

*QUEBEC FEDERATION
OF
HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS,
INC.*



1998 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
BOOK OF REPORTS

May 2, 1998

Meeting held at
Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire
6700 Trans-Canada Highway
Pointe-Claire, Quebec

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QFHSA 54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MAY 2, 1998
BUSINESS PROCEDURE

1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is conducted in accordance with our Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules. In the case of any procedural dispute reference shall be made to Robert's Rules of Order Revised.
2. Each official representative of each Maintaining Member Association shall have one vote on any question which comes before the meeting, except for associations more than 150 miles from Montreal. Such associations will still be entitled to three votes, expressed either as an identical or a divided vote. Application for such privilege is to be presented in writing to the Executive Secretary prior to the start of the business portion of the Annual General Meeting.
3. The quorum for transaction of business at the Annual Meeting shall be twenty-five (25) percent of Maintaining Member Associations in good standing, represented by their official representatives or accredited alternates.
4. Voting shall be by ballot or show of hands. All questions shall be decided by a majority of those present and entitled to vote, except those which require a two-thirds (2\3) majority; the President having a deciding vote in case of a tie.

On ballot votes, the votes of each association shall be handed in by the official delegates of each association individually but at the same time. Counting of the votes shall be done by non-voting participants.

5. A delegate may not speak for more than two minutes on any question under discussion, nor more than twice on the question.
6. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws require a two-thirds (2\3) vote of the delegates present and entitled to vote. Notice of the proposed amendments must have been mailed to all Maintaining Member Associations at least ten weeks prior to the meeting. Modifications to these proposed amendments received two (2) weeks before the AGM will be considered, but no modification may be made from the floor.
7. Resolutions to the Annual Meeting must have been circulated to the Maintaining Member Associations eight (8) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Resolutions received after the date specified will be presented as **Emergency Resolutions** only after consideration by the Chairman of the meeting and the Resolutions Committee. Delegates presenting resolutions are reminded that they must be present at the time designated on the agenda for the presentation of their resolution. The presenting party may speak to the resolution, or amendments thereto, for not more than FIVE (5) minutes. In addition to amendments received two weeks before the AGM, there may be amendments emanating from the caucus session held earlier, *but no further amendments may be made from the floor.*

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54TH QFHSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MAY 2ND, 1998
AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. | Welcome & Introductions | |
| 2. | Appointments: Parliamentarian; Credentials Chairman; Scrutineers | |
| 3. | Business Procedure | <u>Book of Reports</u>
Inside cover |
| 4. | Adoption of Agenda | Page..... 1 |
| 5. | Adoption of Minutes of 1997 Annual General Meeting | Page..... 2 |
| 6. | President's Report | Page..... 9 |
| 7. | Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Rules Committee Report | Page..... 10 |
| | 7.1 Amendments | Circulated Feb.20/98 |
| 8. | Membership Report | Page..... 20 |
| 9. | Finance Report | Page..... 15 |
| 10. | Treasurer | |
| | 10.1 Auditors Report | Pages..... 11-14 |
| | 10.2 Proposed Budget for 1999 | Pages..... 16-19 |
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| | 10.3 Appointment of Auditor 1998/99 - Verelli & Azzira | |
| 11. | Reports | |
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| 12. | Resolutions/Policy | Pages..... 24 |
| | 12.1 Disposition of 1997 Resolutions | Pages..... 24 |
| | 12.2 Statements of Policy | Circulated March 17/98 |
| | 12.3 1998 Resolutions | Circulated March 17/98 |
| 13. | Nominations for Directors/Officers | |
| | 13.1 Election of Board of Directors | |
| | 13.2 Election of Officers | |
| | 13.3 Installation of Board of Directors | |
| 14. | Acceptance of remaining Reports | |
| 15. | New Business | |
| 16. | Adjournment | |



QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

3285 Cavendish Blvd., Suite 562, Montreal, Quebec H4B 2L9 Tel: (514) 481-5619 Fax: (514) 481-5610

**MINUTES OF THE 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS
HELD APRIL 26, 1997, AT THE HOLIDAY INN/POINTE-CLAIRE**

Registered and present during the April 26, 1997 Annual General Meeting were 94 people, including 23 guests.

There were twenty-one local Home & School Associations, [out of a possible 45 in good standing], present and represented by accredited voting delegates.

They were :

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Aylmer Elementary | 11) John Rennie High |
| 2) Baie Comeau High School | 12) Keith |
| 3) Beacon Hill | 13) Lindsay Place High |
| 4) École Primaire Beaconsfield | 14) Macdonald High |
| 5) Beaconsfield High | 15) École Primaire Pointe-Claire |
| 6) Dorset | 16) Royal West Academy |
| 7) Edgewater | 17) Seigneurie |
| 8) Edinburgh | 18) Valois Park |
| 9) École Primaire Harwood | 19) Westmount High |
| 10) Hudson High | 20) Westpark |
| | 21) Windermere |

The Annual Business Meeting was officially opened on Saturday morning, April 26, 1997, by the President, Patricia Waters (8:45 am).

1. Welcome and Introductions

The President welcomed the delegates present. The head table was introduced: Helen Koeppel, Resolutions Chairman; Miriam Lalande, Executive Vice-President and Constitution Committee Chairman; Wendy Buchanan, Recording Secretary; Karen Bilton, Treasurer. Other Board of Director members were introduced, plus Past Presidents Marion Daigle and Barbara Milne-Smith. Barbara Page, Vice-President, was thanked for her work on General Arrangements. Business procedures for the meeting were briefly outlined.

2. Appointments

Parliamentarian

MOTION: Daigle(CHSPTF Life Member)/Margolese(Director and E.P. Harwood) to appoint Marion Roberts as parliamentarian. **CARRIED**

Credentials Chairman

MOTION: Funnell(Director)/Daigle to appoint Carol Ohlin as Credentials Chairman. **CARRIED**

Scrutineer

MOTION: Wiener(Director)/Cumyn(Director) that Normand Meunier and Keri Lalande be appointed scrutineers. **CARRIED**

Carol Ohlin reported that, at this point, there were 15 schools present (with 40 voting delegates + presiding officer) and that, therefore, we have a quorum.



3. Adoption of agenda

Add Items 9.2 - Resolution 1EE - Territories of the New English Language Boards; and 9.3 - Resolution 2EE - Rights of Citizens with regards to the Electoral Lists for Linguistic School Boards.

MOTION: Metcalfe(Baie Comeau)/Vandersluis(E.P. Pointe Claire) to accept the agenda, with the two noted additions.

CARRIED

4. Adoption of Minutes of 1996 Annual General Meeting (pp.1-6, Book of Reports)

MOTION: Nixon(Director)/Brown(Director and Aylmer) to accept the minutes as written.

CARRIED

5. Constitution/By-Laws/Standing Rules Committee report

Miriam Lalande chaired this portion of the meeting, assisted by Barbara Milne-Smith, Constitution Committee member. Brief history of QFHSA given: formed in 1944, incorporated in 1959. In 1994 the Quebec Civil Code was changed; our By-Laws need to be updated to be in agreement with the new code. Described changes. Discussions ensued where necessary.

A. **MOTION:** Lalande(Director and Lachine High)/Stirling(Lindsay Place High) that Quebec Federation of Home and Schools Associations Inc. recognizes that the Quebec Companies Act, Part III, BY-LAW NUMBER 1: GENERAL BY-LAWS is the basis of its By-Laws, with the following nuances to be noted for clarity: That the **Directors shall be elected** at the Annual General Meeting, that the **quorum** at all Board and Committee meetings be a simple majority. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. **MOTION:** Lalande/Tansey(E.P. Harwood) that the **Financial Year** be January 1 to December 31. Note that the membership year will remain September 1 to August 31.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **MOTION:** Lalande/Spencer(Director and E.P. Harwood) that the **number of Directors** elected to the Board be limited to fifteen, including the Past President who will defacto become a member of the Board of Directors.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question asked about the number 15. What happens if you have Co-Presidents?

D. **MOTION:** Lalande/Margolese that each Director shall hold **office** for a **term** of two (2) years; to allow for continuity, only half the number of Directors will be eligible for election every year. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

E. **MOTION:** Lalande/Page(Director and E.P. Harwood) that the **Officers shall be elected from amongst the Board of Directors** at the Annual General Meeting and may consist of the following: President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Executive-Vice President and **two** Vice-Presidents. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Question asked regarding eligibility for Board of Directors. Does a director have to attend a certain number of meetings? Committee said they were open to suggestions. Constitution will be shortened to make it clearer. Miriam Lalande said that as a director you have legal responsibilities. Each director signs a form of acceptance. To improve efficiency, Executive Committee meetings are being cut to six, Board of Directors meetings to four.

F. **MOTION:** Lalande/Spencer) that the work of reviewing the By-Laws and Standing Rules continue. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. Treasurer's report6.1 Finance Committee report (p.20, Book of Reports)

MOTION: Brown/Margolese to accept the report. **CARRIED**
 There was a brief explanation of the challenges facing us and a discussion regarding membership fees. New sources of funds are generally project oriented, what is needed are funds for operating organization.

6.2 Auditor's statement for 1995/96 (circulated prior to AGM)

MOTION: Brown/Tansey to accept the audited statement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There were no questions. It was noted that membership fees account for more than 50% of our operating costs.

6.3 Proposed Budget 1997/986.3.1 Family Membership Fee

MOTION: Bilton(Director and Meadowbrook)/Spencer that the recommendation from the Board of Directors, that the Family Membership Fee remain at \$13 for the membership year 1997/98, be ratified.

Discussion. Could the membership fee be raised to include liability insurance? The Board will investigate the possibility of obtaining a group rate insurance package for local associations. Debi Brown noted that when the fees are increased the number of members decreases. We had fewer members this past year and we need to pay attention to the membership. It was suggested that with the new Governing Councils in place in schools (having only 8 parents) there was an opportunity for Home & School to fill the void.

Vote on motion.

CARRIED (with 3 abstentions)

6.3.2 Group Affiliate Fee

MOTION: Bilton/Cheng(Beaconsfield High) that the recommendation from the Board of Directors, that the Group Affiliate Fee remain at \$60 for the membership year 1997/98, be ratified.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3.3 Administration Fee

MOTION: Bilton/Stirling that the recommendation from the Board of Directors, that the Administration Fee remain at \$50 for the membership year 1997/98, be ratified.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Following votes on the above motions, the proposed budget was voted on.

MOTION: Bilton/Brown that the Proposed Budget for 1997/98 to accepted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.4 Ratification of appointment of Auditor 1996/97 — Verelli & Arrizza

MOTION: Bilton/Lalande that the recommendation from the Board of Directors, appoint the firm of Verelli & Arrizza who will carry out both a short audit, Sept 01-Dec 31, required in order to change our fiscal year, and a regular long audit.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. 1997 Book of Reports7.1 President's report (pp.7-8, Book of Reports)

President thanked all the Committee Chairmen for their work. Noted the Rights Committee had been working very hard of late (see resolutions). Next year will be the 50th anniversary of our newspaper (in various forms). Also our 1992 Leadership Handbook is in process of being updated and revised. PALS/COPAIN project is going strong. Our poor membership figures for 1996/97 are a matter of concern; what can we do to encourage new members?

Canadian Home and School Federation - a report of their activities is on p.9, Book of Reports.

They have been having some problems with a change of staff, etc. We are hoping that everything can be worked out.

MOTION: Waters(Director and Beaconsfield High)/Margolese to accept the reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Helen Koeppel called for a vote of thanks to the outgoing President for a job well done.

7.2 Nominations report

Allan Locke read out the list of persons nominated for position on the Board of Directors. Noted there was one position still open for a Director and said anyone interested in looking into this could speak with any member of the Nominations Committee. Pointed out that local associations are our life blood and we need to receive more nominations from them.

MOTION: Locke(Director)/Page to adopt the slate presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.3 Liability, Liability Insurance report (p.20, Book of Reports)

MOTION: Lalande/Metcalf to accept the recommendation contained in the report, namely that local associations approach their school boards to advocate purchase of insurance to cover volunteers in their schools.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.4 Student Accident Insurance (p.29, Book of Reports)

Two student accident insurance companies — Reliable Life and Industrial-Alliance — offer good policies.

MOTION: Lalande/Stirling that Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations endorse carrying additional personal coverage of our children in school with both these companies.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Waters/Page to accept the remainder of the reports in the Book of Reports en bloc.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was noted that all the clarification sheets and amendments from today's meeting will be included in the official Book of Reports.

Short nutrition break.

8. Resolutions Helen Koeppel, Chairman, chaired this portion of the meeting.

8.1 Disposition of 1996 Resolutions (p.23, Book of Reports)

Explained the disposition of the 1996 resolutions. The resolution the Board Directors had sent in support of the West Island Youth Court received a lengthy response from Minister Rochon.

Said all the groups consulted had agreed with the move. Helen pointed out to the delegates that the groups consulted were all inner city ones. The Mayors of the West Island municipalities have offered to renovate a building suitable for use by the Court.

8.2 Statement of Policy

Explained the Statement of Policy reflected the resolutions we have passed. New additions proposed, based on 1996 resolutions, are:

MOTION: Koeppel/Brown to add #31 under Education: Derogation for high school diploma from the second language requirement to students with documented speech/language disabilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Koeppel/Tansey to add #32 under Education: Enhancement of employability skills throughout the curriculum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Koeppel/Spencer to add #4 under Parent Involvement: Adequate comprehensive liability insurance for all participants at extra-curricular activities sponsored by Home & School Associations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Koepp/Metcalf to add #18 under Teachers: Identification of difficulties and support for children with difficulties through the first cycle of elementary school as well as four and five year old kindergarten students.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.3 Caucusing

This was done en masse.

8.4 97/1E - MANDATORY DRIVER EDUCATION

MOTION: Page/Smith(Director) to adopt the resolution.

After discussion, the 4th WHEREAS was changed from "Whereas it is self-evident that mandatory driver training has reduced and will continue to reduce the death toll on Québec highways;" to read: "Whereas mandatory accredited* driver education ensures that all new drivers are taught good basic driving skills;"

The 5th WHEREAS was changed slightly from: "Whereas mandatory driver training...", to read: "Whereas mandatory accredited* driver education..."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED had minor changes made: "... reinstate mandatory accredited* driver education...[underlined word added]; and "...driver's license." was changed to "...driver's permit."

Vote on amended resolution.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[At the post-AGM Board of Directors meeting, Apr 26/97, 4:00 pm, the word "accredited" was removed from this resolution; courses given now are not accredited and the thrust of the resolution was to have mandatory driver education as a prerequisite to a permit]

97/4E - CUTS TO GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

MOTION: Cumyn/Nixon to adopt the resolution.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Destinations added to this resolution were: Leader of the Opposition. Prime Minister of Quebec was corrected to Premier of Quebec. Added under "Information" were: Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers, Provincial Association of Catholic Teachers, Fédération des commissions scolaires catholique du Québec.

97/2E - PROTECTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION IN QUEBEC

MOTION: Wiener(Director)/Metcalf to adopt the resolution.

CARRIED (with one abstention)

MOTION: Daigle/Funnell that with regard to this resolution the delegates to this 1997 Annual General Meeting request the Board of Directors to apply to be heard before The Special Joint Committee of the House of Commons and the Senate respecting a proposed amendment to Section 93 of the Constitution Act, 1867, concerning the Quebec school system.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. New Business

9.1 Education — Linguistic School Board update

Ann Cumyn, Education Chairman, led a discussion on linguistic school boards and answered delegates questions. When asked, "What can we do?", Ann suggested that letters and articles be written to newspapers, governments, etc. Recommended that QFHSA request to be heard should a Parliamentary Commission be struck.

9.2 97/5E - TERRITORIES OF THE NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOARDS

Caucusing and discussion ensued.

MOTION: Cumyn/Straughton(Director and Macdonald High School) to adopt the resolution.

Amendment proposed to the THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVEDwishes of parents in any area, to be of prime importance...., to read:wishes of the parents in any location, to be of prime importance....

Also to add to destinations: Premier of Quebec and Leader of the Opposition. Under "information" add: Education critic [of the Opposition party] and Action Démocratique du Québec.

Vote on amended resolution.

CARRIED (with one abstention)

9.3 97/6E - RIGHTS OF CITIZENS WITH REGARDS TO THE ELECTORAL LISTS
FOR LINGUISTIC SCHOOL BOARDS

Caucusing and discussion.

MOTION: Cumyn/Brown to adopt resolution.

The **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** was changed from: "... whose name is on the permanent electoral list, and who does not have a child in school, is able to vote in the language board of their choice." To read: "... whose name is on the permanent electoral list, and who wishes to vote, be required to register to vote in the language board of their choice."

Vote on amended resolution.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A vote of thanks was extended to Ann Cumyn and Rickhey Margolese for their efforts to bring these two new emergency resolutions to the meeting.

10. Nominations for Directors

10.1 Election of Board of Directors

MOTION: Locke/Margolese to move the acceptance of the slate of Directors as listed on page 25 in the kits.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.2 Election of Officers of the Federation

MOTION: Locke/Spencer to move the acceptance of the Officers as listed on page 25 in the kits.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.3 Induction of Board of Directors


Will take place at the luncheon.

11. Adjournment (12:45 pm)


MOTION: Waters/Brown that the Board of Directors be empowered to handle any unfinished business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attention was called to the date of the 1997 Fall Conference - Saturday, October 25/97 at John Rennie High School.



President



Secretary

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1997

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Barbara Chatelois Page, Executive Vice-President

Registration

There were 94 people attending, of whom 23 were guests. Of the 45 Home and School Associations in good standing, twenty-one schools were represented. Lunch was served to 89. Centerpieces for the luncheon tables were made by students of Ecole Primaire Harwood, Dorset, Courtland Park and Meadowbrook.

The theme for the 53rd Annual Convention was Adjusting to Change. It was held on Saturday the 26th of April 1997 at the Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire. The service that was provided was very gracious and professional. Everything was perfectly arranged and all of our needs were seen to. A large Thank You will be extended to the Holiday Inn and to Mr. Jacques Moirier for the attentive professional service that was extended to our members.

Early Bird Special

For the fifth consecutive year the Friday evening session was held at the QFHSA office. This extra special evening took on the topic of Civil Rights in Education and Linguistic School Boards and Boundaries. Fifteen people attended; debates and discussion took place and from this Two (2) Emergency Resolutions were drawn up for the AGM. Ann Cumyn provided and explained the information on the changes that are to be implemented. A catered light meal was served.

Business Meeting

Four emergency resolutions previously circulated and two Emergency resolutions were discussed in a group caucusing session and passed in the business meeting. The delegates accepted the proposed 1997/98 budget; there was no change in the family membership fee of \$13. A complete account of the business proceedings appears in the official minutes.

Awards

The **Gordon Paterson Award** for outstanding service to the education of children and for encouraging parent participation in school life was presented to **Lois Pineault**, retiring teacher at Valois Park School. The recipient of the **Buzzell Award** for outstanding service to QFHSA was **Margaret Funnell** retired Commissioner to the Lakeshore School Board and vice-president of QFHSA.

The **Lewis Peace Prize**, a newly presented Award was donated by **Pat Lewis**, a past recipient of the Buzzell Award in 1977 and the Gordon Paterson Award in 1989. This award is dedicated to her father-in-law. This award was given to the **Student Councils of John Rennie High School and École Secondaire Pointe-Claire** for contributing to a safe and peaceful community environment.

During the luncheon the **Golden Torch and Unsung Hero** certificates were presented to those selected for this Honor by their Home and School Associations and School Committees. Schools recognized for their outstanding achievements for **membership & newsletters** were given books donated by Reader's Digest.

