

## **SUPPORT OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARD BY-ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research has recently introduced Bill 86 entitled *An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards to give schools a greater say in decision-making and ensure parents' presence within each school board's decision-making body, before the Quebec National Assembly*.

WHEREAS the adoption of Bill 86 would eliminate school board elections by universal suffrage and the right to elect school board commissioners is a basic right of taxpayers as all taxpayers pay to fund school boards, not just parents;

Whereas Bill 86 has been proposed without adequate study of all of the issues and impacts, and without consultation with the affected communities;

WHEREAS as with all democratically-protected elections, school board elections represent not merely a democratic means of self-governance, but a democratic value and aim in themselves worthy of protection;

WHEREAS the law is flawed as relates to both the French and English school board but with respect to the English school boards the law flies in the face of the constitutional protections that are designed to protect Quebec's English speaking minority;

WHEREAS, among other things, Section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* has been interpreted to include the right of Quebec's English speaking community to the control, management and governance of its educational institutions;

WHEREAS Bill 86 tramples the democratic right and freedom of the minority English-language community in Quebec to the control, management and governance of its own school boards;

WHEREAS Bill 86 tramples the democratic right and freedom of all members of Quebec's English speaking community to elect its own representatives to control, manage and govern its school boards; and

WHEREAS voting on Bill 86 will be a decision of the National Assembly where the English speaking minority represents only a small minority of elected MNAs and as such the French speaking majority members will be making fundamental decisions related to constitutionally protected English school boards against the will of the elected commissioners;

WHEREAS the council of the City of Côte Saint-Luc wishes to indicate to the members of the National Assembly and in particular the Member of the National Assembly for

D'Arcy McGee and the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research that it opposes Bill 86;

It was

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR  
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR  
AND RESOLVED:**

THAT the Preamble hereto shall form an integral part hereof as if recited at length;

THAT the City Council of the City of CSL "City Council" hereby votes to record its opposition to Bill 86 entitled *An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards to give schools a greater say in decision-making and ensure parents' presence within each school board's decision-making body*;

THAT the City Council hereby votes to support the democratic right and freedom of the both English and French speaking electors to elect their own school board commissioners and in particular notes that it believes Bill 86 is in violation of the constitutional rights of the minority English-language community in Quebec to control, manage and govern its own schools;

THAT the City Council hereby votes to record its support of school board commissioners being elected by universal suffrage for a fixed term, contrary to the government proposal of a school board council of 16 people which would see possible online voting for only six of those positions if triggered by 15 percent of the parent population;

THAT the City Council requests the Member for D'Arcy McGee to vote against Bill 86 if it comes to a vote in the National Assembly;

THAT this resolution be sent to all municipalities in Quebec, urging them to adopt a similar stance;

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research and the Member of the National Assembly for D'Arcy McGee, the Premier of Quebec, the Member of Parliament for Mount Royal and the Canadian Minister of Heritage;

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**