

This is the QESBA Annual Report for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2015. As you know, the fall of 2014 marked the School Board Elections after seven years therefore making daily business different for QESBA as our elected were technically not serving for the electoral period.

School Board Elections

QESBA started its work even before the writs were dropped to signal the start of the school board election campaign. We were able to negotiate and secure a series of televised debates on Global TV for the candidates from four of our member boards: Riverside, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Lester B Pearson, and English-Montreal. Global TV management indicated to QESBA that the number of viewers was above their expectations. QESBA helped with the distribution of materials prepared by QFHSA by establishing links for and with the DGs. We helped encourage local schools and others to hold meet the candidate and debate nights. We acted as central contact point for Returning Officers and the DGEQ. We ran a major ad in The Montreal Gazette promoting voter participation. We prepared and had published Op-Ed pieces under the President's signature; we also collaborated with all media in both English and French. And finally we held a post-election press conference on the Monday morning following the election, which was attended by some 20 members of the media – a great turnout. While the turnout may not have been what we expected and we continue to lobby to save our elections we maintain that a mix of the mess in our voter's list and the messages from the government to the population to boycott voting we did VERY well all things considered.

QESBA Advocacy: Mergers

The proposed mergers of school boards... QESBA held many meetings with former Minister Yves Bolduc and with the FCSQ on potential outcomes of such changes. Following consultation with its members, the FCSQ deposited a plan with the Minister that calls for the merger of boards resulting in about 42 French boards. The Minister welcomed the deposit as a positive step forward and advised the FCSQ that there remain 3 or 4 areas that will require further discussion, including the Montreal and Quebec City regions.

QESBA reiterated its position that we remain committed to retaining all 9 of our Boards. The proposal for the English sector by the Minister to merge 3 South Shore Boards into one did not meet the basic criteria of natural community affiliation. The New Minister of Education François Blais announced in September of this year that mergers were no longer on the table.

Meetings with the former Minister of Education

QESBA had a very positive and open relationship with the former Minister of Education Yves Bolduc. Until he was replaced in February of this year we held a total of 10 meetings and exchanges with Dr. Bolduc.

Law 15, Loi sur la gestion et le contrôle des effectifs des ministères, des organismes et des réseaux du secteur public ainsi que des sociétés d'État

Bill 15, introduced by Treasury Board President Martin Coiteux, was assented into law on December 5, 2014. The purpose of this law is to control the number of employees in the public and para-public sectors, including education. It effectively freezes the number of employees in each Ministry and department to the average employment level of the months of January – March 2014.

While the total number of employees is to be counted at the Ministry level as a total for the system, the effect is that Boards cannot increase the number of employees. Essentially 1 in = 1 out. That said, details on the specifics of addressing board needs and all reporting will be forthcoming from the Treasury Board. In the meantime, GRICS has created a 'patch' for each board's payroll system to enable tracking of staffing levels.

Nomination of a new Minister

François Blais was named on February 27, 2015, QESBA was finally invited to meet with him on April 17 and we were told that elections by universal suffrage were finished and that unless we had an alternate proposal for him we would not be seen again. This has been the most difficult relationship with any Minister in immediate history. We continue to lobby with the current elected.

Schedule of meetings:

January – June, 2015

International Programs
Language Rights Lawyer
Meeting at ETSB re International Programs
MELS-Réseau
CSBA Board of Directors
Meeting MIDI/MESS/MELS Int'l Program
Meeting with Minister & other meetings
Language Rights Lawyer
OCOL
MELS-Réseau
QCGN/Entente Can/Quebec Liaison
Meeting with Minister
Chambre de Commerce

Language Rights Lawyer
QFHSA
COalition For the Future of English Education
Language Rights Support Program meeting
Meeting with Minister of Finance
Meeting with Public Relations expert
Éducation internationale
Entente Can/Québec Liaison
Fédération des comités de parents (FCPQ)
Budget lock-up
Chambre de Commerce – Leitão speech



Communiqué de presse
Pour publication immédiate

The Quebec English School Boards Association Extends a Warm Welcome Back to Students and Staff

Montreal; August 27, 2014: "Welcome back!" David D'Aoust, President of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) extends best wishes to students, teachers, administrators, and parents on behalf of our nine English School Boards for a great and successful 2014/2015 school year.

