



APCA/EPCA
L'Association des comités de parents Anglophones
English Parents Committee Association

February 28th 2015

To the attention of:

Mr. François Blais
Minister of Education, Sports and Leisure
Marie-Guyart Building
1035, rue De La Chevrotière, 16th Floor
Québec, Qc G1R 5A5

CC to the attention of:

Mrs. Chantal Beaulieu, Assistant-Deputy Minister of English Affairs
Mrs. Lise Langlois, Director of English Affairs

RE: Recommendations from the new QESEC regarding students with special needs

Dear Mr. Blais,

The English Parents' Committee Association of Quebec (EPCA) would like to bring to your attention a letter we received from the newly created body, the Quebec English Special Education Commissioners (QESEC). At the request of the Special Needs Advisory Committee chairs of the Quebec English school boards, the EPCA opened its doors on February 22nd, 2015, for them to discuss as it pertains to the special needs student population, the potential impact of the proposed merger of three of our school boards, as well as the Ministry's expressed interest in increasing parental involvement in school board affairs. It was at this meeting that QESEC was formed.

EPCA supports all of the recommendations made by the QESEC, (attached). These recommendations are a follow up to EPCA's recent meeting and discussions with the Quebec Minister of Education on January 31st, 2015, Dr. Yves Bolduc, regarding the future direction and possible changes to school board governance.

The special education parent commissioners of five Quebec English school boards, in their role as representatives of the special needs communities at their respective school boards, have identified the direct and negative impact the proposed school board mergers would have on the success of special needs students. They have also identified key decision-making areas in which there is a lack of special needs and/or general parent representation.

The next meeting of the QESEC is scheduled for April 19th, 2015 at the EPCA's office. We would like to extend an invitation to you to attend the meeting commencing at 9:00 a.m. This will give you the opportunity to become familiar with the current needs and suggestions of the special needs communities throughout the English school boards in our province.

Respectfully,



Pierre Chouinard

President, English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA)