



THE VOICE OF
THE PARENT IN
EDUCATION

QFHS NEWS

VOLUME 56 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2018

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Message from the President



The Importance of Voting in School Board Elections

According to an Act regarding School Elections, the next school board elections should be on Sunday November 4th 2018. The next provincial general election is scheduled for Monday October 1st 2018.

The Rights Committee of QFHSA has always had as one of its priorities the monitoring of the constitutional rights of the management and control of English schools in Quebec.

The QFHSA President was asked to sit as a panelist on the Elections Systems Study Panel during the summer of 2015. The Panel was chaired by former Member of Parliament, the Honourable Marlene Jennings. The panelists were Léo LaFrance, the former Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, Rachel Hunting, the Executive Director of the Townships' Association, Rhonda Boucher of the English Parents Committee Association, and Brian Rock, QFHSA President. The Jennings Report was presented to then Education Minister François Blais in his Quebec City office.

In the fall of 2015, Minister Blais presented Bill 105. The recommendations of the Jennings Report interestingly enough appeared in the legislation presented by Education Minister Sébastien Proulx in Bill 86 in 2016.

The opportunity to twin municipal elections with school board elections was unfortunately missed on Sunday November 5th 2017 when there was concerted action opposing the plan emanating from municipal elected officials. Considering that the elections for English school boards provide, for many electors in the province, the only real opportunity to have a majority say on local school issues when compared to casting their votes in municipal, provincial, and federal elections. It is so very important for the voters to utilize their franchise to vote in school board elections because it is crucial for community vitality and important educational decision making.

An issue that has been raised recently is the proximity of the provincial general election on October 1st, 2018 and the proposed date of school board elections on November 4th, 2018. The Government of Quebec may take the opportunity of amending Education Bill 166: an Act to Reform the School Tax System, to postpone the date of the school board elections until 2019. The QFHSA will be monitoring the situation and will be keeping you informed.

Yours in Education,
Brian Rock



QFHSA NEWS

Continuously published since 1949

Volume 56, Issue 1

Official Publication of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations

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Editor: Johnnie Cluff, Qu'anglo Communications & Consulting

Layout & Graphic Design: Johnnie Cluff

Printing: The Business Box, Kirkland

Circulation: 5000 copies

Advertising Manager: Johnnie Cluff

Editorial Board: Carol Meindl, Marlyn

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Deposited with: Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec National Library of Canada

ISSN: 1924-9284 (Print), ISSN: 1925-797X (Digital)

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011786

Annual Subscription : \$15.00

Individual copies: \$4.00

QFHSA on the Web: www.qfhsa.org

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All submissions may be edited for length, clarity, accuracy, grammar, and spelling.

Cover photo credit:
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Thank you to the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH) and the Ministère de L'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for their financial support in helping us publish the

QFHSA NEWS.



Executive Director's Message



Getting our ducks in a row

The Annual General Meeting is just around the corner and plans are certainly underway. There are several resolutions that we will be looking at this year:

- Healthy Sleep and Late School Starts,** and
- Wider Access to English Education.**

The health and success of our children depend on our providing them with the best environment for learning, both spatially and temporally. The ‘where they learn’ as well as the ‘when they learn’ should reflect what is best for them, and not just convenient for us. Healthy sleep patterns and late school start times could address that issue and should be seriously considered. Join the conversation.

In the same way, our English schools also need a healthy environment and time to thrive and wider access is one of the ways that this objective can be achieved. It is time that the Quebec government relaxed rules on enrollment in English schools and opened it up to immigrants from the U.S., U.K. and Australia. If the Ministry is truly interested in student success, then allow students to study and learn where they feel the most comfortable and confident. Grant them the best chance to exceed their potential and reach their goals, in whichever language they choose.

This year we will also be proposing **revisions to our Constitution and By-Laws**. The proposed change to the Constitution comes from an urging by the Canadian Revenue Agency to revise our objectives to be more in line with that of a charitable organization and also to be more specific about what we are raising money for and who are the beneficiaries.

Our current objectives were drafted in 1944 and have remained pretty much unchanged ever since, certainly, unchanged since we were granted charitable status in 1979. Just as we encourage our member associations to update their By-laws every five years, we are following our own best advice (and that of CRA) and, albeit belatedly, doing the same. (See the full text of the new Constitution and Objectives on page 7).

In fact, it was in the light of encouraging our member associations to include an article in their By-laws that provides for the disbursal of their assets, should there be a school closure or merger, that we realized that our own By-Laws do not include such a similar article. Clearly our forefathers did not seem to think it necessary when creating a new entity to consider what should happen to assets should it fail and proudly so. We admire that kind of optimism, nevertheless, we feel it is prudent to include a clause that deals with the assets of QFHSA, as much of what we have in savings is from when membership numbers topped 20, 000. As we are supported by public donations, we must be responsible and accountable for these resources.(see full text of change to By-laws on page 7).

The year 2019 marks 100 years of Home and School in Quebec and 75 years since the formation of the Federation, so it is high time to get our “ducks in a row” for the next 50 years. We encourage every member association to send a delegate to AGM this year to have a say in the articles of the QFHSA Constitution and By-Laws. The amendments may be proposed by the Board of Directors but the QFHSA Constitution and By-Laws belong to you, the members.

See you at the AGM!

