

## EXTRACT OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE EASTERN SHORES SCHOOL BOARD

Subject: Bill 86

### REFERENCE:

WHEREAS draft Bill 86, An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards, was introduced at the National Assembly of Quebec on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015;

WHEREAS the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms confers minority French language rights outside of Quebec and minority English language rights inside of Quebec;

WHEREAS *Mahe v. Alberta 1990* clearly defines that minority language groups have the right to manage and control their education system and facilities;

WHEREAS Bill 86 contravenes Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as the legal precedent set by the Mahe case, and this by conferring all powers over school boards to the Minister of Education, thereby significantly reducing the minority language group's right to manage and control its own educational system;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community of Quebec expects that its provincial government must respect and protect the rights of its minority language community to control and manage its schools as per Section 23 of the Charter;

WHEREAS the English-speaking schools are the fundamental hub of the English-speaking communities they serve;

WHEREAS the *Jennings Report: The Election System Study Panel 2015*, based on wide community consultation, recommends key governance changes that include: increasing the number of parent commissioners from 4 to 6, allowing those parent commissioners the right to vote, and providing for school board elections to be conducted through on-line, telephone, and mail-in ballots;

WHEREAS Eastern Shores School Board led the entire Province of Quebec in both the percentage of eligible voting citizens with an election participation rate of 22% AND for its 5 year cohort graduation success rates in excess of 80% for the year school year 2014 - 2015;

WHEREAS the government of Quebec has offered no reason to validate the changes proposed in draft Bill 86;

WHEREAS the widely dispersed demography of Eastern Shores School Board already poses significant governance challenges for our sixteen schools, six Adult & Vocational Education Centers, 220 municipalities, 20 MRCS, three administrative regions, and two time zones, the governance changes proposed by BILL 86, will only unnecessarily complicate our situation and make it untenable.

THEREFORE, Chairperson, Mr. Wade Gifford, MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Eastern Shores School Board

1. Demand that the Government of Quebec fulfill its duty to respect & protect the constitutional rights of English-speaking Quebecers; and
2. Demand that the Government of Quebec formally withdraw Bill 86.

**Carried unanimously**

**CERTIFIED TRUE COPY of a resolution adopted at the meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Eastern Shores Board held on 2016-02-17 at the Administration Centre, 40 rue Mountsorrel, New Carlisle, Quebec, G0C 1Z0**

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**M.A. Cooke, Secretary General**