



# English Parents' Committee Association

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February 2021 Volume 1



*Katherine Korakakis has spent most of her life working alongside start-ups in various verticals. For 10 years, she was responsible for the development of entrepreneurial initiatives and projects under the auspices of the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, a Youth Secretariat program of the government of Quebec. She has authored and co-authored guidebooks on entrepreneurship education. Katherine has served on the Boards of numerous corporations and currently is the vice-president of PMEMTL Centre-Ouest and president of EPCA. She sits on the investment committees of PME MTL Centre and PME MTL Centre-Ouest. Katherine is also involved in education and is the President of the English Parents Committee Association (EPCA). Katherine is Head of Entrepreneurship at ProMontreal Entrepreneurs (PME) an early stage VC fund that has been around for 20 yrs.*

# President's message

## How far we've come

The last year has been exceptional for EPCA. Our reach and impact have exceeded that of past years, even in this unprecedented era challenging us as citizens, advocates, and most importantly as parents.

We have demonstrated that by working together we are strong. This is something that we should never lose sight of as a minority community. Now more than ever, parents must speak with one voice. We as a group are so much stronger than the sum of our parts.

Our gains are wholly based on the support and dedication of my fellow Directors, who have shown how they can take matters in hand and advance the cause of parents. Your Directors are hard at work as agents of change in their respective communities, and in the province at large.

Being a united parent community is not only about working with each other, but with community partners and regional associations, sharing information, increasing capacity, and advocating on behalf of all parents. That is our mandate, what we were sent to do via all levels of parent governance.

There are no solo efforts when it comes to helping communities flourish, so in these challenging and uncertain times, our concept must be unity. When people are united and focused with a plan in hand, they are ready to face whatever is on the horizon.

That is what we are all about.



*Doug Bentley became involved in parental governance as a Governing Board sub 4 years ago, he is now Vice Chair of his GB. This is his second year on Parents Committee and his first as a Director of EPCA. With his son in grade 4 and his daughter in kindergarten, he is also active in coaching Baseball, T-Ball and Soccer.*

*Doug Bentley,  
EPCA Director, Lester B Pearson School Board  
Concordia University BA 1991  
Concordia University BFA 2001*

## Surveys: You Have a Voice

The English Parents' Committee Association represents the Parent Committees at eight Quebec English-language school boards. With a team of Directors chosen by member Committees, it is the official voice of Quebec's English public school parent community, representing more than 100,000 students. EPCA represents parent interests in all dealings with the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) and across all levels of government and we are often asked to consult on issues pertaining to education in Quebec.

One way in which we consult our community of parents is through the use of surveys; if you have signed up to the EPCA email mailing list or Facebook page, you may have seen or answered a survey that we put out.

If you have participated in an EPCA survey, then your opinion has been counted and your voice has been heard. And we thank you!

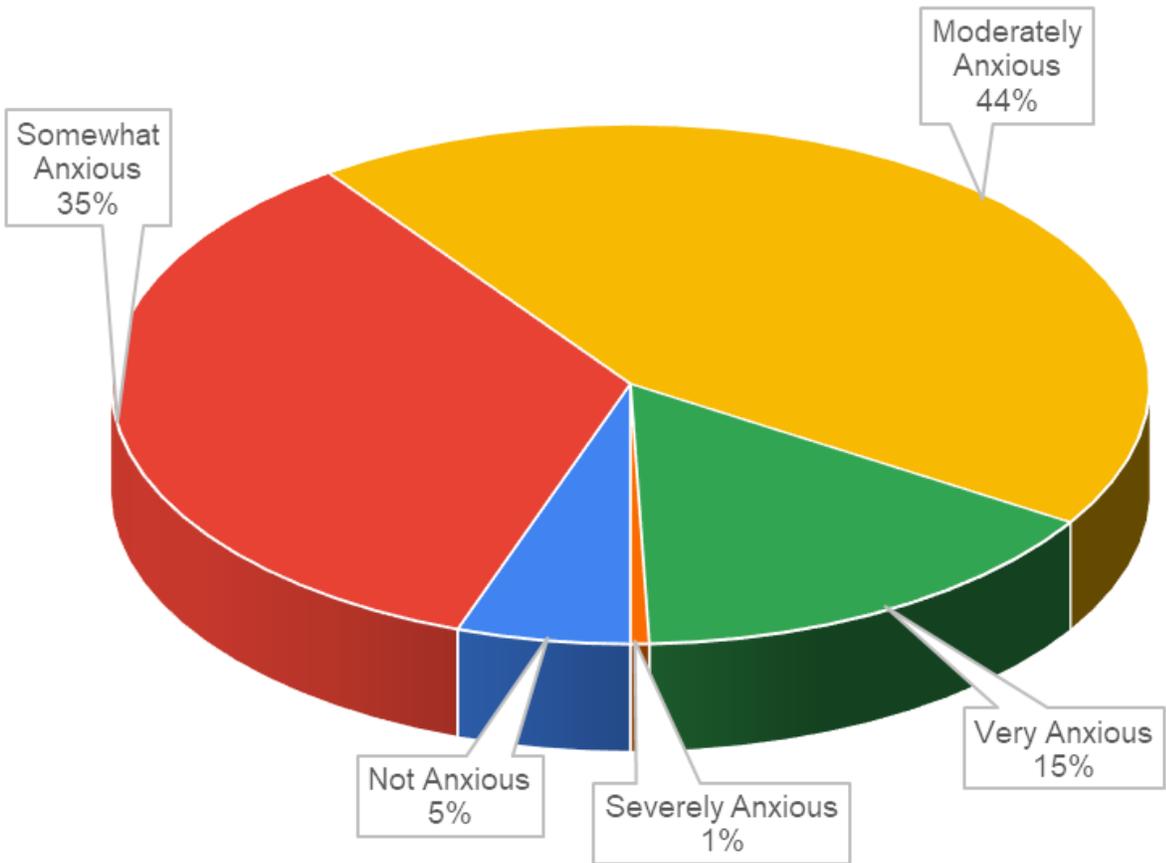
If you haven't participated, you should know that in numbers we are stronger and have a more accurate representation of English families in Quebec. As the amount of feedback from surveys increases, EPCA can be assured that we represent diversity from all regions of Quebec, rural and urban, elementary and high school. You should also know that EPCA takes care to ensure that individual survey results are kept confidential – we use aggregated data when presenting our findings outside of the EPCA Board of Directors.

