

June 30 2020

Mr. Jean Francois Roberge
Minister of Education
1035 rue De La Chevrotière
Quebec, Quebec G1R 5A5
ministre@education.gouv.qc.ca

Dear Mr. Roberge,

According to the Education Act, Section 185: "Every school board shall establish an advisory committee on services for handicapped students and students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities".

On behalf of The Special Needs Advisory Committee of the Lester B. Pearson School Board and the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services of the English Montreal School Board, we are formally requesting that our Committees be included on any correspondence related to the reopening of schools or programs for students with special needs.

This year, we learned of the reopening of the Mackay Centre, Philip E. Layton schools as well as the CFER, WOTP, LIFE, Dawson alternative, Co-op and Transitions programs in our boards through the media. Decisions on opening schools for our most vulnerable students without consulting the parents and the professionals that work closely with those students, has resulted in frustration and confusion for parents. Parents feel ignored in this process which contravenes our responsibilities as outlined in the Education Act. We have concerns that the process of the transfer from school boards to service centers has barely begun and this lack of communication does not give us confidence in being formally acknowledged as part of a service center.

We were not consulted on the reopening of these programs, the summer learning camps and respite care programs, yet we are the committees that receives the questions from parents.

As you move forward please add our email address to your press releases.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Sincerely,

Jennifer DiMarco, Chairperson
Special Needs Advisory Committee
Lester B Pearson School Board
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Rosemarie Federico, Chairperson
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