Program: Adjusting to Change

The installation of officers was conducted by Barbara Milne-Smith, Past-President of QFHSA and a Lifetime member of CHSF. Following the luncheon, guest speaker **Judith Newman**, vice-president of the Conseil supérieur de l'Éducation, emphasized the important role of parents in the school and how parents can help to bring about the changes needed in our schools and how to help our children cope with these changes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Miriam Lalande, President

Members of the Board of Directors: Norma Cheng, Margaret Funnell, Helen Koeppe, Miriam Lalande, Alice MacLeod, Dorothy Nixon, Barbara Page, Donald Smith, Shirley Straughton, Patricia Waters, Rod Wiener.

The Theme for 1997-98 was *Adjusting to Change*. This happened both within QFHSA and in the transition to a linguistic school system.

ACHIEVEMENTS in 1997-1998:

- **Membership** - planning for new Home & School Associations in new schools in a new school system. Many visits to our locals and school committees during the year. Hosting Open House days targeting prospective members. Mid-Term Executive workshop focusing on membership and education issues.
- **Membership Development** - an exceptional year - the new Leadership Handbook, Website Project, trips to Baie Comeau and Gaspé regions.
- **By-Laws** - Completion of the review of the infrastructure of QFHSA started last year, for presentation at AGM 98.
- **A Manual** for the Board of Directors for both training and leadership.
- **Finances** were reviewed in depth and policies updated. Implementation of Simply Accounting program.
- **Office** - changes in physical set-up and upgrading of technology.
- **Education** - presentation of two briefs directly to the Minister of Education in May and September, additional letter to the Minister on Bill 180, resolutions on education budget cutbacks. Education issues addressed at Think Tank, Fall Conference Plenary, Mid Term Workshop and Open Houses in collaboration with Membership committee. Participating in the AGM 98 Conference program and preparation of resolutions for presentation at AGM meeting.
- **Rights** - the resolution passed at the 1997 AGM led to the preparation and presentation of the brief on the amendment to Section 93 to the Joint Committee of the Senate/House of Commons in Ottawa.
- **Canadian Home and School Federation** - participation in a pivotal Annual Meeting in Ottawa in June 97. Patricia Waters elected as Central Vice President, Debi Brown as Treasurer. QFHSA hosted the CHSF mid-term meeting in November. Preparations underway to participate in the 1998 Annual Meeting, June 18-21, in Moncton, New Brunswick. This is the provincial **VOICE of parents** speaking at the national level, being heard and responded to.
- **NEWS** - four issues. The NEWS celebrates **50 YEARS** in 1998. QFHSA is introducing new technology in the production of the NEWS. Thanks to a Canada Heritage grant and expertise from Dorothy Nixon, QFHSA will have its own WEBSITE in April. A new link in communication.
- **Parent Involvement** - **PALS/COPAIN** Workshops in Montreal, Baie Comeau, Gaspé. **Literacy** ~ A special grant from ABC Canada Literacy Foundation of \$2600.00 to the Gaspé

region 'Born to Read/Readers are Leaders' project co-ordinated by Anne MacWhirter, teacher and QFHSA Area Representative and Lally MacKenzie, teacher.

- **Health Issues** - introducing a resolution on trampolines in the school and playgrounds, plus information in the NEWS. Continued association with the ACT Foundation and the CPR program.
- **Safety/Transportation** - articles in the NEWS keep us informed.
- **Social Issues/Support Services** - articles in the NEWS.

This year has been an **education**, both personally and as a Director in the Office of President. It has been challenging, stimulating, exhausting, but, always exciting. My appreciation to all the **spouses** who support and enable all the precious Home & School volunteers in getting the work done. The **Board of Directors**, with the support of many essential **partners**, Ann Cumyn, Rickhey Margolese, Life Members Marion Daigle and her husband Phil, Sylvia Adams, Barbara Milne Smith, have made all the achievements of this year possible. **My thanks to you all.** *We have done together that which we could not do alone.*

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Ann Cumyn, Chairman

Mandate: To oversee and review all matters pertaining to the constitution, by-laws and standing rules.

Members of the Committee: Helen Koepp, Barbara Milne-Smith, Pat Waters, Miriam Lalande (ex officio).

The Constitution and By-laws committee has completed its revision of the by-laws. This work was accomplished through the hard work and dedication of the committee members who found the time to meet no fewer than six times during the year.

The next task for the committee will be to revise the standing rules. This will be done for presentation at the 1999 AGM.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the AGM approve the revised By-laws of QFHSA.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: LONG AUDIT

QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION BALANCE SHEET BY FUND

AS AT AUGUST 31, 1997

	1997	1996
I) <u>OPERATING FUND</u>		
ASSETS		
Cash and term deposits	\$28,179	\$31,832
Funds held in trust	5,142	5,221
Sales tax receivable	1,529	940
Prepaid expenses	<u>2,992</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$37,842</u>	<u>\$37,993</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,421	\$ 3,601
Funds held in trust	5,142	5,221
Due to Membership Development Fund	<u>950</u>	<u>-</u>
	8,513	8,822
EQUITY	<u>29,329</u>	<u>29,171</u>
	<u>\$37,842</u>	<u>\$37,993</u>
II) <u>RIGHTS FUND</u>		
ASSETS		
Cash and term deposit	<u>\$ 1,055</u>	<u>\$ 1,246</u>
EQUITY	<u>\$ 1,055</u>	<u>\$ 1,246</u>
III) <u>MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND</u>		
ASSETS		
Cash and term deposits	\$31,672	\$22,915
Due from Operating Fund	<u>950</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$32,622</u>	<u>\$22,915</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 27	\$ 27
Grant received in advance	<u>25,419</u>	<u>17,000</u>
	25,446	17,027
EQUITY	<u>7,176</u>	<u>5,888</u>
	<u>\$32,622</u>	<u>\$22,915</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT: LONG AUDIT

QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES BY FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1997

I) OPERATING FUND

	1997	1996
REVENUES		
Membership fees - family	\$ 56,119	\$ 65,230
Membership fees - groups	4,320	4,150
Government grant	20,000	-
Donations		
Locals	390	9
QFHSA	1,524	1,212
Conference fees	1,700	1,798
Fall Conference	3,490	2,785
Annual General Meeting	1,840	2,250
Literacy project	-	200
Other project	84	-
Membership materials	1,734	2,063
Miscellaneous	1,397	3,462
Interest	922	1,612
Advertising	<u>1,334</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>94,854</u>	<u>84,771</u>
EXPENSES		
CHSF affiliation fees	4,564	5,424
Conferences and meetings		
AGM	2,617	2,577
Fall	2,028	765
Board and executive	61	34
CHSF meetings	1,051	1,264
Other organization meetings	601	-
Membership materials	850	1,620
Home and School News	16,768	12,201
Memberships - other organizations	-	255
Provincial office		
Postage and courier	2,325	3,240
Office supplies	5,144	5,429
Telephone	1,407	1,199
Administration	6,845	3,262
Rent and occupancy charges	11,675	11,375
Salaries and employee benefits	36,666	32,893

Cont'd.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: LONG AUDIT

QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES BY FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1997

	1997	1996
III) <u>MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND</u>		
REVENUES		
Government grant	\$17,000	\$17,000
Think-tank	500	20
Leadership Handbook grant	<u>2,581</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>20,081</u>	<u>17,020</u>
EXPENSES		
Membership materials	2,394	1,783
Conferences		
Think-tank	697	5
Fall conference	166	605
AGM	1,459	854
CHSF	1,373	1,603
Membership - other organizations	-	300
Workshops		
QFHSA meetings and workshops	1,102	520
On island locals workshop	157	112
Off island locals workshop	525	100
Home and School News	5,293	4,903
Telephone	1,575	1,312
Postage	1,264	1,643
Miscellaneous	114	194
Projects	93	889
Leadership Handbook	<u>2,581</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>18,793</u>	<u>14,823</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES	<u>\$ 1,288</u>	<u>\$ 2,197</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT: LONG AUDIT

QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES BY FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1997

	1997	1996
EXPENSES (Cont'd.)		
Projects		
Literacy	145	482
Other	94	100
Miscellaneous	1,471	842
Capital expenditures	-	1,020
Donations	384	200
	<u>94,696</u>	<u>84,182</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES	<u>\$ 158</u>	<u>\$ 589</u>

II) RIGHTS FUND

REVENUE		
Interest	\$ 34	\$ 69
EXPENSE		
Translation	<u>225</u>	<u>-</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE (EXPENSE)	<u>\$ (191)</u>	<u>\$ 69</u>

Cont'd.

FINANCE

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Margaret Funnell, Chairman

Mandate:

- To review and prepare ongoing flexible guidelines for policies and procedures governing QFHSA finances with recommendations to the Board of Directors.
- To assist the Treasurer with preparation of annual budget.
- To liaise with Membership Development Committee and Rights Committee regarding their special funds.

Committee Members: Helen Koeppel, Barbara Page, Pat Waters, Miriam Lalande (ex officio).
Barbara Milne-Smith acted as a Resource.

Activities to Date:

- Simply Accounting for Windows - was recommended to and passed by Board of Directors and is now in use
- Office Services - update of costs on telephone / fax; approval to update office equipment
- Update - Charitable Tax Number Procedure
- Charitable Donations - annual report to Revenue Canada
- Contract - approval of contract for Website project
- Applications for Grants - to Ministry of Education for annual grant - approved by Board of Directors; Canadian Heritage Grants; QFHSA Literacy Project to Literacy Partners of Quebec
- Committee Budgets - Assist Chairman in budget preparations and review
- QFHSA Budgets - approved by Committee and passed by Board of Directors for submission to 1998 AGM
- 1998-99 Family Membership and Group Affiliate fees - recommendation to Board of Directors for approval to AGM
- Auditor's Report - reviewed with the Auditor
- Recommendations to Board of Directors for 1998-99
 - Appointment of Auditor
 - Banking Institution and number of Signing Officers

Financial Year

- The **Financial Year** is now January 1 to December 31. [approved at 1997 AGM]
- To implement the change it was also moved that QFHSA have a regular **long** audit - September 1/96 to August 31/97; and a **short** audit - September 1/97 to December 31/97.
- The Quebec Civil Code [1994] requires that the Annual General Meeting be held four months after the fiscal year end.

