

Association des comités de parents anglophones English Parents' Committee Association

Dear parents,

I think we can all agree that times are turbulent. Schools are opening, no they are not, only some... maybe none. Yes, there are many unknowns and all partners are doing their best to move forward and to help guide conversations. But guess what? Fall is 72 days away.

The return to school means that various education partners sit around a big table and have lengthy discussions about the well-being and security of our students, teachers, administrators, janitors, secretaries, support personnel, bus drivers and infrastructure.

The summer will be rife with planning and continuing dialogue on the fall return to school for all. This is unchartered territory for our community, and it is generally agreed that there is no perfect solution or model that will completely satisfy all stakeholders. But at its most basic, our interest and advocacy are based on the notion that no child fall through the cracks during the transition, and this unprecedented evolution of learning in Quebec.

Of course, as the official voice of parents of students in Quebec's English public schools, the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) have been there every step of the way. For months, EPCA has been at the table with Minister of Education Jean-François Roberge, and the various stakeholders of the *MEES partenaires* on a regular basis. Our voice has been heard. We will continue to provide the English parent's point of view, make our demands known, and consult on all proposals.

Our direct communication with the Minister has proven effective, and we will accompany the government as we move forward on the transition to September, while insisting on clear timelines throughout the next 72 working days, and a clear understanding of our unique position as a minority community, and on the importance of receiving timely, relevant and adequate information in English.

We will keep our parent community informed and updated, while maintaining our presence and vigilance to ensure that the government hears our expectations and that all decisions are scrutinized.

Whatever plan will be determined over the next days, weeks and months, we want to reassure our parents that EPCA has a central place in these discussions. In fact, the Minister has expressly asked, and indeed, *demanded* our input. We will deliver. We will provide all this information and support, and demand that the government integrate our contributions into whatever plan rolls out in the coming days.

Above all, we will make sure you are heard. Speaking for parents of nearly 100,000 students spanning across the province, we need and encourage your input.

We are already hard at work on what comes next and will be calling on you in the coming days, weeks, and months, as we seek your input and consultation through surveys, questionnaires, and various forms of dialogue.

The call is coming, we ask that you respond.

Until then, we hope you stay safe and look forward to hearing from you.

Katherine Korakakis - President EPCA