

**English Parents' Committees Association of Quebec**  
**Pledge to Parent Governance**

Dear Parents,

Board Councils should be working to deliver to parents all the resources we need to reach out to our communities, as we remind community commissioners of ongoing concerns about how well parent governance is incorporated in the true decision-making processes at our Boards.

It is time to show leadership and to do more.

As the official representative of parents across Quebec's English-language public education network, the English Parents' Committees Association (EPCA) is calling on all acclaimed and future elected community commissioners and school board chairpersons, to demonstrate a renewed commitment to parents and parent governance, and to publicly pledge their commitment to measures of great significance to the parent community:

- That Councils of Commissioners and individual community commissioners acknowledge and respect the independence of parent governance, and immediately put an end to all lobbying and pressure-tactics directed towards parent representatives, parents' committees and parent associations, as well as interference therein.  
To elevate the level of trust and establish effective rapports with parent governance, representatives must not be viewed as impediments to Council agendas, nor adversaries on issues that affect students and therefore parent communities.
- That Councils of Commissioners engage in more regular consultation with parents' committees and governing boards: Legally mandated consultative processes are the minimum engagement demanded by law and should not be a final objective, but rather a starting point towards true, meaningful dialogue.
- That operating budgets for all English-language parents' committees be increased to allow PCs to launch new activities to better engage parents across our network. This includes deploying new electronic tools to bring parents closer together across larger geographic areas, to improve the effectiveness and cohesion of parent governance.
- That Councils of Commissioners publicly advocate before the Government a permanent increase in the number of voting parent commissioners on Councils, ensuring parity with community commissioners. In the short term, Councils can use the co-opted commissioner option to nominate additional PC representatives to Councils, thereby granting new seats at the table to members of parent governance.
- That Councils permanently empower parents' committees and governing board chairs with the ability to independently contact parent communities in their respective boards/schools, without requiring Board administrator approval, on issues of concern to the parent body, through whatever means are available (email, social media, media relations, etc.)

- That all Councils advocate for stricter COVID-19 personal protection measures in all schools at all times, for both students and staff, wherever social distancing is impossible.
- That during this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, school boards offer the flexibility for every family to take advantage of online teaching, should they choose.
- That all Councils establish dedicated infrastructure funds, along with realistic project timelines, to improve ventilation systems in schools.