Carol Meindl

Membership services

Reminders

- All documents, reports and fees are **OVERDUE**.
- The Home and School President and Membership Chair have received an **AGM Voting Delegates** notice which lists the number of family members in your local association, the membership fees paid to the QFHSA and a list of any outstanding documents. Please report any discrepancies to Marlyn.
- Please make sure to fill out the insurance request form for any end-of-year events. The form is on the QFHSA website at www.qfhsa.org
- If you need advice on filling out the insurance request form or other “official” forms please contact the QFHSA office before proceeding.
- Home and School Elections: Please ensure that you follow the deadlines stipulated in the constitution and by-laws of your local association.

Marlyn Brownrigg, QFHSA Membership Services

marlynbrownrigg@qfhsa.org

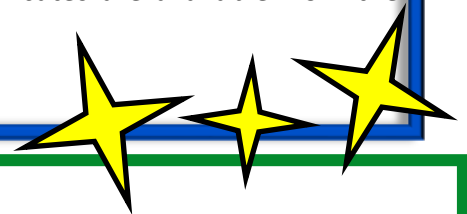
QFHSA Awards Dinner – Relax!

QFHSA Awards: Nominate an educator or school program for one of the QFHSA’s major awards. Award descriptions are on the QFHSA website and the deadline is **March 30th**.

Golden Torch and Unsung Hero Awards: Honour those outstanding volunteers who toil tirelessly for your Home and School. This is a great way to thank “graduating” parents.

Your Home and School should budget funds to pay for or subsidize their dinners at the awards ceremony.

Pins and certificates are available from the QFHSA office.



QFHSA Resolutions – What to do?

The 2018 resolutions should be discussed at your Home and School meeting and your delegates to the AGM should be given direction on whether or not to support them in principle.

GOOD LUCK WITH ALL YOUR END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES!

Copyright Decision Tool Kit

The Copyright Consortium of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) launched a social media campaign on February 1st to raise among the K-12 teaching community a greater awareness of the educational use of fair dealing. The focus of the campaign is the promotion of CopyrightDecisionTool.ca, a website for teachers to become more familiar with and to use on a regular basis.

Some provincial and territorial jurisdictions initiated a 4-week campaign through the month, while others are planning to coordinate their campaign with the international Fair Use/ Dealing Week of February 26 – March 2.

CMEC is sharing the social media materials in advance with the hope that the Canadian Home and School Federation and its provincial affiliates will help promote this tool to decide if a copy for classroom purposes is permitted.

There is an easy to use [toolkit](#) of digital materials created for the campaign. Check it out!



ACCENT QUÉBEC

Would you like to find an easy way to support your child in their French second language education?

Lester B. Pearson School Board, LEARN, Canadian Parents for French - Projet Québec and the Office of the Commissioner of

Official Languages are happy to present “Accent Québec”, an online platform where cultural, educational and fun French activities and resources are compiled to answer the need of the English-speaking community to further their French Second Language skills.

Meet us April 28th at the QFHSA AGM to discover how Accent Québec can help in the journey of your child to bilingualism.

QFHSA Mission Statement

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. is an independent, incorporated, not for profit, volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the education and general well being of children and youth.

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. promotes the involvement of parents, students, educators and the community at large in the advancement of learning, and acts as a voice for parents.

Resolutions coming to the AGM 2018

The First Call for Resolutions went out to the membership the first week of December 2017. First drafts of resolutions were sent out to the Membership for consultation on February 12, 2018 (11 weeks prior to the April 28, 2018 AGM date). The same timeline holds for Notice for Amendments to the Constitution and By Laws. The deadline for receipt of feedback from Membership on proposed resolutions is Feb 24 (9 weeks prior to AGM)

The deadline for final versions of resolutions to be sent back to Membership is March 31 (4 weeks prior to AGM.)

Resolutions to be considered at this year's AGM

There are four resolutions recommended by the Resolutions Committees for consideration at this year's AGM.

The Canadian Home and School Federation submitted:

Healthy Sleep and Late School Start Time- After discussion at the committee level, it was the opinion that this resolution would be of interest to our parents, especially those with children going into or already in high school. Research shows that later start times would benefit most secondary-level students. In order to see any serious change in start times for schools, the push would need to come from the grass-roots level. **Resolutions Committee recommended that Resolution 2018-01 *Healthy Sleep and Late School Start Time* be brought to the 2018 AGM.**

Enforcement/ Application of Bullying Policy(ies) After discussion, it was decided that this resolution needs more follow up. Research needs to be done to see how well Quebec English schools are applying the policies they developed. It was also believed that parents would have something to say in regards to this resolution. Some parents may have had a good experience, some may not. **The Committee recommended that this resolution *Enforcement/ Application of Bullying Policy(ies)* be further researched in the Quebec context and brought to the 2019 AGM.**

Literacy Committee submission:

Funding for Libraries and Librarians -This resolution was brought to the 2017 AGM by the QFHSA Literacy Committee for reaffirmation but was deemed not ready as more recent data had not been gathered and considered. It was tabled to the next AGM after further research. **The Resolutions Committee recommended that this resolution on *Funding for Libraries and Librarians* should be further researched by the Education Committee and be brought to the 2019 AGM.**



Resolutions continued

St Thomas Home and School submission:

