QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

THE VOICE OF THE PARENT IN EDUCATION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QFHSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CALLS FOR GREATER PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS IN BILL 48 AND BEYOND

MONTREAL, QUÉBEC, December 13, 2024 – The Board of Directors of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) appreciates the sections of Bill 48 that deal with school zones and vulnerable road users, but asserts that they are not enough.

On this, the second anniversary of seven-year-old Mariia Legenkovska's tragic and avoidable death, the QFHSA joins other groups – including Pas une mort de plus and the English Parents' Committee Association – in insisting upon greater protections for our students. While the afore-mentioned legislation is a welcome start, it fails to adequately recognize or address the fact that a student's vulnerability extends beyond the immediate school zone to encompass their entire journey. And while harsher penalties for breaking existing laws are appropriate, there are numerous additional preventative measures – such as proper risk assessment and mitigation – that, if enacted, can be tremendously effective in saving lives.

The QFHSA therefore calls not only for the establishment of an institution responsible for the creation, implementation, and enforcement of said preventative measures, but also for separate legislation which speaks exclusively and comprehensively to the safety of road users, the most defenceless of whom are our children.

QFHSA Contact: Carol Meindl, Executive Director
Phone: 514-481-5619
Email: carolmeindl@qfhsa.org

About Us: The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. (QFHSA) is an independent, incorporated, not-for-profit volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the education and general well- being of children and youth. Since 1944, the QFHSA has been promoting the involvement of parents, students, educators, and the community at large in the advancement of learning and acting as a voice for parents. For more information on the QFHSA, please visit **qfhsa.org**, follow us on **Facebook.com/qfhsa**, **Instagram.com/QFHSA**, and **X (formerly Twitter) @QFHSA**.

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