D'Aoust continued: "With boards clearly focused on delivering the best possible education for our nearly 100,000 youth and adult students, the nine English Boards have once again registered success rates well above the Quebec Provincial average. Our Boards set the best possible learning environment for students in their communities while dealing effectively and efficiently with ongoing and sometimes hurtful budget compressions."

Many challenges await us in the coming year. The new government has already made some changes to the administration of education in Quebec by doing away with the Regional Bureaus of the Ministry of Education. QESBA will work with our member boards to find ways to minimize the effects of this change. School Boards organize and operate all administrative functions to allow schools to concentrate on their principal task – serving students. We have always appreciated the amazing work of Principals, teachers, and all in-school personnel and offer a special welcome back and thanks to those dealing directly with our students.

With the lowest operating cost of any level of government our aim is to ensure that it is kept that way. Student achievement, changing technology, the increasing demand for specialized programming, and public sector negotiations will keep the Boards, and the QESBA, very busy this year.

It will also be an important year for our community in another way. School Boards will hold the first Commissioner elections since 2007. A new element being introduced this year is the separate election of each Board's Chairman by universal suffrage. Much as a mayoral election, candidates will be declaring their interest in running for the top position

in their respective Boards and will have to campaign for public support across their territory, a daunting task as best but even more so for the English school boards with some covering a territory the size of some countries. That said, there is increased interest across the system to seek election and we could see a record number of elections being contested. It is critical that the community comes out in large numbers to vote. School Boards represent the only level of government whose councils are elected with the specific mandate to represent the English-eligible community in the most important obligation of all government services – educating our students. QESBA President D'Aoust commented: "Whether you have students in schools and centers or not, you have a stake in the future of our society and in our community. Please get involved by running as a candidate, by attending community meet-the-candidate meetings, and by voting on November 2nd."

"Education Minister Bolduc has been very forthright and open with us. We appreciate his focus on student achievement and we look forward to a continued open relationship with him and the officials at the Ministry" stated D'Aoust. He went on to remind us all: "The schools are once again open. We know everyone has somewhere important to be but please slow down and watch out for our students. Let's keep them safe. They are our future."

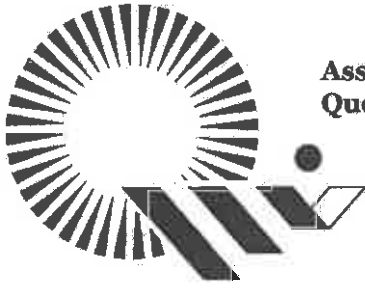
QESBA is the voice of English public education in Quebec representing about 100,000 students, in youth, adult, and vocational sectors.

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Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec
Quebec English School Boards Association

OP-ED – September 3, 2014

THE ENGLISH COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

Become a candidate for School Board Chairman or Commissioner

By David C. D'Aoust, President, Quebec English School Boards Association

November 2nd will see the first school board elections in seven years. It will be a key moment for both the English and French school boards. In 2007 there was a 17% voter participation rate in the English system and an overall 7% rate when the turnout at the French boards is taken into account. Successive governments have lamented about what to do to either increase the voter turnout or eliminate school board elections all together. We cannot let our right to manage and control our own education system just disappear. In 2014 we need to make a strong statement that we want, need, and support our publicly elected school board system. We certainly don't want to allow the government to appoint our representatives.

We can ensure that the government respects our wish to maintain our system by voting, and voting in large numbers on November 2nd. However, in order for there to be a vote we need candidates. The number of elected Commissioners will be greatly reduced this election, making each seat all the more important. There will only be 95 Commissioners elected to the nine English school boards. Our students from pre-Kindergarten to Adult and Vocational Training are counting on good people to step up to run for election.