Wider Access to English Education- In light of the recent deliberations with Kathleen Weil as Minister for Relations with the English Speaking Community, across the province, the call for wider access to English education has increased. It is important that parents add their voice to this call. **The Resolution Committee recommend Resolution 2018-02 *Wider Access to Education* be brought to the 2018 AGM.**

Constitution and By-Laws Committee submission:

Changes to QFHSA Constitution- In response to the CRA Letter of Compliance 2017 and to comply with the recommendation to have objectives that are more specific in their description of the charitable activities of the QFHSA, changes to the objectives were proposed as well as some adjustment of wording in the preamble suggested in Article II -3. **The Committee recommended that the Resolution 2018-03 *Changes to the QFHSA Constitution, Article II Objectives* be brought to the 2018 AGM for adoption, as amended by the Committee.**

Changes to QFHSA By-Laws re: Article XIII Dissolution of QFHSA and disbursal of remaining assets. The Committee suggested a change to the draft resolution that would provide for guidelines for disbursal of QFHSA assets, should it be necessary **The Committee recommended that the Resolution 2018-04 *Amending the By Laws, Article XIII DISSOLUTION* be brought to the 2018 AGM.**

Some other topics that the Committee might like to see QFHSA discuss in the future are **School Taxation**, and **School Board Elections**, as attention needs to be drawn to the upcoming school board elections.

The Resolutions Committee recommends that the following resolutions (click on links below to see full document) be brought to the 2018 AGM:

[2018-01 *Healthy Sleep and Late Start Time*](#)

[2018-02 *Wider Access to English Education*](#)

[2018-03 *QFHSA Constitution Article II Objectives*](#)

[2018-04 *QFHSA By-Laws Article XIII Dissolution*](#)

The Resolutions Committee also recommends that the following resolutions receive further study and be brought to the 2019 AGM. Anyone interested in studying these resolutions, contact the office to find out when the next Resolutions Committee meeting is scheduled.

2019-01 *Enforcement/Application of Bullying Policy(ies)*

2019-02 *Funding for Libraries and Librarians*



Year of the Bird

As Thomas E. Lovejoy, Tropical Conservation Biologist and National Geographic Fellow, says: “If you take care of the birds, you take care of most of the big environmental problems in the world”.

National Geographic, Audubon, Birdlife International and the Cornell Lab for Ornithology are designating 2018 the “The Year of the Bird”. From a migratory bird’s eye view, an entire continent is a patchwork of green, food-rich habitat interspersed with roads, degraded land, overfished seas, and dark bitumen development. That’s why piecing together a safe route gets harder every year, and many migratory bird species are in serious trouble. More than 40% of migratory bird species are declining, and over 200 are now classified as globally threatened.

From the morning robin’s perspective, our backyards are a local nature reserve and we’re the wardens. In fact, our backyards or local areas could be the last piece that completes The Great Migratory Bird Jigsaw Puzzle.

And with any jigsaw, we only see the full picture when the last piece is in place.

We can all play a role in making our own back yards a haven for birds, a resting spot on their long journey as they migrate from the North to the South of the Continent and back again. From feeding them the appropriate bird seed in the winter (for those who do not migrate) to supplying bits of yarn and other material for those back again and getting ready to nest, we can help secure that they will come back, year after year. By planting trees for shelter and leaving some areas wild, we create a habitat for finding food. Bird watching is a great activity for children and bird awareness is important.

What would Spring be like without the song of birds? What would the new green lawns look like without robins running around seeking earthworms? So like the robin joining billions of other birds on an annual movement, our children can join the movement to #BirdYourWorld by starting with a few simple considerations:

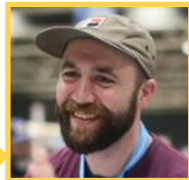
- Don’t take bird migration for granted.
- Next time you see that robin, a hummingbird, a crane, a hawk—any migratory bird—spare a thought for its epic and testing journey across the globe, and what it sees from up high in the sky.
- Think about people from other countries who will be watching the very same bird in just a few weeks’ time.
- And think about the work being done to protect habitat along the bird’s migratory flyway, all adding pieces to The Great Migratory Bird Jigsaw Puzzle.

For more information on The Great Migratory Bird Jigsaw Puzzle visit the [website](#).





Christopher Grady is the creator of Lunarbaboon, a webcomic designed for humans. In his spare time he is a family man and an elementary school teacher in Toronto.



QFHSA AGM Adding your voice

As stipulated in the QFHSA's *Local Association Renewal Form*, your Home and School is obliged to send a representative to the QFHSA's Annual General Meeting (AGM). Like your local association, the QFHSA needs quorum at its' AGM. Any member (not just the Executive team) in good standing at a local association can represent your Home and School. Your delegate(s) must be appointed at a Home and School meeting and the voting credentials and discretionary voting powers forms returned to the QFHSA office.