Family Membership Fee

Recommendation [Board of Directors at March 13, 1998 Meeting]

- That the family membership fee for 1998/1999 school year be \$15.00.

Book of Reports - Proposed Budget

- *The 1999 Proposed Budget follows this report. The 1998 extended Budget [September 1 - December 31] will be circulated on or before the AGM.*

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PROPOSED BUDGET - 1999

QFHSA GENERAL OPERATING account/Membership Development grant/Awards Trust budget-1999				
1	CATEGORY	Proposed Budget 1999	BUDGET 1997-98	ACTUAL 1996-97
2	REVENUES			
3	Membership - family @ \$15	\$75,000	\$60,000	\$56,119
4	Membership -groups @ 60	\$4,200	\$4,000	\$4,320
5	Government grant	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
6	Donations - locals - net	\$50	\$50	\$6
7	Donations - QFHSA	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,524
8	Administration fee	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700
9	Fall Conference	\$3,700	\$3,100	\$3,490
10	Annual General Meeting	\$2,150	\$2,000	\$1,840
11	Literacy and other projects	\$100	\$300	\$84
12	Membership materials	\$1,800	\$1,900	\$1,734
13	Miscellaneous	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,397
14	Interest	\$800	\$1,500	\$922
15	Membership Development grant	\$17,000		
16	Awards Trust income	\$203		
17	TOTAL REVENUE	\$128,703	\$96,550	\$93,136
18				
19	EXPENSES			
20	CHSF affiliation fees	\$5,000	\$4,615	\$4,564
21	Conferences and meetings			
22	Annual General Meeting	\$2,650	\$2,500	\$2,617
23	Fall Conference	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$2,028
24	Board and Executive	\$500	\$50	\$61
25	CHSF Meetings	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$1,051
26	Other organizations meetings	\$600	\$0	\$601
27	Committee meetings	\$500		
28	Membership materials	\$3,000	\$1,600	\$850
29	Home & School News-net- nb note	\$25,500	\$17,000	\$15,434
30	Memberships - other organizations	\$113	\$250	\$0
31	Provincial Office			
32	Postage and Courier	\$2,400	\$3,300	\$2,325
33	Office supplies	\$6,000	\$5,500	\$5,144
34	Telephone	\$1,460	\$1,200	\$1,407
35	Administration	\$5,200	\$6,000	\$6,845
36	Rent and occupancy charges	\$12,027	\$14,000	\$11,675
37	Salaries and levies	\$37,800	\$35,000	\$36,666
38	Literacy & other projects	\$250	\$600	\$239
39	Miscellaneous	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,471
40	Capital expenditure	\$2,500	\$935	\$0
41	Award at Annual General Meeting	\$0	\$500	\$0
42	Membership Develop't from grant	\$17,000		
43	Awards Trust spent on Awards	\$203		
44	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$128,703	\$96,550	\$92,978
45				
46	REVENUES/EXPENSES	\$0	\$0	\$158

PROPOSED BUDGET

[line-by-line explanation]

PROPOSED GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET 1999 [including Membership Developm't grant & Awards Trust**Revenues**

- line 3 - based on 5000 members [cf membership drive] and fee increase to \$15 a family
- line 4 - assumes 70 groups [an increase] @ \$60 each
- line 5 - this comes from Quebec. Assume it will be the same as before.
- line 6 - QFHSA keeps [up to 10%] to administer donations which use its charitable tax number
- line 7 - some donations to QFHSA itself [money or equipment] are made each year.
- line 8 - @ \$50 per local
- lines 9/10 - all monies including registrations, advertising and meal charges which come in for the AGM or Fall Conference - amounts are based on increased attendance and meal charges.
- line 11 - other projects include PALS [Parent Assist Learning and Schooling] workshops where a fee is charged to schools and other groups that are not QFHSA members.
- line 15 - For details please see the 1999 Membership Development budget.
- line 16 - This is the annual income from the Awards Trust account.

Expenses

- line 20 - based on \$1 per member [line 3]
- line 22 - based on estimated increase mainly for the hotel.
- line 23 - based on last years figures.
- line 25 - in 1999 the Canadian Home and School Federation Annual General Meeting will be on the West Coast.
- line 26 - this includes trips to Quebec City to attend meetings and present briefs.
- line 27 - QFHSA committee meetings sometimes have attendant costs - transportation/meals/other.
- line 28 - with the change to linguistic school boards new and revised materials are needed.
- line 29 - 1/4 of the cost has been charged to Membership Development. The News is a priority with QFHSA. Its format is being re-examined. It is hoped that a computer capable of running the Quark Express desktop publishing program can be obtained.
- line 30 - QFHSA buys only a few memberships for itself.
- line 32 - roughly based on last year + small increase in rates
- line 33 - the increase includes up-grading the copier.
- line 34 - this represents 3/4 of the basic charge. 1/4 of the basic charge + all long distance is charged to the Membership Development account.
- line 35 - based on last year's [+ small increase] insurance policies and auditor. Anticipate a reduced amount for legal advice. The CSST component has been shifted to line 37 [salaries and levies].
- line 36 - The lease is presently being negotiated and this appears to be the amount required.
- line 37 - this includes the CSST component shifted from line 35.
- line 38 - again this includes PALS - see line 11.
- line 40 - a new computer is needed especially to take Quark Express for the H & S News

Some costs are shared between the General Operating and Membership Development accounts. The charges to the latter are always related to Membership Development.

1999 is the first year the Membership Development grant from Canadian Heritage and the Awards Trust have been included in the budget sheet [but not the first year they occurred].

Membership Development Budget for 1999

1	INCOME/EXPENSE	
2	INCOME	
3	Canadian Heritage regular grant	\$17,000
4	Miscellaneous	\$0
5	TOTAL INCOME	\$17,000
6		
7	EXPENSES	
8	<u>Conferences:</u>	
9	Annual General Meeting	\$1,500
10	Canadian Home and School Federation	\$850
11	Fall Conference	\$700
12	Think tank net	\$160
13	Internet	\$600
14	Materials	\$2,400
15	Home and School News	\$3,900
16	Outside meetings and conferences	\$400
17	Postage and courier	\$1,500
18	Quebec Literacy project	\$50
19	Telephone	\$1,450
20	<u>Workshops/Meetings:</u>	
21	Off-Island locals	\$2,700
22	On-Island locals	\$200
23	QFHSA meetings/workshops	\$590
24		
26	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,000
27		
29	TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$0

Membership Development 1999

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - 1999 - based on last years grant. If grant is larger than \$17,000 the increase should go into increased staffing towards Membership Development programs.

Many costs are shared between the General Operating & the Membership Development accounts.

All Membership Development charges relate to the cost of developing membership, but so do many charges to the General Operating account.

line 3 - the grant has stayed at \$17,000 over the last few years, but the global mass for Canadian Heritage grants is decreasing over time.

line 9 - Membership Development covers some of the printing costs of flyers and program and covers transportation for delegates/members from communities away from the greater Montreal Island area.

line 10 - covers one delegate, other than the President, to go to the CHSF AGM

line 11 - covers delegates/members from off-island as in line 9

line 12 - subsidizes meal [in the past ,that portion over \$10]

line 13 - operating costs which may be less than this amount

line 14 - covers new brochures, leaflets, pins, booklets, etc. and reprinting costs of updated materials.

line 15 - Home & School NEWS- pays approx. 1/4 of cost

line 16 - enables QFHSA attendance at education-related meetings/conferences

line 17 - Membership Development shares this cost with the General Operating account

line 19 - Membership Development pays all long distance charges and 1/4 of the regular monthly charge

line 21 - covers visits to off-island meetings and workshops plus brings in H & S members to QFHSA meetings , workshop and conferences

line 22 - covers visits to locals / may subsidize speakers

line 23 - covers costs related to Board and Executive meetings including transportation for off-island members. Covers costs related to other meetings and workshops held at QFHSA offices.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Norma Cheng, Chairman

Mandate: Responsible for working with local membership chairmen; Preparing membership kits and other information to help promote membership locally and provincially; Promote future new Home & School Associations in the new schools, in the new school boards.

Members of the Committee: Dorothy Nixon, Marion Daigle, Miriam Lalande, Alice MacLeod, and Margaret Funnell.

Membership Campaign:

March 1997:	4302 Families	72 Group Affiliates
March 1998:	4209 Families	61 Group Affiliates

Summary of Activities to Date: March 19, 1998

June - Letter to Local Association membership chairmen, requesting input to update membership kits. Some good ideas were received.

August 20 - Membership workshop, a very useful brainstorming session.

September 17 - Think Tank - membership display. The important of a strong membership drive was stressed to keep the voice of parents heard.

October 25 - Fall Conference - membership display with information for Home and School members and others in attendance.

January 31 - Open House for Group Affiliates, interested in more information on Education and the Federation. Five schools attended a very interesting morning of sharing ideas and goals.

Upcoming Activities

March 25 - Mid-Term Executive Workshop, an opportunity for the executive and membership chairmen from local associations to meet and share ideas about parent participation in their schools. Also a time for board members to get an idea of what the local associations need and want from the Federation.

March 28 - Open House, another opportunity for Group Affiliates to become better acquainted with the QFHSA.

April - Meeting with local Membership chairmen and QFHSA committee, to brainstorm next year's membership kits.

May 2 - Annual General Meeting, present membership prizes.

May - June - Membership Training Workshop, for next year's membership chairmen and to hand out new membership kits.

Potential New Home and School Associations

October - May - Members of committee have visited the following schools: Bishop Whelan, Howard S. Billings, Harmony, Mary Gardner, St. Willibrord, Mountainview - Lake of Two Mountains, Wilder Penfield, St. Bernard, Surrey. The schools visited have been very positive about forming Home and Schools and very happy with the amount and speed of information received from the Federation. As part of her PALS workshops Pat Waters has also distributed

information about Home and School to: Laurier Macdonald High School, St. Paul's Laval, Honoré-Mercier.