It is not hard to get started. You need to be over 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen, your principal residence on the territory of the board in which you want to run for election, and not be prohibited by law from being a candidate. In addition, you need to be prepared to attend school board and community meetings and participate at various events to represent your community. You also should be a passionate believer in the public education system. If you meet those criteria you need an official nomination form, 10 supporting signatures to run for Commissioner or 50 supporting signatures to run for Board Chairman. Deposit your completed form with your local returning officer and you are ready. The nomination period ends on *September 28th*.

From there it is up to you to develop a plan, meet your community, present a platform, meet your community, learn about current issues in education, meet your community, and enjoy the experience. Elected Commissioners have input into government policy, make decisions about the schools on their territory, develop and adopt the bylaws and policies that govern the Boards, and oversee management as they apply those guiding principles. The future of each community is built on the quality of education and training that we provide for our students. Can you afford not to be a part of that?

We are looking forward to election races in every ward and for every Chairman's post. We are looking forward to lively and productive debate and discussion. We are looking forward to welcoming 95 Commissioners and 9 Chairmen whose passion and determination will keep the Quebec English school system at a world class level.

For the good of our community, for the good of our learners, for the good of our own English education system – the English community needs you!

David C. D'Aoust is the President of the Quebec English School Boards Association and the Chairman of the New Frontiers School Board.

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Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec
Quebec English School Boards Association

News Release
For immediate distribution

QUEBEC ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION CALL FOR CANDIDATES FOR NOVEMBER 2nd SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Montreal, September 19, 2014: On November 2nd Quebecers will go to the polls to elect School Board Commissioners and Chairmen for the first time in seven years. In the upcoming election School Board Chairmen will be elected by universal suffrage (overall board territory).

Following the Quebec government's restructuring of the elected Councils there will be 95 Commissioner and 9 Chairmen positions up for election across the nine English School Boards. The nomination period runs from September 23rd and for five days closing at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, September 28th. Official nomination documents are available from the Returning Officer in each English School Board. To be eligible to register as a candidate a person has to be at least 18 years of age; live in the territory of the Board in which they wish to present themselves; not be forbidden from voting in Quebec elections.

David D'Aoust, President of the Quebec English School Boards Association, said "These are pivotal elections for the future of our democratically elected English School Boards. We are looking forward to contested elections for all Commissioner and Chairmen positions. The debates, ideas, and visions that are shared during a campaign are critical for the future of our system. Additionally, running an election campaign is an exciting experience and a great opportunity to meet and exchange with friends and neighbours."

Returning Officers for the nine English Boards:

Central Québec	Cathleen Scott	(418) 454-2978	elections@cqsbc.gc.ca
Eastern Shores	Chantal Pitt	(418) 968-8412	chantal.pitt@essbc.gc.ca
Eastern Townships	Pauline Lazure	(514) 296-1118	lazurep@hotmail.com
English Montreal	Pierre-Yves Bezzaz	(514) 910-9541	pybezzaz@hotmail.com
Lester B. Pearson	Rémi Poliquin	(514) 422-3000	elections@lpsbc.gc.ca
New Frontiers	Cuthbert McIntyre	(514) 220-6080	cmcintyre@nfsbc.gc.ca
Riverside	Kathleen Balfour	(514) 894-6727	election@rsbc.gc.ca
Sir Wilfrid Laurier	Linda Di Domenico	(450) 621-5600 x132	ldidomenico@swlauriersbc.gc.ca
Western Quebec	Richard Vézina	(819) 684-1313 x1152	rvezina@wqsb.gc.ca

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News Release
For immediate distribution

QESBA isn't hitting panic button on premature, non-substantiated leak from the MELS

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 26, 2014 - The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) is disappointed in the leak of what appears to be an internal working document of the Ministry of Education, Recreation, and Sports.

QESBA has been aware, as has the population of Quebec that this government is examining all ministries and the associated programs and costs. "It is obvious that the government is looking at everything. On the other hand, this government has expressed publicly its confidence in the school board system and we expect that those were not empty words. We are prepared to work with the Minister to make changes that will lead to an improved system for all learners," said QESBA President David D'Aoust. "The speculations published in La Presse today are nothing more than that, and we are sure that the Minister will deal with those responsible for the leak."