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Textbook Omissions

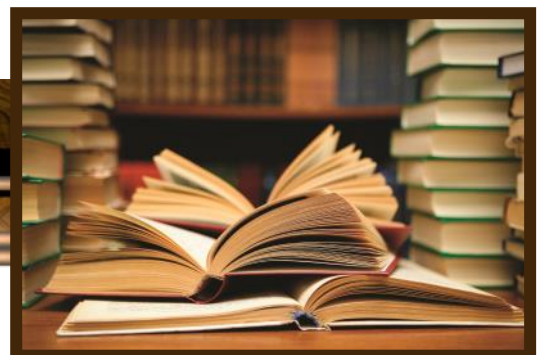
By: Robert Green and Carol Meindl

In 2017, the members of the QFHSA adopted resolution 2017/04 QUEBEC SECONDARY III AND IV HISTORY CURRICULUM: IN NEED OF CHANGE. At the time, we were concerned about the omissions in the Secondary IV textbook. We felt that a curriculum that acknowledged and described the struggles and positive contributions of Quebec's various ethnic minority and local communities and acknowledged the diversity of Quebec's Anglophone community and its positive contributions to Quebec society were required. We also felt that there should be a curriculum that acknowledged important developments in Quebec's history that have been motivated by progressive political values and not exclusively a conservative vision of Quebec's history. The chair of the Committee for the Enhancement of the Curriculum of History of Quebec (ComECH Quebec), Robert Green, has examined the new Sec IV text book very carefully and has gathered together some of the more grievous omissions. If you have a student in Sec IV you can look them up yourself.

Significant omissions from the Secondary 4 History Textbook Reflections.qc.ca

1. In the description of the first phase of industrialization there is no mention that, for many years, in both Montreal and Quebec City, the urban proletariat was predominantly Anglophone. While this fact of history is not relevant it is relevant to point out in the first paragraph of the section that the business class was "predominantly Anglophone" (pg 66). Similarly, the composition of the Montreal Local Council of Women is described as "comprising mainly women from the Anglophone bourgeoisie" (pg 79).

2. In describing the first workers movements there is no mention of the fact that the earliest labour struggles in Quebec were led by Anglophones or that several of these working class Anglophones even lost their lives in the struggle for labour rights (pg 67).
3. Page 74 describes the number of immigrants arriving from the British Isles at ports of Quebec in late 19th century. No mention of how many of them would settle in Quebec or the role they would play in Quebec society.
4. The section describing the imposition of band councils fails to mention that this imposition was at times achieved by means of violence (pg. 91).
5. In the section on the Boer War there is no reference to what can only be called the crimes against humanity committed by Canadian and British forces, including the burning of farms and villages and the herding of tens of thousands of Boer and African families into concentration camps (pg. 120).
6. "The rise of Xenophobia" in the early 20th century is presented as an exclusively Canadian affair (pg. 125). Nothing about the overt xenophobia that was directed against Jewish, Italian and Greek immigrants in Quebec during the exact same period. This fits well with the oppression of Francophone minorities in the ROC described on the very next page.



Textbook Omissions continued

7. The second phase of industrialization, again no mention of the ethno-linguistic composition of the industrial workforce other than it stemming from a “large influx of immigration” (from where? ...not important?) (pg. 130).
8. Those filling the ranks of the labour movement during the second phase of industrialization are cryptically described as “European immigrants” (pg. 140).
9. The box on the early days of the Montreal Canadians fails to mention that the team’s composition tended to reflect the diverse composition of Montreal’s working class. Instead, the text points out only that the early teams featured “a large number of French Canadians” (pg. 164).
10. The only two references to the existence of Black Quebecers in the entire book are a description of Rufus Rockhead’s Little Burgundy nightclub (pg. 165) and a reference to Haitian immigrants and the election of the first Haitian MNA in 1976 (pg.267). No mention of the racism Quebec’s black community has endured.
11. Almost nothing on the sacrifices/ accomplishments of soldiers in either of the world wars.
12. In a box on the Holocaust there is a description of antisemitism as a global historical phenomenon but no reference to any of its manifestations in Canada or Quebec (pg. 178).
13. It is mentioned that many of the immigrants from Europe in 1950’s were Jewish but there is no description about the way these immigrants were treated upon their arrival, nor the positive contributions they made to Quebec society (pg. 219).
14. There is a mention of mass immigration from Greece and Portugal in 60’s as well as first non-white immigrants thanks to ‘federal immigration policies’ but no mention of how these new immigrants were treated in their new society or what they contributed to it (pg. 241).
15. Pierre Laporte was “found dead” not ‘murdered’. The perpetrators of this crime are “abductors” not ‘murderers’ or ‘terrorists’.(pg. 258).
16. There is a bio about Parizeau but no mention of his infamous ‘money and ethnic vote’ comments on the eve of referendum (pg. 293).
17. In the section on the 95 referendum there is no mention of the Cree referendum to remain in Canada if Quebec separates.
18. Sovereignty is clearly identified as a societal choice for contemporary Quebecers, unless they happen to be Indigenous. All references to calls for Indigenous sovereignty have been expunged from the record. While Francophones demand sovereignty, Indigenous communities demand the recognition of their rights (pg. 296).

Continued on page 12.

Textbook Omissions continued...

Continued from page 11.

19. Regarding the Oka crisis there is no mention of the systematic lying and bad-faith actions by all levels of government dealing with the Mohawk community. There is no mention of the racist riots in Chateaugay that involved the burning of racist effigies and the SQ standing idly by while rioters pelted Mohawk women, children and elders with boulders (pg. 296-297).
20. Regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there is no mention of any of the calls to action for Federal and Provincial governments (pg. 299).
21. Under the section on 'threat of terrorism' the only example of terrorism given are an Islamist terrorist organization and a Muslim country. This despite the fact that the far-right has been responsible for far more terrorist attacks in North America than Muslims. There is no mention about the efforts made by Canadian Muslims to counter the terrorism within their community. (pg. 301) Neither Marc Lépine or the FLQ are described using the word terrorist. There is no mention of Alexandre Bissonette's heinous act in Quebec City, even though revisions to the program were made months after the shooting occurred.
22. In a two page section entitled "The contribution of immigration" the only contribution mentioned is 'revitalizing the provinces labour force' and 'offsetting the effects of a declining birth rate' (pg. 320-321).
23. The text presents an extremely one-sided presentation of the so-called debate on 'religious neutrality.