Upcoming Visits

Three Rivers High School, Massey Vanier, Lennoxville Elementary, Parents Committee of the Central Aylmer School Board, St. Patrick of the Island.

Phone Chain

Set up with each board member responsible with calling associations about upcoming events. They also refer specific problems or questions to the appropriate board member.

1997/98 MEMBERSHIP PRIZES

ON-ISLAND BOARDS - Elementary Schools	%	Membership Chairmen
Royal Vale	100.0%	Melanie Abramowitz
Hillcrest	100.0%	Gianna Venditti
Edinburgh	83.8%	Sharon Martin
Honourable Mention		
Merton	75.8%	Ann Mitchell
ON-ISLAND BOARDS - High Schools		
Royal West Academy	31.5%	Carol Stenhouse Maureen Newman-Daigle
Honourable Mention		
John Rennie High	15.6%	Susan Kuchiran
Hudson High	15.5%	Angela Brisbane
OFF-ISLAND BOARDS		
Baie Comeau Elem/High	49.3%	Cecil Burton, Pres.
Shigawake-Port Daniel	43.0%	Barbara Hottot
Honourable Mention		
New Carlisle Elem/High	30.4%	Cynthia Enright

SPECIAL DRAW FOR SCHOOL STAFF/TEACHERS

Kendra Griffiths, teacher at Edgewater School

Recommendations

1. Better Communication - Through visits to local associations and through phone contact by use of the phone chain and Board of Directors.
2. Improved Membership Display and Materials - More eye catching posters or backdrops for events at Federation and locals, as well as updated brochures.
3. Brainstorming - With membership chairmen to renew the membership campaigns.
4. Membership Training - Needs to be moved up to the end of May or beginning of June after local association's elections.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Pat Waters, Past-President

Members of the Committee:

The Nomination Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors at the November Board meeting. It consisted of 3 Board members, Pat Waters, Norma Cheng, Barbara Page, and 4 local members, Anne Williams, Willingdon School, Johanne Fraser, E.P. Beaconsfield, Rosemary Begin, Seigniory School and Avis Brodie, Valois Park School.

New members to the Board of Directors and Officers are elected annually. There were openings for 5 Directors, all of which are 2 year terms. One of the Directors should be qualified to hold the position of Treasurer and another for Recording Secretary.

Summary of activities:

The nomination letter to the locals was sent out by January 3, 1998 with a deadline for nominations to be submitted by March 2, 1998 (Art.V, Sec 4(a)).

In March the committee met, reviewed the positions open on the Board, and considered further names to contact to try to complete our slate for 1998-99.

We are pleased to report that we were able to recruit members to fill three of the five positions on the Board of Directors. For a two year term are:

Norma Cheng	Ludmilla Girvan
Gayle Denman	Alice MacLeod
Doreen George	Rod Wiener

Present Directors continuing to complete the second year of the two-year term are:

Miriam Lalande	Dorothy Nixon
Helen Koeppe	Don Smith
Margaret Funnell	Shirley Straughton

A letter informing the local associations of the nominations went out by March 18, 1998 with a second call for the two remaining nominations.

The following people have been nominated as Officers:

President	Miriam Lalande
Executive Vice-President	vacant
Vice-President	Margaret Funnell
Vice-President	Don Smith
Treasurer	vacant
Recording Secretary	vacant

I wish to extend my thanks to the Nomination Committee who assisted me in recruiting our new members to the Board. To all of those who agreed to stand for nomination to the Board and as an Officer for the upcoming year, I wish you much success.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Report to Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Alice MacLeod, Chairman

Mandate: Responsible for maintaining and developing education policy for QFHSA and its membership as defined by the Mission Statement.

Members of the Committee: Rickhey Margolese, Charline Metcalfe, Norma Ewen, Don Smith, Linda Laroque, Cathy Hortop, John Ryan, Dianne Skoda, Marion Daigle (Resource), Miriam Lalonde (ex officio).

Summary of Activities:

- a) Briefs submitted to the Minister of Education:
 1. A Response to Bill 109 - April 1997
 2. A Brief on the Draft Bill: An Act to Amend the Education Act - August 1997
- b) Meetings attended:
 1. Education Commission: 2 meetings in Quebec City to present and defend our briefs.
 2. Minister of Education or her Representative - 3 meetings in Montreal - Reform in Education and on School Board Territories.
 3. PAPT/PACT Curriculum Council - 4 meetings dealing with curriculum items, curriculum reform.
 4. QSBA Workshop - legal opinion on Bill 109.
 5. Canadian College of Teachers - information session on linguistic school boards.
 6. Coopers and Lybrand - forum on the Learning Initiatives Programs of Human Resources Canada.
- c) Participation in Information Dissemination Events:
 1. QFHSA Think Tank - Sept. 1997 - information given and discussions held on new school board territories, provisional councils and governing boards.
 2. QFHSA Fall Conference - Oct. 1997 - information given and questions answered on provisional councils, governing boards and upcoming curriculum reforms.
 3. Group Affiliates/Locals/Interested Schools - information on governing boards/role of Home and School in the new Linguistic Boards given at several meetings.
 4. Mid-Term Executive Meetings and Open House - information on governing boards, role of Home and School.
- d) Worked with the Rights Committee to develop the "Implications of Amending the Constitution.
- e) PACT/PAPT Curriculum Council Liaison:
 1. Representatives from the Board of Directors (Alice MacLeod and Miriam Lalonde) have attended 3 meetings of the PACT/PAPT Curriculum Council so far this year.
 2. Cathy McKeogh has been named the liaison from QFHSA to the Curriculum Council to replace Alice MacLeod.
 3. The meetings of the Curriculum Council this year have dealt with the reforms in education and particularly the upcoming changes to the curriculum from Grade 1 through to Secondary V.

RESOLUTIONS/POLICY COMMITTEE

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Helen KoeppeDisposition of 1997 Resolutions:

- 97/1 Mandatory Driver Education
- 97/2 Civil Rights in Education
- 97/3 Equality of Educational Rights and the Constitution
- 97/4 Cuts to Government Funding for Education

Resolutions 97/2 and 97/3, while adopted by delegates to the QFHSA Annual General Meeting and forwarded to the Canadian Federation, were not accepted for consideration by the Canadian delegates. Sad note: the guarantees concerned, contained in section 93 of the Canadian Constitution have also, subsequently, been abrogated by the Federal Government.

Resolution 97/1 is being presented as an addition to the QFHSA Statement of Policy this year. The new laws concerned are in effect, despite many efforts by others as well as QFHSA to retain mandatory drivers education.

Resolution 97/4 has been updated and is being presented to delegates again this year because of the effects of continued cuts to educational budgets.

1998 Resolutions have derived from many different sources and concern diverse issues. QFHSA Board members and others who assisted:

Shirley Straughton	Alice MacLeod
Barbara Page	Miriam Lalande
Charline Metcalfe	Marion Daigle

Thanks to all of the above and to those not mentioned who lent an ear; who counselled wisely and who cheered on our efforts to advocate effectively on behalf of all children and youth.

LIABILITY, LIABILITY INSURANCE

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998.

Submitted by Miriam Lalande, President

The Liability Brief will be ready for presentation and distribution to the local Home & School Associations at the beginning of the new membership year, September 1, 1998.

Provincial:

- 1) The QFHSA office is covered by property insurance for office contents and commercial general liability, which includes tenants' liability and personal injury. 25 January 1998 to 25 January 1999.
- 2) The Directors of the Board, Committee Chairman and Committee Members are covered by Directors and Officers insurance for errors and omissions. 1 January 1998 to 1 January 1999.

Local Associations: The following policies are in effect until June 30, 1998.

- 1) Home and School and School Committee volunteers in the PSBGM school system are protected by a General Liability, Errors and Omissions policy for all activities sanctioned by the Principal of each school. There are a few exceptions such as unlawful dismissal of an employee and sexual harassment.
- 2) Home and School volunteers in the Lakeshore School Board system have limited protection in some areas for activities sanctioned by the Principal of each school.

Recommendations:

- 1) That Local Associations approach their new school boards to advocate purchase of insurance to cover volunteers in their schools.
- 2) That QFHSA include Liability, Liability Insurance as one of its Leadership and Training Workshops at the QFHSA Fall Conference.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Miriam Lalande, President

Reliable Life Insurance Co. indicated that there will be a change in the parameters of the insurance offered for 1998. The coverage will be for students only, the premium will be reduced as well as the benefits paid in case of accident.

QFHSA endorses carrying additional insurance coverage for our children in school with Reliable Life Insurance Co.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Margaret Funnell - Vice-President, Membership Development

Mandate:

- To generate membership development strategies
- To develop membership materials
- To prepare and administer grant applications
- To encourage liaison with other Quebec community groups

Members of the Committee: Norma Cheng, Helen Koeppel, Dorothy Nixon, Pat Waters, Miriam Lalande (ex officio), Marion Daigle (Resource).

Summary of activities:

Canadian Heritage (CANHER) Program Grants

In 1997 the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations [QFHSA] again received a Department of Canadian Heritage [CANHER] Program Grant for \$17,000, the same amount as in 1996, for the purposes of membership development. QFHSA also received a CANHER grant to revise the Leadership Handbook, which was completed in September, as well as a grant to establish a Website, which will be up and running this spring.

Outreach Programs

QFHSA was able to visit Baie Comeau in September to give French and English parenting workshops and to discuss Home and School membership. The Gaspé was visited in early October, where QFHSA held workshops on self-esteem and homework and gave an information session on the implications of the proposed change to linguistic school boards. QFHSA made visits to the local library and the four local schools. The gracious welcome and visit to the local sites were very much appreciated. QFHSA outreach to off-island Home and Schools can mean making trips to member or proposed member schools as well as bringing parents to on-island conferences and meetings.

Quebec Community Groups Network

QFHSA is a member of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) which has signed a four year agreement with the Federal Government for the disbursement of the Official Languages Communities Support Program funds. There is still one more year to go in this agreement and time is being put aside now to consider what should be included in the new agreement.