"Our community has not and will not hit the panic button yet, we are currently in an electoral period and this has offered candidates some very pertinent electoral issues. It underscores the need for people to step up as candidates and then for our community to get out to vote on November 2nd," continued D'Aoust.

"QESBA has always held a strong partnership with successive Ministers of Education and we are building on that relationship with Mr. Bolduc. The Minister considers QESBA an important partner and we prefer to work directly with the Minister and his team than to chase rumors", concluded D'Aoust.

QESBA is the voice of English public education in Québec.

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Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec
Quebec English School Boards Association

News Release
For immediate distribution

Minister of Education joins QESBA and the FCSQ to officially launch School Board Elections campaign

MONTREAL, OCTOBER 3, 2014 – The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) officially launched the November 2 school board election campaign this morning accompanied by the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports Yves Bolduc and the President of the Fédération des commissions scolaires (FCSQ) Josée Bouchard.

"We have been looking forward to our date with democracy for seven years and we are extremely pleased with this electoral period so far. Our English network has responded to the call for action, for our students and for our future," said QESBA President David D'Aoust.

The number of candidates for the English sector is at a healthy 52% of wards that have two or more candidates, a big difference from the 36% in 2007 and the low 26% in 2003. This will also be the first time that the school board Chairman is elected universally by the entire school board territory we have 6 of nine elections across Quebec for the offices of Chair. QESBA is co-sponsoring a series of candidate debates with Global Montreal that will begin airing tomorrow evening at 5:30 moderated by Jamie Orchard on Focus Montreal covering all four Greater Montreal area elections.

"But our work is clearly not done, you have to make sure you are on the English voters' list to make your vote count," said D'Aoust. There is a revision period to make your choice of voting in English school board elections. The revision period begins today and goes to October 14. To find out if you are listed on the English voters list please call 1-888-election or contact your local school board for times and location of the board of revisors.

"Now it is up to you, go out and VOTE on November 2. Our students and their future need you, concluded D'Aoust."

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Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec
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News Release
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QESBA is calling upon the Quebec government to allow the English community to vote on November 2

MONTREAL, OCTOBER 22, 2014 – The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has discovered that the the Directeur général des élections du Québec (DGEQ) has not to transferred English voters from the French electoral list that have, by law, made the request in writing. QESBA has learned this from candidates that have just received their revised electoral lists.

The English voters' list has been an issue for our community since the inception of linguistic school boards in 1998. QESBA has been working for over 11-years with successive governments to try and put an end to this issue that hurts our democratic process.

"The Government has a responsibility to ensure that Quebecers can exercise their right to vote on November 2," said QESBA President David D'Aoust. "We all know that this government has clearly expressed that voter turnout will be an important factor on election day, it is their responsibility to ensure that we have all the tools we need to succeed."

Electors were advised on the rules governing transferring from the French to the English voters list through a media campaign from the QESBA, the Directeur général des élections du Québec (DGEQ), and from candidates across the province. It now seems that an astounding number of requests were not treated and voters are still listed on the French voters list.

We are calling on the government to take action today to put measures in place that will ensure that no voter is disenfranchised." Mr. D'Aoust went on to say "we faced similar problems in 1998 and the PQ government of the day introduced and adopted Bill 452 on June 11, 1998 (all completed in one day) to allow voters to vote on election-day by producing two pieces of identification at the poll. The current Liberal government must do the same to ensure every voter has the opportunity to express their democratic right."

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**Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec
Quebec English School Boards Association**

OP-ED November 27, 2014

Enough is Enough!

Op-Ed Submitted by David D'Aoust, President Québec English School Boards Association

Quebec's English school system is among the best performing networks of schools and school boards in Canada. The English school boards focus their efforts on student success and the results tell the story. Working closely with teachers and administrators, the nine English school boards ensure equity in the use of diminishing resources and equality of opportunity in terms of access to programs, support, equipment, and success.