We learn that some believe that certain religious accommodations are "contrary to the values of Quebec society", but nowhere do we learn about those who believe that inclusion and respect for religious freedom and human rights *are* Quebec values, enshrined in Quebec's own human rights charter. The Liberals are identified as the reason why the Bouchard-Taylor commission recommendations have not been implemented. There is no mention about the dramatic rise in xenophobic hate crimes that occurred throughout Quebec during the period the PQ was promoting its Charter of Values (pg 321-322).

24. Marc Lépine's mass murder at l'École Polytechnique is described as "premeditated" and "politically motivated", however the word 'terrorism' does not appear anywhere.
25. No mention of the fact that in contemporary Quebec, census data shows that Anglophones have lost their position of economic dominance and now experiences lower median incomes than Francophones and higher rates of unemployment.

Until the Ministry of Education admits there is a problem with such a narrow depiction of Quebec history through only one lens, we cannot expect any major improvement in some existing attitudes toward the presence of immigrants and ethnic minorities. We must continue to point out the flaws and omissions of this curriculum and why it is so important to address them, especially in light of the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Mosque shooting in Quebec City and the recent shooting of the teen in the Maniwaki courthouse in January. Attitudes have to change. Our schools should be venues to promote diversity and acceptance and not to breed intolerance.

Next School Update

Next School Update

By: Carol Meindl

At the Fall Conference in November of 2017, QFHSA was pleased to invite Michael Canuel and Noel Burke to speak to us and share their vision for High school education in Quebec in the 21st century. Clearly, what has been offered for the past 50 years in our schools is no longer sufficient for the next 50 years. Today's educational policy makers face a choice: to look far ahead seeking emerging educational opportunities or just make moderate innovations that appear creative. The change, however, must be substantial and the call for that change must come from the grassroots level.

The process for designing the prototypes has begun. Students are tackling the project through the McGill University's Change Management class in the School of Administration and Grad Studies as a credited course. In parallel to that work, the community is also involved in the design process through the Inno-design pod sessions. This heterogeneous group of individuals from diverse backgrounds (parents, teachers, administrators, and other education stakeholders) will be meeting in five full-day design sessions to discuss the prototype design possibilities and to trouble shoot where some of the stumbling blocks for progress may lie and consider ways to overcome them. This design process is divided into five areas of research: **Spatial** (the *where* learning takes place), **Temporal** (the *when* learning takes place), **Andragogical** (the *what* and *how* of a learner-centered experience), **Relational** (the *who* takes part in the learning experience) and **Communal** (the *integration of learning* within society). This group will be approaching the challenges from an architectural perspective.

There will also be a more homogeneous group of school administrators who will participate in the same sort of design activity innopods, coming at the same questions from their own perspective.

Theirs will be a more engineering approach.

Once the various groups have had a chance to design some prototypes for the new structure, a group of high school students will also be given an opportunity to offer what they would feel is the best answer to the question: When high school is the best it can be at preparing its students to self-actualize...what will it look like?

When all these various elements come together, the preliminary draft proposed prototypes will be submitted to the Director Generals and the Directors of English Education Network table in April/May and after some editing, the final drafts will be prepared for the Director General's May meeting. The Design Phase Results will be presented at the QESBA/AAESQ Conference in Quebec City May 24-25, 2018.

There are plans for a three-day Summer Institute in July/August, hosted by one of the downtown Montreal universities, targeting schools that are interested in being involved. Invited guest speakers include Luke Sumich of Ormiston Jr. College, New Zealand; Justin Reich of MIT Learning Labs and on the third day, Alan November, author of *"Who Owns The Learning?"* will give a presentation and answer questions. Schools interested in participating will be announced at the Summer Institute and will be followed by a needs and 'readiness' assessment. Once the schools have been chosen, they will start the PPI Design-process Training sessions. Once the preparation phase through adaptive design is complete, the lead schools will launch the new structure in 2019 with the cycle initial learning clusters (Sec I students). 2018-19 will be considered as a 'Preparation Year' for schools that might lead NEXTschool, and the first cohort will begin in September 2019.

Continued on page 15.

Little Inventors



Little Inventors INVENTIONS FOR SPACE

Little Inventors is the brainchild of artist and designer Dominic Wilcox, in collaboration with expert educationalists, designers and curators. Little Inventors takes children's invention ideas and makes them real. They believe that children's amazing invention ideas are a valuable contribution to the world. They shouldn't just be stuck to a fridge door and forgotten.

Their aim is to inspire and support children around the world to use their wonderful imaginations to think up ingenious, fantastical, funny or perfectly practical invention ideas with no limits! The children and the Little Inventors team work with experts and professionals to turn the most innovative ideas into real objects for amazing Little Inventor exhibitions. (All children retain the copyright in their invention drawings).

