



Association des comités de parents anglophones English Parents' Committee Association

EPCA Quebec Applauds Quebec Government's \$300-Million Academic Catch-Up Plan: A Boost for Student Success

Montreal, January 9, 2024 – The English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA Quebec) applauds the Quebec government for taking the bold step of announcing a \$300 million academic catch-up plan designed to prepare students for success throughout the remainder of the school year and the upcoming summer period. The Minister of Education, Bernard Drainville, announced comprehensive remedial measures for students, demonstrating a proactive approach to addressing the diverse needs of learners across the province. EPCA Quebec is in complete agreement with the government's commitment to providing students with critical resources and support, particularly those students facing educational challenges.

"The emphasis on after-school tutoring for all students in the remedial plan is a critical step toward ensuring access to personalized learning support," said EPCA President Katherine Korakakis. Individual or group tutoring sessions provided on a volunteer basis by teachers, retired teachers, or student teachers represents a significant increase in supplementary educational opportunities outside of regular school hours. "While acknowledging the government's commitment to addressing the challenges faced by students, EPCA Quebec expresses concern about the omission of established educational entities, such as Learn Quebec, which has a proven track record of offering services to the English-speaking communities," according to Ms. Korakakis.

EPCA Quebec also commends the inclusion of specialized assistance for students with special needs. By doing so, the government demonstrates a clear commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students by providing targeted assistance outside of school hours to small groups of students experiencing similar difficulties.

EPCA Quebec, through countless consultations with parents over the years, understands that parental involvement in children's educational endeavors is crucial. This involvement will continue to be indispensable during the catch-up period that we are all confronted with. Ms. Korakakis states that "effective and transparent communication between parents and the school team is crucial for identifying and addressing any vulnerabilities that the student may have. It may not be possible to immediately identify a student's vulnerabilities; therefore, until the end of the school year, it will be crucial to modify the resources provided to each student in accordance with their changing requirements."

EPCA Quebec extends its full support to the Quebec government in this undertaking. The Association looks forward to working with the government, educational institutions, and parents to increase the impact of these measures to ensure that every student in Quebec has the resources and support they need to succeed academically.

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