The Quebec government set a province-wide goal of attaining an 80% success rate for students by the year 2020. The average across the 9 English school Boards this year is 82%. Six of the nine English Boards are in the top 10 performing boards in Quebec and all nine are in the top 15 of the 69 Quebec public school boards. These facts beg the question as to why Minister Yves Bolduc would want to force changes on our English boards.

The New Frontiers, Riverside, and Eastern Townships school boards each serve a unique piece of the minority English community of Quebec. The Chateauguay Valley, South Shore and the Eastern Townships have no natural affinity. A school board stretching from the Ontario border to near New Brunswick and Maine cannot logically be seen as beneficial for student success.

One has to ask, where does this stop? Successive Governments have been attempting to marginalize the English community through a process of death by a thousand cuts. Language has been attacked, health and social services in English is under attack, and now the government's position is to push the English education community further into a corner. Enough is enough!

The Minister says he recognizes the rights the Canadian Constitution guarantees to minority language communities across Canada. Can it truthfully be argued that a further decrease to the number of school boards meets the legal test for the minority community to have proper management and control of its educational institutions and its ability to guarantee the preservation of its heritage? As a comparison, there are about 100,000 students in the French school system in Ontario. There are 12 French school boards with more than 425 schools and provincial government funding of more than \$1.2-billion. The English community of Quebec has about 100,000 students, the government wants to cut the number of boards to 7. There are about 300 English schools and government financing has been cut to about \$850-million per year.

We must all stay focussed on student success, on teacher education and support, and on continued administrative efficiency, while respecting the rights and needs of the minority English community. Our school boards fully support change that improves success and opportunity for students of all ages. The Minister has yet to explain how forced mergers will improve outcomes. He has yet to define how much, if any, money will be saved without affecting classroom services.

Change for the sake of political expedience is the worst kind of change. Changes to the English system for the sole purpose of justifying the changes proposed to the French system is just not acceptable, it is offensive.

Engage us in meaningful change to increase student success, equality of opportunity, installation of 21st century teaching and learning methods and equipment, and we will be there to work with you Mr. Bolduc. Recognize the good work and success of the English school board system and support our ongoing efforts for improvement and we will continue to work to reduce system costs, as we already have done.

It is time for Quebec to reach for the top and to stop unsupportable financial cuts and reduction of successful school boards in a race to the bottom.



Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec
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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

QESBA seeks answers from Couillard Government

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 28, 2014 – The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has sent a letter to Premier Philippe Couillard following consultation with all nine member boards on the proposed merger of the New Frontiers, Riverside and Eastern Townships School Boards. In the letter signed by President David D’Aoust, QESBA is requesting answers about costs, projected savings, and most importantly how the plan would improve student success and classroom support.

Under the proposal from the Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sports, the new board would stretch from the Ontario border to the border near Maine and New Brunswick without consideration to long-existing unique communities such as Chateauguay Valley and the Townships.

“Each of these three boards serve a distinct portion of the English community and there is absolutely no natural affinity between the three regions of the province,” said D’Aoust. “We are all rightly proud of what we accomplish with little resources. Our students are successful and these three boards, like all English boards, are directly linked to our communities.”

A copy of the letter was sent to Education Minister Yves Bolduc and Treasury Board President Martin Coiteux.

The Quebec English School Boards Association is the voice of English public education in Quebec, representing about 100,000 students in Youth, Adult, and Vocational education.

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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

School board buildings and student transportation are already properly managed

MONTREAL, JANUARY 13, 2015 – The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) is very concerned with the declaration made by the Mayor of Montreal Denis Coderre yesterday regarding the management of school board properties. Mayor Coderre made this statement yesterday following an announcement made by interim Projet Montreal chief Luc Ferrandez regarding merging municipal and school board services.

School Boards are democratically elected representatives of the English community. It is our inherent right to govern and defend the cultural heritage that belongs to the English-speaking community. "Our education system is one of the best in the world, school boards manage buildings and transportation efficiently to the ultimate benefit of the student," said QESBA President David D'Aoust. "There is an old expression, *if it ain't broke don't fix it...*" continued D'Aoust.