Needs assessment/strategic planning

Through CANHER and at no incremental cost to QFHSA, the Business Development Bank of Canada [BDC] is providing QFHSA with a needs assessment and strategic planning exercise/research program. This is an offer made to all QCGN members.

QUEBEC HOME AND SCHOOL NEWS

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Dorothy Nixon, Editor

Two separate analyses of the *NEWS* were conducted this past year. In September, an Editorial Board meeting was conducted with Diane Radu, Joan Daigle, Dorothy Nixon and Miriam Lalande.

Editorial policies regarding the *NEWS* were changed. It was decided to add a few features, including a "What We Have Been Doing" segment and remove other features. The December issue of the *NEWS* reflected these changes.

Lately, the editor assessed the *NEWS'* mandate. The mandate of the *NEWS*, as she sees it, is as follows:

A tool that promotes QFHSA and its Mission within the cost and manpower constraints of the organization as it stands each year;

A tool that serves the members, and, in this day of information overload, catches their attention, but doesn't waste their time;

A vehicle for a small group of volunteers to implement and improve their skills - as journalists, layout artists, editors, etc.

At the March 13 Board meeting, she submitted three recommendations for ratification. They were passed.

Recommendation 1:

That we undertake a survey to find out who our readers really are. It is impossible to put together any newspaper without having a clear idea to whom you are talking.

Recommendation 2:

That we reduce the *NEWS* to three issues this year, leaving out the June issue.

Recommendation 3:

That we overhaul the format and begin publishing electronically.

Note: Publishing electronically is not a new idea: the *NEWS* report for last year's AGM says that QFHSA hopes to be publishing electronically by December. This did not happen because of the need for a Pentium computer.

At the same time, request has been made to the Finance Committee to bring forward a complete analysis of costs in producing the *NEWS*.

NEWLETTER PRIZES 1998

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Diane Radu, Editor, *Focus on the Locals*

Edinburgh Elementary
Mount Pleasant Elementary

The Tattler
Chalk Talk

Editor:
Editors:

Barbara Bernstein
Heather Downe
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RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Rod Wiener, Chairman

Members of the Committee: Calvin Potter, Winifred Potter, Steve Drake, Miriam Lalande, Marion Daigle, Helen Koeppel, Betty Shannon, Barbara Milne-Smith, Rod Wiener.

Mandate:

QFHSA is concerned with the well-being of our children and the cultural health of our community as a proper environment in which to raise them. Rights are not simply an abstraction. They define our obligations *to* and opportunities *for* our children. We Home and Schoolers have a history of pleading and defending the rights of ALL children and their parents. Parents should also have the choice of the Official Language used in the education of their children.

Canadian Constitution - Section 93 (1-4)

At the 1997 AGM QFHSA took a position by resolution in opposition to a proposed constitutional amendment which would make the four subsections of Section 93 of the Canadian Constitution 1867 *inapplicable* in Quebec. From July 1867 until December 1997 this law protected our schooling rights and those of other Quebec Minorities. Sovereign Control of Education Rights lay firmly in the hands of the Parliament of Canada where they belonged.

Brief to the Joint Committee of Senate/House of Commons

On October 24, 1997 the Rights Committee, on behalf of QFHSA, presented a brief to a Parliamentary Committee on the proposed amendment.

The leader of the official opposition, Preston Manning, cast doubt on the legality of the amending process used. He and Senator Dalia Wood, who was a member of the Parliamentary committee, and other parliamentarians, publicly stated that proper consensus did not exist in Quebec for the amendment. The amendment passed despite the strong opposition of the affected minorities.

A concise analysis of the QFHSA position appeared on page 14 of the December issue of the Home and School NEWS. It should be read by all.

Recommendation:

QFHSA has always assumed that parents' values, beliefs, customs and traditions should determine the influences to which their children are subjected.

The Rights Committee must keep abreast of factors affecting our children. Our analysis of evolving conditions must be precise. Our criticisms must be accurate. Our conduct must show good will.

We show no malice but have reason to be apprehensive about what legislatures will do next. Although we may forget, from time to time, there is much good will among the provincial majority population of Quebec.

HEALTH ISSUES COMMITTEE

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Shirley Straughton, Chairman

Mandate: To identify health risks affecting children and to promote preventative health measures.

Summary of Activities:

Think First For Kids

This safety program designed for students in Grades 1-3 has been incorporated into the curriculum of some schools. Initially privately funded, a significant financial donation enabled it to be offered free of charge to Quebec elementary schools. All local Home & Schools received a letter via QFHSA with this information.

Trampoline Ban

In support of the Montreal Children's Hospital Injury Prevention Program and The Head and Spinal Cord Trauma Team, copies of the letter sent by these departments to all Quebec School Boards and municipalities were sent to all local Home and Schools. A resolution to ban trampolines from schools and playgrounds was submitted to QFHSA.

Immunization Update

Articles on the immunization protocol of Quebec as well as the risks of diseases which can be prevented with vaccines were published in the QFHSA NEWS. QFHSA was represented at a consensus conference on a "National Immunization Registry" held in March, 1998 sponsored by Health Canada. Representatives to this meeting included epidemiologists from across Canada and from The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. The goal is to have this registry in place within 5 years.

Chicken Pox Vaccine Study

The Montreal Children's Hospital Infectious Diseases Department was involved in a study to determine the cost of chicken pox in Canada using social, financial, and medical factors. An article was written for the NEWS to encourage parents to participate in this study.

Canadian Home and School Federation (CHSF)

A resolution to CHSF on pediculosis was researched with Montreal Children's Hospital pharmacists and found to need rewriting to be more specific. A result of the networking with the MCH caused the pharmacists to revise their own policy on products to be used for pediculosis.

A document from The Canadian Institute for Child Health entitled "The Health of Canada's Children" was received; a questionnaire was returned to CIHC and pertinent information will be extracted for CHSF and QFHSA.

High School CPR

QFHSA was represented at two conferences on the status of the High School CPR Program in Quebec. An interview appeared in Maclean's Magazine (March 23, 1998, pp 63-64). An article published in the NEWS called for local Home & Schools to organize CPR and First Aid courses for staff, parents, and students.

SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Donald W. Smith, Chairman

Mandate: Responsible for maintaining safety and transportation policy for QFHSA and its membership as defined by the Mission Statement.

Members of the Committee: Barbara Page, Miriam Lalande (ex officio)

Summary of Activities:

- Attending Board of Directors meeting.
- Attending Executive meetings.
- Attending meetings of the Comité provincial de concertation sur les programmes de sécurité routière en milieu scolaire (which has, this past year, shortened its name to Comité provincial de concertation, and expanded its mandate to include off-road safety as well as safety outside the school setting. Ex: safety in the use of all-terrain vehicles by the Province's youth.)
- Continuing contribution to the Safety Scene page in the QFHSA NEWS.

February 25 - Honoré Mercier, St. Leonard

Topic: "Building Self-Esteem"

40 parents turned out for this workshop which was held in the gym of the elementary school. Concerns voiced by the parents after had to do with their children's social life, feelings about school and children who are overly self-confident.

February 26 - St. Paul School, Laval

Topic: "The Homework Wars...Whose Responsibility Is It Anyway?"

28 parents turned out for this workshop in the school gym and the majority had very young children. Homework was still an issue at this age. Solutions were discussed about such issues as children who would only do their homework with Mom there, children who never brought homework home and 9-year old boys who not only hate doing homework, but hate school.

At the time of this report the following workshops were planned, but not completed:

March 30 - Laurier Macdonald H.S.

Topic: "Building Self-Esteem and a Sense of Responsibility in Teens"

April 2 - Black Community Resource Centre, Montreal

Topic: "Strategies for Effective Learning" based on PALS workshop "Responsibility and Homework"

April 4 - Sherbrooke FCPPO Regional Meetings

Topics: "Building Self-Esteem"
"Role Models"
"The Impact of Technology on Careers and Jobs"
"Parents and Teachers Working Together"

Lynda Kowalenko
Jocelyne Pickler
Dorothy Nixon
Pat Waters

PARENTS ASSIST LEARNING AND SCHOOLING (PALS) PROGRAM

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Pat Waters, Past-President

Seventeen PALS workshops were completed from September, 1997 until May, 1998. They are as follows:

September 13- Baie Comeau High School

Topic: "Responsibility and Homework" and
"Building Self-Esteem"

Jocelyne Pickler presented these workshops in French to approximately 12 parents and teachers. The participants enjoyed the open discussion and the opportunity to share parenting experiences.

Topic: "Careers and Jobs"

This topic was presented by Pat Waters while Jocelyne was doing the "Self-Esteem" workshop in the afternoon.

October 4 - New Carlisle School, Gaspé

Topic: "Building Self-Esteem" and
"Responsibility and Homework"

Dorothy Nixon presented these two workshops on QFHSA's outreach mission to the Gaspé region. She had 12 participants.

November 12 - Royal West Academy, Montreal West

Topic: "Careers and Jobs"

20 parents participated and some interesting discussions took place about the future job market. Thanks to Carol Stenhouse for organizing it.

November 20 - PAPT/PACT Convention, Montreal

Topic: "PARENTS + TEACHERS= ACTION"

This was a variation of the PALS workshop # 8, Working with Teachers and Schools. Marion Daigle and Pat Waters presented a dynamic workshop on the role of the parents in the school and how they can work amicably with the teachers. 12 people participated, some were teachers, some education students and some were parents.

January 21 - Wesley United Church, N.D.G. Mom's of Preschoolers

Topic: "Communication-Listening With Both Ears"

There were 6 parents and a group leader present. The workshop was well-received and informative even though it was such a small group. The "Ice-Storm" was very fresh on everyone's mind and proved to be a main topic for 'communication'.

January 28 - Laurier Macdonald High School, St. Leonard

Topic: "Careers and Jobs"

This big comprehensive high school was most impressive as were the 16 parents that participated in the workshop. We discussed why the job market has changed, what the new jobs are and how to help their teenage children make the right choices.

