devastating impacts of legislation imposed at the provincial level that effectively strips citizens of their legal and human rights” Cutting continued, “at the very worst, it would appear that our federal government has chosen to take the same route it did when asked to defend religious freedom in Quebec during the Bill 21 debates, which was to simply acquiesce to Quebec’s actions.”

As stated in the preamble of the Charter of the French Language, the promotion and protection of the French language and culture can be accomplished “in a spirit of fairness and open-mindedness, respectful of the institutions of the English-speaking community of Québec, and respectful of the ethnic minorities, whose valuable contribution to the development of Québec [the National Assembly] readily acknowledges.”; renewing tensions over language, inviting international criticism about the contravention of human rights in Quebec, and alienating communities that have worked to build this province hand in hand with their French-speaking counterparts serves no one’s interests.

About Townshippers’ Association

Townshippers’ Association is a non-profit, non-partisan community organization working on behalf of the Eastern Township’s English-speaking community, since 1979. Connect online at Townshippers.org or contact Townshippers’ in Sherbrooke at 3355 College St. 819-566-5717, toll free: 1-866-566-5717 or in Lac-Brome at 3-584 Knowlton Rd. 450-242-4421, toll free: 1-877-242-4421. Please note that our offices are closed to the public until further notice.

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Source:

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