School boards have buildings and maintenance departments that ensure the proper management of buildings and the state of our buildings are second to none. "Some of our buildings are a clear part of our community heritage and we are best placed to ensure their maintenance and survival," continued D'Aoust. "For someone to decide that they know what's best for our schools and students is concerning."

"English Boards have always collaborated with our municipal partners. Exchange of services already occurs on a regular basis. For example our students use arenas or soccer fields and municipalities use our facilities for the various activities that they offer to the citizens," concluded D'Aoust.

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**NEWS RELEASE
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QESBA WELCOMES NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION, RECREATION AND SPORTS

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 27, 2015 – It is with pleasure that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) welcomes the New Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports (MELS) Mr. François Blais. QESBA looks forward to continuing a historically strong partnership the MELS and we firmly believe that it will prosper with Mr. Blais.

QESBA will request an immediate meeting of the Table Québec/Commissions scolaires to continue the open and frank dialogue with the new Minister of Education on school board territories and governance. "We look forward to meeting with the Minister to maintain the positive relationship we have always had in the past," said David D'Aoust QESBA President. "Our sector has always been ready to explore new ways of making our already successful system more efficient and effective for our students, our teachers, and all those serving students every day in our schools and centres." continued D'Aoust.

Over the last 10-months, the Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sports has been examining structures that have detracted from student success. "It's time we start focusing on the classroom again," said D'Aoust. "Making changes simply for the sake of making changes will not improve student success," concluded D'Aoust.

QESBA, as always, is prepared to work with the new Minister to find creative ways to make our system better and more efficient for students, parents and our community. "Our first message to the new Minister will be to find ways of making our system stronger all while maintaining our current territories and our universally elected structures," said Stephen Burke QESBA Vice-President.

QESBA offers its thanks to Yves Bolduc for his dedication to public service and wishes him well in his return to the health sector.

QESBA is the voice of English public education in Quebec representing 100,000 students.

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Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec
Quebec English School Boards Association

News Release

For immediate distribution

A balanced budget built on the backs of our students

QUÉBEC CITY, MARCH 26, 2015 – The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) is very worried about our students' future following today's budget announcements.

QESBA estimates a need for a 3% increase to cover basic system costs. Today's budget, by our estimation, has a shortfall of approximately 3% or \$350-million which represents a loss of approximately \$35-million in the English sector.

"The budget deposited today worries us tremendously for the future of our students," said QESBA President David D'Aoust. "The English public system in Québec is one of the best in the world with an overall 83% success rate. After five years of continued budget compressions totalling roughly \$1-billion we are very worried for our future, considering this is an additional \$350-million in cutbacks" continued D'Aoust.

"The Treasury Board President Martin Coiteux was quoted as saying 'the work to balance the budget places youths at the heart of Québec's priorities' but we see it as a budget built on the backs of our students," said D'Aoust.

The provincial budget also specified that funding for bullying programs would now be allocated to the Family Ministry as opposed to Education. "Bullying programs are managed and implemented by school boards; how will these programs be monitored by the Family ministry and how will they be able to support school boards anti-bullying and anti-violence programs?" asked D'Aoust.



Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec
Quebec English School Boards Association

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

CHANGE FOR CHANGE SAKE - HOW DOES THAT HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED?

MONTREAL, APRIL 15, 2015 - The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) was surprised by the declarations made by the Ministre de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (MEESR), François Blais, calling for a major overhaul of school boards even before holding a first meeting with QESBA, a major partner in education.

"This is no way for the new Minister of Education to communicate with us as an important partner", declared David D'Aoust, President of QESBA. "We have made it clear to Ministry officials that we are prepared to work with them on the future of the education system as long as the result is improvement of services and success rates for our students. Change for change-sake is a waste of time, effort, and money, and does nothing for students."