Littleinventors.org is the central place for children to share their invention ideas with other children (and adults!) across the globe. Children can freely upload their ideas to this website for positive and encouraging feedback from the Little Inventors team led by Chief Inventor Dominic Wilcox.

Teachers and parents can download the free *Little Inventors workshop resources*, and share the invention ideas that are generated back on littleinventors.org. These free resources offer many links to support the curriculum in primary schools in Art and design, Science and Literacy particularly.

Little Inventors works with schools, museums, hospitals and other child focused organizations to run Little Inventors workshops. These workshops inspire the children by showing interesting and fun invention ideas and challenging the children to think up and draw their own ideas, before making a prototype using everyday materials. The best ideas submitted to littleinventors.org will be brought to life by being animated, or even made into reality by our Magnificent Makers such as craftspeople, manufacturers and the digital making community.

Instead of putting children's drawings on the fridge, why not push an idea as far as it can go? We believe that anyone can find great ideas everywhere. You just need to look closer. We would love you to come up with your own invention idea – and become an inventor yourself.

Can you think about things people find difficult to do, or maybe that you find a bit boring – what could you invent to make it better or more fun? It really doesn't matter if it sounds a bit crazy or you're not sure how it can get made, if you have an invention idea, we want to hear about it!

You can enter yourself or with your school. Once you have uploaded your idea, it will go on the online gallery where everybody can see your great idea! The Chief Inventor and the team will be looking out for ideas – and if they like it, they will ask a professional maker or designer to make the idea into an animation, or even a real object!

Check out the gallery to see the inventions that other children have already come up with.



Are you ready to take up the Little inventors challenge?

It's really easy and it doesn't have to take long:

- ◆ Watch our Chief Inventor's challenge and get your idea cap on.
- ◆ Download the Little inventors drawing sheet to draw, name and explain your invention
- ◆ Take a picture and upload it here on littleinventors.org

As parents, one of the challenges of raising children is to equip them with the skills of dealing with whatever the future holds. With an ever changing world, brimming with information and evolving technology, creativity and problem-solving are skills that every child should learn to use as early as possible, in order to adapt and thrive in tomorrow's society. We believe that children's imaginations are an untapped resource for ideas that could make the world a better place.

Your child might do a Little inventors workshop at school, but you can also run a session at home -

it's easy and can be a great way to spend some time together being creative. Just grab the resources, then:

- ◆ Watch the challenge by our Chief Inventor
- ◆ Print, and have a few copies of the Drawing sheet handy
- ◆ Use our activities and prompt cards if you need a bit more inspiration
- ◆ Have fun!
- ◆ Don't forget to then upload the invention idea here at littleinventors.org

Your child will be given direct feedback from the team, and the public may like, love, or find their idea funny! (We'd never encourage negative feedback).

They may also get picked as a staff favourite, turned into an animation, or even get made into a real object by one of our skilled Magnificent Makers! <http://nserc.littleinventors.org/>



Next School update continued from page 13.

So this design of a new structure and approach to education, learning and teaching, in Quebec, is being approached from many angles, with a diverse group of stakeholders being consulted. This is a design strategy predicated on grassroots participation. It is exciting to be on the leading edge of this innovation, and an honour for Home and School to play a role. I myself am representing QFHSA at the NEXTschool Design Strategy Group, who receive updates on the progress and advise Noel and Michael on areas they may not have taken into consideration, and I participate in the Design Innopods sessions along with Kaljinder Kaur and Mike Nalecz. Together, we hope to keep you informed on the progress of this important project.

The [Millennium Project](#) provides 15 Global Challenges for the key issues of the world in the 21 Century, which are transitional in nature and trans-institutional in solution. **Clean Water, Population and Resources, Global Democracy, Long term perspectives, IT Convergence, Rich-Poor Gap, Health issues, Capacity to Decide, Peace and Conflict, Status of Women, Organized Crime, Science and technology, Energy, Global Ethics.**

What if we were challenging our high school students to help solve the world's problems rather than training them to find a job in today's marketplace? What if we were encouraging them to help find solutions for their surrounding community's challenges? Talk about potential "buy in" for the students and potential "pay out." for the community!

School Board Elections

In 2014 the Home and School Associations in Quebec made a concerted effort to promote participation in that year’s school board elections. A lot was riding on the results. QFHSA printed a special bulletin on School Board Elections and had it distributed in all 9 English school boards. Member associations held “Meet the Candidate” nights at their school and actively encouraged their members to go out to cast their vote.

Turnout, we believe, as a result, was a bit better than in previous years but still far below what it ought and needs to be.

We have only to look to south of our own border to see what damage apathy in elections can do, and how important municipal and school board elections, not just federal and provincial elections, can be to the health and vitality of a community.

Once again we find ourselves in an election year, with school board elections on the horizon. On November 4th, we will have another opportunity to show our elected representatives how much we value our English school boards and role they play in answering the unique needs of our school communities.

There will be more calls for involvement this year and we will be doing all we can to stimulate interest in these elections and boost participation. We look to our member associations and individual members to support their community and vote!



LEAVE OF ABSENCES

At the Board of Director’s meeting on October 19th, 2017, **President Brian Rock** took a point of personal privilege and notified the Board that he would be requesting a medical leave of absence as of December 1, 2017 for one month. That one month had been extended to March 5, 2018 and now has been further extended to April 28, 2018. In the meantime, Executive Vice-President Linton Garner has taken on the role of interim president in Brian’s absence. Brian continues to recover from his surgeries and hopes to be with us at the Annual General Meeting at the end of April. We are sure you will join us in wishing Brian a full recovery and a gradual return to his regular activities.

