



Draft Resolutions for 2022 for consideration by the Membership of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. (QFHSA) *QFHSA 2022 Annual General Meeting*

The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations has been scheduled for June 2nd, 2022. As in previous years, the QFHSA's committees have been looking closely at Quebec's educational landscape and studying the latest legislation that will affect our parents and our students. Our committees also monitor developments at the local, national, and international level that impact the well-being of children, youth, and families. This has led the QFHSA's Rights Subcommittee to develop several resolutions, which delegates will be invited to caucus and adopt at this year's Annual General Meeting.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR 2022 **Five (5) Resolutions:**

- 1. Objection to the Definition of "Historic" Anglophones and the Consequent Restrictions to Eligibility for Services in English**
- 2. Request to Maintain Race, Religion, and Culture as Central Themes in the Proposed Citizenship Course**
- 3. A Call to Suspend and Amend Law 21**
- 4. Request to Be Included in Future Consultations as a Partner in Education**
- 5. The Offering of Bilingual Services by Student Ombudsmen**

On this and the following pages, the proposed text of each resolution is provided along with background information/explanatory remarks.



Resolution 2022-01: Objection to the Definition of "Historic" Anglophones and the Consequent Restrictions to Eligibility for Services in English

In his inaugural address to the National Assembly on October 19, 2021, Premier François Legault stated:

"I want to speak to the historic English-speaking community of Québec. You are an integral part of Québec. As a historic community, you have your own institutions: Schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, the media. Canada's francophone minorities dream of mastering so many institutions. No minority in Canada is better served than English-speaking Quebecers and we are proud of that."

This prompted the QFHSA's Rights Subcommittee to look at Bill 96 closely and consider its ramifications for our English community. The first proposed resolution is the product of this careful review.

The resolution insists that the Government of Quebec not relegate English-speaking Quebecers to a "historic" community or limit their right to receive government communications and services in English. The committee believes the Quebec government should never base rights or access to services on a person's eligibility for English education. Rather, the government should follow International Human Rights tenets to ensure the safeguarding and preservation of the cultural identity of Quebecers who identify themselves as being part of the common English-language linguis-

tic minority group so that they may continue to thrive and help contribute to Quebec's success on the world stage.



Resolution 2022-02: Request to Maintain Race, Religion, and Culture as Central Themes in the Proposed Citizenship Course

Although the QFHSA was incorporated as the QFPHSA (Quebec Federation of Protestant Home and School Associations) in 1959, it was happy enough to drop the Protestant part of its name in 1969. We believed that every school could benefit from parents being involved in education and forming a Home and School Association, and not have the social action movement be limited to the Protestant school boards only. We had no problem with our children learning about other religions and cultures and exploring their spiritual natures. However, this openness to diverse religions and cultures is not evident in the Quebec government's proposed replacement course for the Ethics and Religious Culture program.

The QFHSA Rights Subcommittee is very concerned that as publicized, the proposed Culture and Citizenship in Quebec program places too much emphasis on Quebec culture and citizenship. We are concerned that the enforcement of Law 21 will influence this new curriculum and reduce the opportunity for our students to learn about other religions and cultures. This resolution strongly recommends to the Minister of Education of Quebec that race, religion, and culture remain central themes in the new Quebec Citizenship and Culture course.

Further, the Rights Subcommittee believes the new citizenship course must incorporate the following recommendations from the Quebec government's *Groupe d'action contre le racisme*:

- *Include racism and discrimination issues throughout the school curriculum.*
- *Change the academic curriculum at the primary and secondary levels to update concepts related*

to the history, cultures, heritage and current realities of Indigenous peoples in Quebec and Canada and their impact on society.



Resolution 2022-03: A Call to Suspend and Amend Law 21

The third resolution deals specifically with Quebec's problematic Law 21. Now is not the time to support a law that prohibits the hiring of certain qualified teachers. This prohibition only serves to exacerbate an already serious teacher shortage, and adversely affects the delivery of quality education to our students.

Law 21 continues to be a local, regional, provincial, national, and international embarrassment. This QFHSA resolution insists that the Government of Quebec do two things. First, immediately suspend Law 21; and second, initiate a comprehensive review and debate of Law 21 in the National Assembly to address the sections of the law that fail to respect Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Section 3 of the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms of Quebec. The resolution demands the amendment of the problematic sections of Law 21 so that they respect both charters.



Resolution 2022-04: Request to Be Included in Future Consultations as a Partner in Education

As a follow up to last year's Resolution 6 on Curriculum Development, the Rights Subcommittee believes that extensive consultation with the community would be advantageous to the government in order to bring the best possible services to meet the needs of the communities.

The QFHSA has been recognized as a "Partner in Education" with the Ministry of Education for many years. In fact, the Ministry of Education has provided financial support to the Home and School movement since 1960! This resolution requests that the Ministry of Ed-

Education of Quebec invite representatives of the QFHSA to all future consultation sessions it organizes.



Resolution 2022-05: The Offering of Bilingual Services by Student Ombudsmen

The fifth resolution addresses Bill 9, *An Act respecting the National Student Ombudsman*. This bill will restructure services available for students, children, and parents in all regions of the province of Quebec. The QFHSA wishes to ensure that services in French and English remain available to all Quebecers, no matter where they reside in the province.

This resolution insists that the Minister of Education, Recreation, and Sports of Quebec guarantee that the National Student Ombudsman and the Regional Student Ombudsmen be capable of offering services in French and English in all regions of the province of Quebec.

As Quebec's political situation continues to evolve and other local, national, and international issues arise, the Rights Subcommittee may create more resolutions prior to the Annual General Meeting. If this happens, the additional resolutions will be shared with local Home & School Associations

If the resolutions are adopted at the Annual General Meeting, they will be sent to the Minister of Education, the Premier of Quebec, and other education partners in Quebec. Decisions made in Quebec City by the National Assembly seriously affect the quality of our children's education. It is important that parents are aware and that their voices are heard.

1/04/22