February 23 - Laurier Macdonald High School, St. Leonard

Topic: "Communication with Teens"

The parents who had participated on Jan. 28th returned for a second workshop. We discussed non-verbal communication, active listening and barriers to communication with our teenagers. This group of parents is extremely attentive and amusing and a pleasure to work with. The next one is scheduled for March 30; the topic will be "Building Self-Esteem".

LITERACY IN THE INFORMATION AGE PROJECTS

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Marion Daigle, Resource person

Mandate:

To promote awareness of the requirements for literacy in the information age.

To mobilize school and community volunteer resources to advocate and deliver programs for prevention and remediation of illiteracy. A Resourcebook for Literacy is available.

To work in partnership with all sectors of the community to promote literacy through the formation of literacy exchanges.

Members of the Committee: Dorothy Nixon, Anne MacWhirter (Gaspé)

Background: The project originated with the Canadian Home and School Federation in 1989-90 as part of the celebration of the International Year of Literacy. Each provincial Home and School Association has since then developed its own plan of action to promote various literacy projects.

1997-98 Projects: QFHSA

1. Literacy Partners of Quebec (LPQ) Poster Contest

QFHSA is a partner with LPQ in promoting literacy for elementary, secondary and adult education classes through a poster contest launched September 8, 1997. Winners will be announced March 31, 1998 and a ceremony for winners will be held on September 8, 1998, International Literacy Day.

2. Born to Read / Readers Are Leaders

A Community based Literacy Group in the Gaspé region is a family literacy project initiated by Home and Schoolers in New Carlisle in 1990. It now covers a wide area from Maria to Chandler. In December, 1997 ABC Canada Literacy Foundation awarded the project a grant of \$2600 to cover 5 phases: 'Born to Read' book bags for newborns; a Toddler's Activity bag for 2 and 3 year olds; an activity bag for Pre-Kindergarten; a Book Exchange Cart at the Munchkins daycare and a Saturday morning Reading Circle. Congratulations!

3. Family Literacy Project - Brock University, St Catherines, Ontario.

A Catalogue of Canadian Family Literacy Projects is being prepared. Dorothy Nixon, QFHSA NEWS editor and Marion Daigle have submitted a number of project profiles.

4. QFHSA Website

Marion Daigle is working with Website co-ordinator, Dorothy Nixon on the Literacy page directed at family literacy information, activities and projects.

5. Special Advisor for Literacy in Canada

Senator Joyce Fairbairn of Alberta was appointed on September 8, 1997. She is a former Government leader in the Senate and is widely respected in the literacy community across Canada.

SOCIAL ISSUES/SUPPORT SERVICES

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Pat Lewis, Chairman

Mandate: To report to the Board of Directors on issues and trends.

Current Issues:

Black History Month: Did your school honour this month? Did students discuss the questions such as slavery, racism and discrimination? Did they learn that February is the month? In Montreal there was a lengthy list of programs, talks, concerts and other events to celebrate this month. Some boys and girls wrote poems about this month.

Youth Taxing: "Taxing" involves people who terrorize others to be able to rob or harm those others. The Montreal Urban Community is organizing a campaign against taxing by setting up information kiosks in metro stations. It is a kind of prevention program, said the police. Police are also meeting local parents. Perhaps your community would like to do the same?

Child Prostitution: A conference on sexual exploitation of children ended yesterday in Victoria, and the delegates left with a "vision" of the kind of new world for which they wish.

International Women's Day: Another notable celebration, especially since more than 200 women and children took part in the event, demanding women's rights, equal pay and better funding for social programs. Many cities across Canada took part.

AIDS: Dr. Ken Richardson, who works for a pharmaceutical company, found that a drug for transplant patients would help people with HIV. He now helps millions of people around the world with AIDS. There are now 122 such drugs being developed and manufactured, including in Canada.

Landmines: Last December 121 countries meeting in Ottawa signed a Treaty entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction". Hundreds of countries were represented and 40 of them must ratify the Treaty before it becomes legally binding. A signed treaty does not mean that the work is done. Member organizations of MINES ACTION CANADA met in February to develop a framework for action for the work that lies ahead.

Violence Overhead: With new satellites we now have some clues to the mysteries of gamma rays. The bursts from these rays can release in 15 seconds more energy than the Sun can over ten billion years. Scientists should concern themselves about such dangers.

Our Land: We can't make more, but we can do more to protect what we have. One petroleum company processes over 200 million containers in its plastics recycling plant. This will help reduce landfill waste and conserve natural resources.

AWARDS

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Helen Koeppel, Life Member

The Awards committees coordinated their efforts through the QFHSA office and managed to make their selections by way of fax and telephone. The many excellent nominations made the work of the committee members difficult.

Members of the committees were:

Buzzell Award

Chair: Miriam Lalande, President

Barbara Page, Rickhey Margolese, Susan Tweddell, Lise Darvill

Paterson Award

Chair: Pat Waters, Past President

Miriam Lalande, Margaret Funnell, Helen Koeppel, Shirley Straughton

Lewis Peace Prize

Chair: Don Smith, Vice President

Alice MacLeod, Barbara Page, Rod Wiener

Buzzell Award winner for 1998

Deborah Brown is a former treasurer for QFHSA and currently Canadian Home & School Federation treasurer. This award recognizes outstanding service to QFHSA and to furthering the aims of Home and School and education in general.

Paterson Award winner for 1998

Louise Chalmers is an exceptional drama teacher, currently on sabbatical from John Rennie High School in Pointe Claire. She played a founding role in the Association of Quebec Drama Educators and lectures in drama at Concordia University. This recognition is in part to acknowledge her continuing encouragement of parents and their contribution to the life of students at John Rennie as well as other students and parents taking part in drama productions elsewhere in the province.

1998 Lewis Peace Prize:

Awarded to **Heidi Rathjen**, recognizes a significant contribution towards peace. Ms Rathjen, a former student at École Polytechnique in Montreal, channelled her outrage following the deaths of students there into a national campaign to enact legislation for safer gun laws and more responsible use of firearms.

All committee members are appreciative of the time and effort taken by individuals and Local Associations to make this year's excellent nominations for these awards.

CANADIAN HOME & SCHOOL FEDERATION

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Miriam Lalande, President

The **Annual Meeting in June 1997** was a pivotal meeting. The application to Industry Canada for the name change from Canadian Home & School & Parent Teacher Federation to Canadian Home & School Federation resulted from this meeting, other issues included: the adoption of the 1992 By-Laws as basis for operation; serious discussions concerning better business practice policies needed for the future operation of the organization; agreement by the provinces to participate equally in the purchase of Directors & Officers Liability Insurance. The fine thread by which CHSF has been hanging this last year has been strengthened by the election of a very fine and committed group of people as officers.

- The President is Joyce Eynon, Sandra Himmelman is Eastern Vice President, Patricia Waters, from QFHSA, is Central Vice President, Viola Prowse is Western Vice President and Debi Brown, from QFHSA, is Treasurer.

Mid-Term in November 1997 - QFHSA acted as host for this meeting. Intense discussions focused on finances, By-Laws and communication amongst provinces.

The **1997 Audit** was completed in February 1998.

There is much work to be done to strengthen the organization but a year has passed and it has survived. If, as a group, we learn from our serious mistakes there is hope for the future.

GASPÉ AREA REPORT

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Anne MacWhirter, Area Liaison

The year began in early October with a workshop brought to us by the QFHSA. The three Home and School groups sent members to the private dining room of the Heritage Restaurant in New Carlisle to learn about **Your Children's Education in the New Linguistic School System**. Miriam Lalande (QFHSA President), Dorothy Nixon (NEWS Editor), and Margaret Funnell (QFHSA Vice-President) informed those present of current issues. A discussion period was held to enable those attending to make themselves better informed about Home and School issues locally and provincially.

Some local events and activities follow:

New Richmond - Elaine Sexton, President

November	Annual book fair
December	Christmas dinner for students and staff. Santa on hand to give out treats.
February	Teacher Appreciation Week - a dinner was held for the staff (parents took over outside duty).
May	Annual public speaking event hosted by Home & School.
June	Graduation and contribution to the end of the year trips.

New Carlisle - Cathy Buttle, President

Meetings were held on alternate months with executive meetings in between.

December	Annual bazaar and casserole supper.
February	Special activities for Teacher Appreciation Week
May	A talent show will be held in early May to raise money needed for a crossing guard.
June	Certificates will replace replicas at the graduation.

Shigawake - Port Daniel - Linda Laroque, President

This year has been an active one for our members.

October	A Halloween basket was organised within the school. Students enjoyed a turkey dinner for Thanksgiving.
November	A breakfast was held to acknowledge Children's Day.
December	Two of our members spoke at the regular meeting about the value of educational toys and games as presents.
February	The guest speaker at the February meeting was Director General Cyrus Journeau. He gave a very informative explanation concerning Linguistic School Boards (voting, taxes, etc.). Questions were asked by parents and teachers to which Mr. Journeau responded accordingly.

Home and School did their part in gathering goods such as candles, batteries and non-perishable goods to aid in the relief fund during the ice storm of '98 (items were given to C.A.S.A., who looked after getting them on the VIA baggage cars).

Thank you to all of the Home and School members on the Gaspesie.

LAKESHORE REGIONAL COUNCIL (LRC)
 Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998
 Submitted by Pat Waters & Norma Stirling, Co-Chairmen

The Lakeshore Regional Council has held two meetings this season, both of them focused on the transition of the Lakeshore School Board from the confessional to the linguistic mode. Our emphasis on this particular development was deemed necessary because of the rapidity at which the transition was taking place. It is interesting to note that many of those most intimately involved in this most important period in our history had their educational roots in Home and School.

At our **October meeting** we had Marcus Tabachnick, Chairman LSB, and Catherine Prokosh, Director General of the Western English School Board 50-08, who gave us an excellent presentation on the mandate of the Provisional Board 50-08. They were able to illustrate to us the monumental task of the councils to implement the change to linguistic school boards. An animated question period followed and parents were concerned with such things as catchment basins, the future of the Ecole Primaires, the confessional status of individual schools and in general, "what is going to happen to my child?" Also present was Margaret Manson, an LSB Commissioner and board delegate to LRC and John Goff, the LTA Rep. John added in his report that the teachers are finding these changes difficult too.