Also, **Vice-President Rosemary Murphy** has requested a leave of absence from her duties as a Director to accept the position of Returning Officer for the Lester B Pearson School Board. Her leave will extend from March 12th to April 28th and then again from April 28th to December 31st, 2018. After the school board election duties are complete, Rosemary will be in a position to return to the Board and her regular activities.

We wish both Brian and Rosemary the very best and look forward to having them back on the board again and serving QFHSA going into 2019.

AGM 2018 Guest Speaker

AGM 2018 GUEST SPEAKER: WILLIAM FLOCH

We are pleased to announce that William Floch, Assistant Secretary General to Kathleen Weil, Minister responsible for the English community and the Secretariat for Relations to English Speaking Quebecers, will be with us at AGM on April 28th, 2018 as our guest speaker.

Floch was appointed to his position on November 24, 2017 in an announcement at the Morin Center in Quebec City. He had previously served as a federal civil servant specializing in official languages at Canadian Heritage and as former Executive Director at Townshippers Association in the Eastern Townships. He has extensive knowledge and expertise with our community.

Both William Floch and Kathleen Weil co-hosted a series of online community exchange sessions in February as part of its mandate to liaise with the sectoral, regional, and provincial groups that

represent English-speaking Quebecers. They wish to ensure that the challenges faced by English-speaking Quebecers are considered in the development of government policies. They were 'taking the pulse' of the communities to establish priorities and orientations which will inform their action plan in the start-up phase of the Secretariat's operations.

We welcome William Floch to address our parent members at AGM and share information on the activities of the Secretariat to date.



YOUTH EXPLORING SCIENCE 2018

Some of our Home and Schools may be familiar with the Youth Exploring Science Program of extra curricular science activities Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) has provided over the past 6 years. Kids learned about chemistry through making silly putty, learned about bats and sharks, solved crimes through forensic science techniques and even made root beer. The kids had a lot of fun and learned some practical things about the world around them through science.

Our regular facilitator, Evelyn Castillo, was not available this year, so **Le Nichoir** was recruited to provide some hands on avian science activities instead.

As this is **The Year of the Bird**, we thought workshops on **Bird Adaptations** and **Avian Detectives** might be educational and enjoyable. The advantage of Le Nichoir is that they were able to come in person, materials in hand (wings, feet, beaks, feathers, etc.) and conduct the activities.

We were not able to offer the workshops as far as the Quebec CLC Network extends, so this year, we had to keep YES closer to home. Participating was Morin Heights Elementary, Heritage Elementary in Huntingdon and Gault Institute in Valleyfield through their nearest Community Learning Centers.

The cost of the workshops was covered by QFHSA as well as the travel expenses to get Jo-Annie Gagnon, Education Coordinator and her gear to the individual locations. Students from surrounding schools were also invited to participate. Each hosting school received a bird feeder and each student participating took home window decals to help protect birds from injuring themselves flying into windows.

The workshops were presented as extra-curricular activities on Saturday afternoons 1:00pm-2:30pm on March, 17 and April 7, and 28.

For more information on Le Nichoir, the bird sanctuary in Hudson, please go to their website <http://lenichoir.org/> or visit them this spring and summer



Focus on



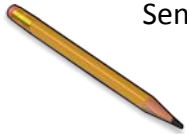
The locals



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTED IN FOCUS ON THE LOCALS?

Send us a summary and some pictures of the amazing things your school, staff and students have been up to!

Send questions or content to news@qfhsa.org



Lindsay Place

Our first Paint Night fundraiser took place on November 25th. Thanks to the excellent direction and creative talent of our former Home & School President, Linda Roach, it was a huge success!

In addition to seeing the wonderful works of art that our attendees created, we enjoyed sharing great laughs and fun conversation with old and new friends!



Wilder Penfield

Wilder Penfield Elementary Home & School Association has had a busy year thus far, and are already excited about all the fun and interesting events yet to come. Our Exec Team started the year by making home made goodies for our new Principal and staff at Wilder!

Our Schoolkits Fundraiser was a great success and helped a lot of parents. We provided a free pizza lunch school wide and of course included the amazing staff at Wilder:) We then proceeded to assist with funding for the School portion of Welcome Wilder, and Home & School threw a great party that afternoon for the Wilder Community with free corn, music, glamorous glitter tattoos, giant inflatable soccer and fun games. It was a great way to start the year!

October was a "spooktacular" month with a successful Monster Mash where the students enjoyed music from a fun DJ, costume prizes, bake table and goodies. Our Dagwoods, Pizza Pizza and TCBY lunches are still a success and held monthly.

Mabel's Labels and Fundscrip are also ongoing. We funded an anti-bullying play that was attended by all grades as well as initiated a \$5.00 activity fee to assist each child in a school activity. We have funded our resource teacher with a budget to provide books for students, assisted in the Holiday Basket project, funded \$50.00 gift cards for all teachers to name a few of our successes.

November was a great month as we held our ever growing Holiday Fair. This year was a great success with over ten "make & Take" craft stations, visit from Santa and every child received a wrapped present at the end of the evening. Our Cookie Dough fundraiser was a smash success that grows each year. Our Wilder Wear clothing campaign is about to launch and we are very excited for all our upcoming events that could not be possible without our amazing volunteers who go above and beyond to make our H&S events and fundraisers successful as we keep innovating and working with the fantastic staff at Wilder.



