

## **EMSBPC report January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Presentation by the QCGN (Quebec Community Groups Network) on Bill 96 -elements pertaining to the education sector.

CEGEP restrictions of admission to non-eligible students, new core courses in French being added to graduate from CEGEP.

This could cause a problem with university admissions, students with special needs etc. We need mobilization from the parents to show engagement and public disaccord at this point. Power point presentation attached.

Internal rules reviewed

Question from Jason about trips abroad, has the board retracted their allowance of trips abroad?

Answer from Mme Lacroix: Guidelines for internal trips, national, international etc., have changed, but you still can do it, there are just now more restrictions.

Student ombudsman applicants' recommendation made.

Question from the public: 4 French speaking groups are having a "Parlons d'éducation"- in French but English groups are welcome to come. Why is there no talk about joining them?

A: We haven't been invited yet, and we try and join groups and committees that represent our concerns, as they may or may not be the same as our French counterparts. We will be looking into it.

Reports:

Commissioners:

Contracts given for renovations in 7 different schools, 3 student transportation contracts approved, elected members to the following committees: Audit, HR transportation, observer to ACSES, finances, ad education.

Huge ad campaign on "Être Bilingue c'est gagnant!" - Question asking why we are spending money advertising on French media.

EPCA - currently have a survey out respecting students with special needs.

Next meeting: Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> via zoom



# Quebec Community Groups Network

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We acknowledge the support of the  
Government of Canada

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Nous reconnaissons l'appui du  
gouvernement du Canada

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# Outline

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- What is the QCGN?
- What is Bill 96 and how does it effect education and health and social services?
- What can we/I do?
- Discussion (Q&A)

# WHAT IS THE QCGN

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- Founded in 1995, the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) is a not-for-profit organization linking more than 50 English-language community organizations across Quebec.
- As a centre of evidence-based expertise and collective action, the QCGN identifies, explores and addresses strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of the English-speaking community of Quebec and encourages dialogue and collaboration among its member organizations, individuals, community groups, institutions and leaders.

# WHAT QCGN DOES

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## ADVOCACY

- Assists governments to develop policies and programs that support the development of English-speaking Quebec
- Ensures the voice of our community as a “national” linguistic minority in Canada

## COMMUNITY

- Identifies development issues and priorities for action
- Promotes attachment to the institutions of our community
- Encourages English-speaking Quebecers to participate in public dialogues around critical societal issues

## NETWORK

- Develops expertise to effectively address issues affecting the vitality of the community
- Shares knowledge and information
- Recruits members from areas and sectors not currently represented

# Bill 96 - *An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*

- Unprecedented de-entrenchment of human rights protection in Quebec;
- Unprecedented amendment to the *Constitution Act, 1867*;
- Decreased the role, independence and accessibility of the judicial branch;
- Creation of new and expanded executive powers;
- Increases in the control over language in the public sector;
- Creation of categories of citizen; and,
- Increase in language monitoring in private organizations.

**What is the effect of Bill 96 on the vitality of the English community?  
As parents, how will Bill 96 impact your children and their future success  
in Quebec?**

# Adverse Impacts on English-speaking Quebecers (non-franco minorities)

- Restrictions on services in English, including health and social services;
- Decreased access to justice in English;
- Decreased access to primary and secondary education in English for children temporarily in Quebec;
- Restrictions on admissions to English-language CEGEPs; and,
- Decreased municipal services in English.

# Education

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- Access to education in English is currently restricted; however, there are exemptions for children temporarily in Quebec. Bill 96 limits these temporary exemptions to three years, with no possibility of renewal.
  - Does not appear to affect dependents of Canadian military personnel
- Schools (and school boards) may still communicate with parents in English. They may however have new obligations to communicate between themselves, and with contractors in the official language.
- New obligations on professional orders does not seem to extend to teachers (yet).



# Education - CEGEP

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- English school rightsholders studying in English-language CEGEPs no longer allowed to obtain their Diplôme d'études collégiales (DEC) unless they:
  - Complete 2 French language-learning courses and 3 courses in their program taught in French; or
  - Complete 5 French language-learning courses. (Clause 58, ss. 88.0.2, 88.0.12(2) CFL).
  - These 3 additional courses do not include physical education courses taught in French.
- English-language CEGEPs are no longer allowed to increase their enrollment rates from one school year to the next (creating a "freeze" on available spots).
- Restrictions on total number of DEC and AEC programmes offered by English CEGEPS

# Education - CEGEP

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- Concerns over student success
  - Admission to university is a competitive process
  - Out of province options (for those with the resources)
- Concerns over long-term viability of regional CEGEPS
  - Restrictions on non-right holder attendance
- Concerns over attractiveness of programs
  - Applied research
- Restrictions on number of non-right holders allowed to attend English CEGEPS
- MESS permission required to conduct applied research in English
- Admission priority for right-holders

# Health and Social Services

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This is a tricky. Bill 96 seems to protect the right to receive health services and social services in the English language (*Act respecting health services and social services*, s.15). This right is dependent on access plans, which in turn depend on access committees, which by updated regulation are effectively creatures of the Minister.

Bill 96 contains potential restraints:

- Exemplary obligations
- English-eligible category
- Restrictions on services to newcomers
- Paramountcy of *Charter of the French Language*
- Exclusive use of French in the performance of obligations under every law
- Further constraints possible under regulations, policies, and ministerial directive
- Chill factor from constrained hiring practices

# Are the universities next?

# What Can We Do?

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- Minority Language Educational Rights are your (parents) rights
  - expenditures of funds provided for such instruction and facilities;
  - appointment and direction of those responsible for the administration of such instruction and facilities;
  - establishment of programs of instruction;
  - recruitment and assignment of teachers and other personnel; and
  - making of agreements for education and services for minority language pupils.
- School boards are your agents
- Communicate with your Board.
  - Is the new Charter of the French Language impacting your s.23 rights?
  - This is a legal question requiring the opinion of counsel