The second meeting in **March** was a sequel to the first with Ann Cumyn and Leo Lafrance, both of whom play dual roles as commissioner and Assistant Director General respectively of the LSB and the Provisional Boards as our guests. The topic was "An Update on Linguistic School Boards - Where We Are At and Where We Are Going". We learned of the new structure that is evolving and the committees that are being formed. The most urgent need is for parents to understand the new system and work closely with the local school administration and teachers in creating a "new educational culture".

The need for the earnest involvement of parents and community at large in the upcoming **school board registration and elections** is crucial to the future well-being of English language education.

The questions from the Home & School parents were concerned with busing, staff changes, the role of the Governing Boards, the distribution of Home & School funded equipment and the future of empty schools. Reports followed from each of the Home & School presidents in attendance and some highlights of their activities were plans for a Safety Week at Northview, a Health Week at Seignory and weekly Intercultural Activities at Thorndale. A report was also heard from our LTA representative, John Goff who has kept us "au courant" with teacher reaction to the most recent developments.

The atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding and the close working relationship that has always existed among the Lakeshore School Board, the Regional Council and it's locals has meant much to the provision of quality education in this area.

We are pleased with the role the regional council has played in keeping our parents informed and in helping to strengthen the bond between the LSB and its homes and its schools... a bond which must be preserved as we move forward into "the new culture".

Recommendation:

That the Lakeshore Regional Council expand and continue to exist after the implementation of the new linguistic school boards. It would represent Home and Schools of the English western school board.

SLAAC (SECONDARY ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL)

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Dianne Skoda, Education Committee Satellite

Mandate: The Secondary Language Arts Advisory Council was formed in 1970 to provide advice to the Coordinators of English Language Arts Curriculum concerning the needs of the Quebec Anglophone milieu, and to represent the many varied aspects of the milieu. SLAAC has been accepted as a mechanism whereby observations and suggestions are transmitted to the Minister of Education on a continuing basis. Parental input and feedback are welcome.

Members: The Council has about 20 members including representatives from the MEQ, several school boards, Quebec Association of Independent Schools, Quebec Association of School Administrators, McGill Faculty of Education, Cegeps, teachers' unions and QFHSA.

Concerns:

- assurance needed that MEQ **resources and materials**, especially the Secondary English Language Arts I-V program document are available as needed.
- the absence of **department heads**.
- successful **transdisciplinary models/programs** that SLAAC might study, in relation or comparison to Quebec's curriculum reform.
- MEQ's list of approved materials seldom includes English Language Arts **materials**, making choices very difficult.
- Reform proposal that **English Mother Tongue LA accreditation** in Secondary 1-3 be identical to that of French Second Language. There is no such parallel in the Francophone sector.
- Reform proposal of time-tabling being down loaded to schools could make it possible that **teaching time** in ELA would be **compromised**.
- Discovery of continuities and **discontinuities** between high school and Cegep.

Actions

- **Mandate** of SLAAC has been updated and will be **circulated** to the affiliated members of the different organizations and associations.
- Information being posted on the **English Schools of Quebec web site**
- Parameters be constructed by SLAAC for the approval of **textbook materials**
- Charles Levy (MEQ Task Force on Curriculum Reform member, DG PSBGM) spoke to SLAAC on impending curriculum reforms.

QUEBEC SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION [QSBA]

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Miriam Lalande, President

QSBA has been dealing with a number of issues this past year:

- Briefs on the draft bill to amend the Education Act.
- Brief to the joint House of Commons-Senate Committee on the Constitutional Amendment.
- Presentation of a workshop on Provisional Councils which QFHSA attended.
- Future Directions of QSBA - preparation of amendments to their Constitution and By-Laws.
- The impending change to the linguistic school system. They are involved in the negotiation of protocol agreements for transfer and integration of personnel to the new linguistic boards.

During this year QSBA membership has been very supportive of QFHSA in all its endeavors. QFHSA has been invited to participate in the QSBA 1998 Annual General Meeting in Mont Tremblant.

COUNCIL FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION (CELE)

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Miriam Lalande, President

The mandate of this liaison is to bring the parental voice to the table.

The thrust of each meeting:

- to see if the English Language Community can come to some agreement [read consensus] on the issues facing it.

There were three meetings this year.

The issue this year:

- the proposal, by the Province of Quebec, for a bi-lateral agreement to amend Section 93, subsections 1 to 4, of the Canadian Constitution, to read that this article would no longer apply to Quebec.

QFHSA stated its position of opposition to the amendment on this issue of parental rights in education as had been passed at the 1997 QFHSA Annual General Meeting.

THINK TANK - SEPTEMBER 17, 1997

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998

Submitted by Marion Daigle, Resource person

Mandate: An opportunity for new local Home and School Association Executives and QFHSA Board of Directors to discuss common issues and concerns at the beginning of the new school year. The focus is planning and priorities.

Summary of Activities:

Attendance: A total of 51 people attended which included representatives of 21 Home and School Associations, QFHSA Directors and guests.

Reception: held at QFHSA offices. The new 1997 Leadership Handbooks were distributed; members viewed resource materials.

Dinner: served in the Chinese restaurant downstairs.

Program:

Theme: Do You Know Which School Your Children will be Attending in September, 1998? The

Bottom Line: Your Children's Education in the New Linguistic School System.

After Opening Remarks by President Miriam Lalande, a panel of speakers: Marion Daigle, Rickhey Margolese, Alice MacLeod and Norma Cheng described the upcoming linguistic school system and its impact on both the children's education and on the future of Home and School Associations. A lively and informative question period took place. Information kits were distributed.

Evaluations: were enthusiastic. Parents expressed uncertainty about the new linguistic school system due to lack of information. They appreciated the efforts of QFHSA to keep them informed. The information kits were especially useful for Home and School Presidents for circulating information to their Executives, school committee colleagues and principals.

QFHSA FALL CONFERENCE - October 25, 1997
 Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 2, 1998
Submitted by Pat Waters, General Arrangements Chairman

Program

The Fall Conference was on October 25, 1997 at John Rennie High School, Pointe Claire. Based on the theme, "Adjusting to Change: Parents in Action", the plenary session focused on "Parents in Action" and their role in the new linguistic school system. This segment, organized by Marion Daigle, featured Ann Cumyn, member of the Provisional Council (50-08), Alice MacLeod, Chairman QFHSA Education Committee, Rickhey Margolese, QFHSA Education Committee, Nancy Peppy, Parent Commissioner, Western Quebec School Board and moderator, Brian Rock, Principal, Baie Comeau High School. Workshops followed in two sessions divided by a lunch break.

Session I Workshops - Educational

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Sharpening Study Skills | Roslyn Peltola |
| 2. A Cooperative Learning Approach | Nella Edel-Herscovitch |
| 3. Parenting Support Groups - Is There a Need? | Nancy Hovey |
| 4. MRE - Much More Than Religion | Suzanne Longpré |
| 5. The 4th R in Learning: A Relaxed Body | Bruce Gray |
| 6. To Advance Learning in our Kids (TALK) | Carol Morrison & Jack Brown |

Session II Workshops - Parenting

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Emotional Intelligence over IQ | Margaret Mitchell |
| 2. Sibling Rivalry | Fani Lobel |
| 3. Tender Travellers in a Tough World | Vikki Stark |
| 4. Who Said It's Only Child's Play? | Nancy Snipper |

Registration

The total number of people registered was 109 with 106 staying for lunch. We had 8 members coming from the outreach areas of QFHSA, Baie Comeau, the Gaspé, Ayers Cliff and Aylmer. The workshops boasted anywhere from 12 to 25 people and over 100 people attended the plenary session.

Hospitality

Sandy Chisholm and Maggie Tietjen of Beacon Hill School organized the coffee, juice, and muffins, and the apples were donated by Macdonald College. The lunch was catered by Barbara Whelan and Ann Cockhill and it consisted of assorted sandwiches, veggies/dip, and desserts. Norma Stirling was responsible for setting up the cafeteria for lunch and the tables were decorated with white paper table cloths and flowers.

Displayers

There were six commercial displayers this year and one non-profit group.

PAPT-PACT CONVENTION - NOVEMBER 20-21, 1997

Report to the Annual General Meeting, May 2, 1998

Submitted by Marion Daigle, Resource personMandate: To cooperate with the Teachers Associations in promoting parental involvement.Summary of Activities:

1. Parents + Teachers = Action - a workshop
Facilitator: Pat Waters; Co-ordinator: Marion Daigle

Participants represented a wide spectrum within the educational community - from elementary to high school, from private to public to a special needs school and to Kanawake reserve schools. Workshop concentrated on parental involvement and communications. Ways to overcome barriers to parental involvement in some schools was a common concern.

2. Resource Table - several Home and School volunteers answered questions and distributed information in the main foyer. Most teachers were interested in materials promoting self-esteem, information on the new governing boards, the PALS brochure.

Conclusion:

More teachers need to know the mission of QFHSA and its role in stimulating parental involvement in the home, the school and the community. A publicity and public relations package for teachers would be helpful.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK (TAW), February 8-14, 1998

Report to the Annual General Meeting - May 02, 1998

Submitted by the office

CHSF Idea Files were once again sent out in mid-December to all Home and School Associations and Group Affiliate members. The MEQ is still sending out TAW information.

The number of schools ordering materials this year was 19, a decrease from 26 in 1997. Participating schools came from the Montreal area, as well as Three Rivers, Baie Comeau, the Laurentians, the Lower North Shore, the South Shore, and the Gaspé area.

Notifying the schools gives them their start-up notice; many calls are received from schools, groups, etc., asking what the date is each year.

From the Participation Forms we receive, we can tell that ideas are often taken from the Idea File, and also that posters from previous years are reused. Many schools have very innovative ideas and plans. The Participation Forms are sent on to CHSF. It is important to be able to offer new materials/supplies each year; schools which use the materials prefer having something different.

No press releases were sent out by CHSF in 1998.