St. Charles Elementary

Together we can achieve

Our annual Breakfast with Santa was held the last day before winter break. The students enjoyed a wholesome breakfast along with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. With assistance from the Grade 6 elves, all students were finished breakfast in time for the annual sing-a-long with Santa and Mrs. Claus. A huge thank you goes out to all who organized and volunteered for this event.

We are halfway through the school year and St. Charles H & S continues to be busy with activities for the students and fundraising efforts. H & S will be busy helping staff with Carnival Day and Literacy Week and organizing and preparing for the Sharks Clothing drive, Staff Appreciation Week, Daycare Appreciation, Movie Night and to cap off the end of the school year the student favorite and 'Funnest' day - Footloose!!



Honore Mercier

On November 15 & 16, 2017 HM Home & School held our annual Scholastic English & French Bookfair! Thanks to our volunteers for another successful bookfair. On October 31st thanks to our wonderful Halloween committee HM Home & School created a spooky haunted house for all our students to visit.

On December 22nd, 2017 HM Home & School treated all our students and staff to a Pan-

cake Breakfast with some fresh fruit and chocolate milk. We also had a special visit from Santa Claus and his elf Josephine. Thanks to our volunteers for making this a special event for all.



Dorval Elementary

Dorval Elementary Home and School started the year off with their annual Welcome Back BBQ although it was almost one without food! A miscommunication at the supplier's end meant the delivery of the actual BBQ's was not going to happen in time to cook food for over 400 people. Luckily the Home and School wasted no time in springing to action; several parents ran home to get large pots and proceeded to commandeer the teacher's stove. A group of Home and School members and parent volunteers then spent the next 2 hours boiling hot dogs on 4 burners in a tight space and uncomfortably hot temperatures. The kids got fed and a good time was had by all although there is a group of 6 people who still have not eaten a hot dog since.

The annual Fall Fair – our biggest fundraiser of the year – was also a resounding success. Between vendors, parents, students and volunteers, we were able to raise over \$8000 to enhance school community activities. Just a few of the events sponsored by Home and School this year include

- An exciting and interactive science show for the

whole school called "La Magie de la Chimie" by Yannick Bergeron that all the kids were talking about afterwards.

- An interactive and informative "Marionnettes Géantes" workshop presented by Le Théâtre de la Dame de Coeur where grades 3 and 4 got to work in groups to build and animate their own marionettes.
- We had Geordie Productions come into the school and perform 'The Mountain' for all the students.
- The children of Dorval Elementary are also enjoying a new school yard with freshly painted games.



Beaconsfield High School

Beaconsfield High School Home and School has tried a few new things...

We were searching for ways to show more school spirit, raise awareness of ongoing school projects and raise some funds. Last year BHS H&S tried 2 new initiatives and we plan on continuing them this year. We started a monthly popcorn sale which takes place at lunchtime. Each month, we support a different school group. With this, we have been able to give funds to phys ed, innovators club, French social science, drama and Glee club. Along with the

funds, we raise awareness for various groups in the school.

Our second project was to sell snacks at any outdoor home games, we partnered with Sparkes of Hope for this so the work and profits could be shared. This is more of a spirit-raising initiative than an actual money maker. But to see parents, students (from BHS and visiting schools) reaction it has been worth the effort.



Genesis Elementary

In November of 2017, the Genesis Elementary Home and School Association held a Comedy Night Fundraiser at Embassy Plaza in Laval. With over 300 people in attendance, the event was a huge success! The funds raised will go towards purchasing new athletic and academic material for the school and to defray the costs of many school-wide activities. The organizing team devoted countless hours to make this an unforgettable night!

In December, the children at Genesis Elementary School were treated to Breakfast with Santa, courtesy of the Home and School Association. In addition to a delicious hot meal, the children enjoyed making a Christmas craft, face painting and having their picture taken with Mr. and Mrs. Claus! It was a warm and cozy event that was greatly appreciated by the kids, the staff and the parent volunteers!



Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary

PETES Home and School held their Annual Scholastics Book Fair during parent interviews. The evening was a great success!! In December we organised the Santa sleigh ride with all of the Kindergarten students. Hot chocolate and cookies followed along with a special treat from Santa.

Also Home and School volunteers hosted the annual Holiday Pyjama Breakfast for all staff and students. Everyone was served a delicious pancake breakfast with potatoes, fruit and milk. Santa was kind enough to come back and spend some time with the students. Such a great way to kick off the holiday season.

To celebrate PETES 15th anniversary, our principal, Mr. Joseph commissioned a large mosaic from a talented local artist by the name of Monica Brinkman. You can see all of her beautiful work at www.monica brinkman.com

Monica is a former PETES parent and was an active Home and School member who had created beautiful mosaics which are all hung on the walls at PETES. Home & School was happy to help Mr. Joseph's vision come to life and celebrate PETES 15th birthday with this beautiful Mosaic that is proudly displayed in the entrance of our school.





WHERE IS MY SCHOOL?

Disappointed that your school is not in the Focus on the Locals section? Please talk to your Home and School members and submit the

wonderful things your association is doing to news@qfhsa.org for our next issue in June 2018.



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