

*School Board Elections after
seven years:
The pros and cons of a new system
and making it work.*

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Bill 88

- ◆ Theoretically reduced councils
- ◆ More parents
- ◆ Co-opting
- ◆ Universally elected Chair

Bill 88 – Reduced councils

- ◆ Central Québec – (8) 11 wards + Chair = 11
- ◆ Eastern Shores – (7) 10 wards + Chair = 11
- ◆ Eastern Townships – (8) 11 wards + Chair = 12
- ◆ English Montreal – (10) 10 wards + Chair = 11
- ◆ Lester B. Pearson – (10) 12 wards + Chair = 13
- ◆ New Frontiers – (8) 10 wards + Chair = 11
- ◆ Riverside – (8) 11 wards + Chair = 12
- ◆ Sir Wilfrid Laurier – (9) 9 wards + Chair = 10
- ◆ Western Quebec – (8) 11 wards + Chair = 12

Bill 88 - Parents

- ◆ (1) 8 to 18 commissioners, including a chair, elected or appointed under the Act respecting school elections (chapter E-2.3);
- ◆ (2) three commissioners or, if the number of commissioners referred to in paragraph 1 is greater than 10, four commissioners representing the parents' committee, at least one of whom is chosen from among the representatives of elementary schools, another from among the representatives of secondary schools and another from among the parents of handicapped students or students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities, elected under this Act;

Bill 88 – Co-opted

- ◆ 143. if the members of the council of commissioners referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 consider it necessary, a maximum of two commissioners co-opted by a majority of at least two thirds of the council members, after consulting with the groups most representative of the social, cultural, business and labour sectors in the region.
- ◆ 143.1. Co-optation under paragraph 3 of section 143 must enable persons whose competence and qualifications are considered complementary to those of the commissioners or useful for the administration of the school board to sit on the council of commissioners. The persons must meet any selection criteria determined by regulation by the Minister.

Universally elected Chair

- ◆ Role of the Chairman by virtue of the Education Act:
 - ◆ The chairman is the official spokesman for the school board. As official spokesman, the chairman shall publicly state the position of the school board on any subject affecting it, in particular where the chairman is involved, on behalf of the school board, with the various organizations devoted to local and regional development.

Universally elected Chair

- ◆ Purpose of making this role universally elected
 - ◆ Bill 88 was a first set of amendments to help with merging municipal and school board elections.
 - ◆ Make the Chair more accountable to the public
 - ◆ Increase voter turnout

Mayor's

- ◆ The mayor's position is filled by universal ballot. The fact that the whole municipal electorate is involved in the process gives the mayor strong legitimacy, which some have called "almost presidential".

** FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES, https://www.fcm.ca/Documents/tools/International/Your_Guide_to_Municipal_Institutions_in_Canada_EN.pdf*

Universally elected Chair

- ◆ Possible issues surrounding the election by universal suffrage like municipal governments

Universally elected Chair



Mayor, Rob Ford

Universally elected Chair

◆ **Forming a recognized team**

- ◆ The Act respecting School elections prohibits the creation of political parties. However, candidates with common interests can join together in a ticket recognized by the returning officer.
 - ◆ This helps with voter turnout.
 - ◆ Promoting your message to the electorate especially with board territory sizes.
 - ◆ Can help with a collegial atmosphere post-election

Role of the Director General

- ◆ **201.** The director general shall assist the council of commissioners and the executive committee in the exercise of their functions and powers.
- ◆ He is responsible for the day-to-day management of the activities and resources of the school board. He shall see that the decisions of the council of commissioners and of the executive committee are carried out and shall perform the duties that they assign to him.

Post-election

- ◆ QESBA will publish a handbook for Chairs and commissioners.
- ◆ We must offer adequate training in conjunction with ADGESBQ for the roles and responsibilities.
- ◆ Defining political systems has many growing pains.

Left to be done

- ◆ QESBA is currently working on documentation to provide to the new Minister of Education on ad-hoc funding for school board elections.
- ◆ Defining the Role of the Chair.
- ◆ Currently examining post-electoral conditions for the Chair and elected commissioners with the MELS.