In his interview, the Minister made reference to some form of regional authority mixed with municipal involvement replacing locally elected and responsible school boards. He based his decision partly on reports last week of what he considered an inappropriate employee association workshop. "The Minister should know that professional development decisions, according to a Liberal government order-in-council, are taken exclusively and independently by each employee association and are not the result of decisions taken by school boards."

"Our member boards have made it clear that they are prepared to take all steps necessary to protect and preserve our own school system. We have the right to manage and control our educational institutions and we will not accept some strange hybrid regional entity that impinges on that right. This is not a threat, it is simple statement of fact.

QESBA is scheduled to meet with Education Minister Blais on Friday, in Québec City, and we remain hopeful that these were merely trial balloons and that he will choose to work with QESBA and the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec, his partners in public education", concluded D'Aoust.

QESBA is the voice of English public education representing 100,000 students across Québec.

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**NEWS RELEASE
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QESBA's first meeting with the Minister of Education

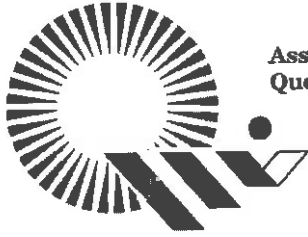
QUEBEC CITY, APRIL 17, 2015 - The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) met for a first time today with the Minister of Education François Blais in Quebec City.

QESBA will not be issuing any formal statement on today's meeting. We will reflect on the discussion, consult our Board of Directors and make a formal statement at a more appropriate time.

QESBA is the voice of English public education in Quebec representing 100,000 students.

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Quebec English School Boards Association

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

QESBA is worried for the future of Québec's English-speaking community

MONTREAL, APRIL 27, 2015 – The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) is worried for the future of our English-speaking students and community in Québec following a very difficult first meeting with the Minister of Education François Blais.

“The Minister indicated that our current electoral system is finished,” said QESBA President David D’Aoust. “We have held lengthy discussions with our members, and the answer is simple: we will never give up our elections or our minority rights.”

QESBA is confirming that Me Michael Bergman, expert in all matters of minority rights under the Canadian Constitution is now representing QESBA.

“QESBA has always been ready to openly discuss ways in which to improve our system for the sake of our students,” continued D’Aoust. “Abolishing our elected system has absolutely no benefit to the classroom or our community,” concluded D’Aoust.

QESBA is the voice of English public education in Québec.

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Association des conseils scolaires anglophones du Québec
Quebec English School Boards Association



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Election Systems Study Panel Comité d'étude des systèmes électoraux

**News Release
For immediate distribution**

Official launch of the Election System Study Panel

MONTREAL, JUNE 10, 2015 – The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), English Parents' Community Association (EPCA), the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) and the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) launched an external panel today to examine and analyze various electoral systems.

The Honourable Marlene Jennings has accepted to chair this Panel and the membership will consist of five members of the English-speaking community including Mrs. Jennings. Former Assistant Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Education Leo La France, Rachel Hunting Executive Director of the Townshippers Association will represent QCGN, Brian Rock President of QFHSA will sit at their representative and Rhonda Boucher will represent EPCA. This Panel will have the mandate to identify options for selecting school Commissioners; seek out the views of English-speaking organizations and individuals on the various options; review past elections and make recommendations on how to improve the process and make recommendations for the partners to present to the government all while respecting constitutional rights.

"I am very pleased to have been asked to Chair this very important Panel on the governance of our school system," said Marlene Jennings. "QESBA, QCGN, EPCA and QFHSA have agreed to co-sponsor this panel to complete a thorough community consultation. This panel will be at arms length from the four groups involved and will deposit a complete report by September," concluded Mrs. Jennings

"QESBA, QCGN, EPCA and QFHSA are pleased to be launching our Election Systems Study Panel to examine all scenarios surrounding school board elections. The Minister has indicated that he will only discuss with us if we have suggestions, so we are going to work. We expect that once the report is completed we will be meeting with him to have an open dialogue," said Stephen Burke QESBA acting president.

The Panel will be adding consultative members to ensure that the constitutional protections are being met.

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