EPCA works hard to ensure that all questions on surveys are relevant and focus on issues directly affecting students and parents in Quebec. In our surveys, we include open-ended questions where you can explain your experience to us and provide us with your opinions; this information gives tremendous nuance to your answers. Be assured that we read all your comments and it gives us a much deeper understanding of the situation as seen through your eyes. In short, your answers can set the priorities and direction for our public responses, guide us in decision-making, help us get required services, and – most of all – allow us to keep our finger on the pulse of the English school parent community.

I would personally like to invite you to sign up to our newsletter and Facebook page. And when you see a survey, please answer.

Your voice is needed and will be heard.

## How would you rate your child's anxiety?



**MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>**

# SUPERNORMAL

*The "secret" of resilience, or what exactly is that superpower that allows some to rise up when others fall down.*

WITH DR. MEG JAY

**Free Registration**

**SESSION FOR PARENTS**  
How children use their most challenging experiences to become more resilient!  
MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> | 7:00PM – 8:30PM

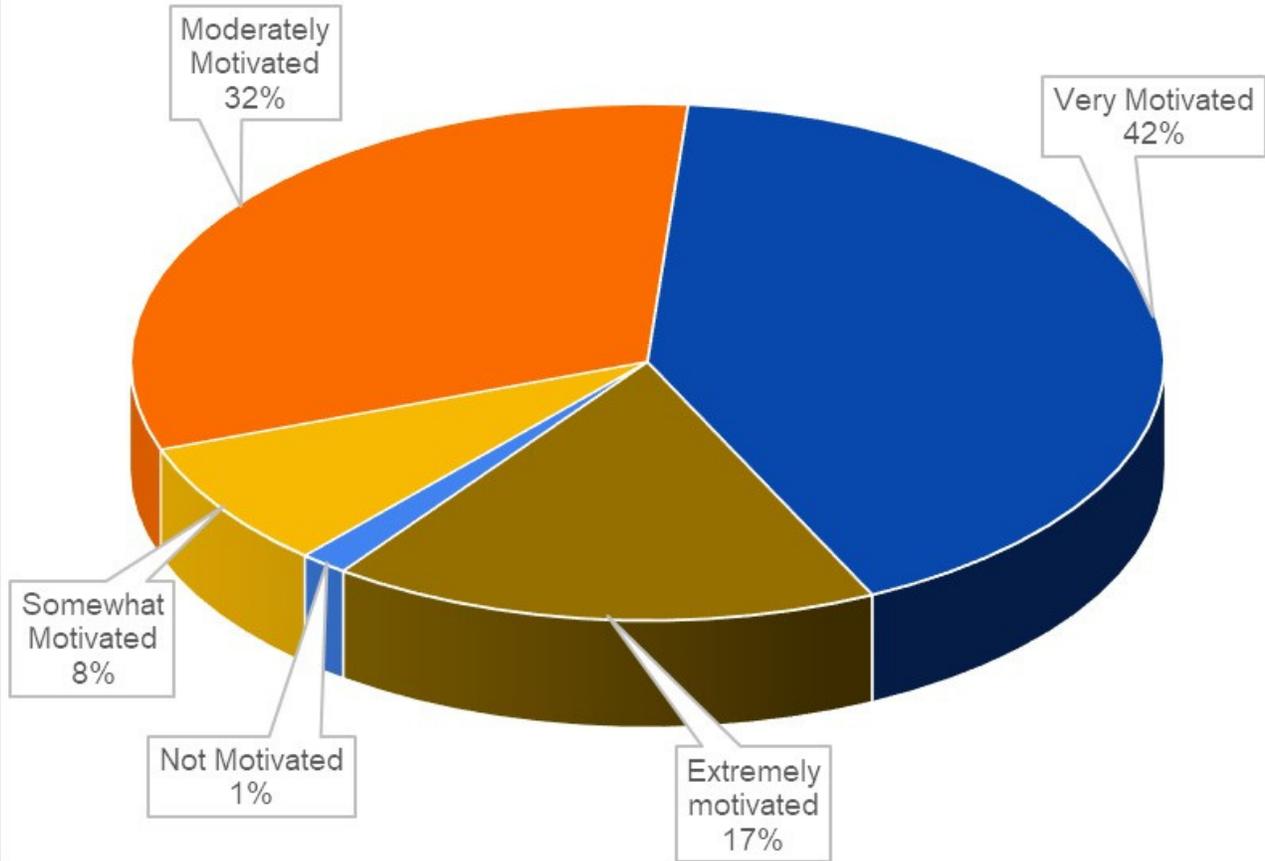
Betty and Bernard S. Shapiro  
Family Endowment

English Parents'  
Committee Association

In a recent EPCA survey, we asked parents to rate their child's anxiety concerning their academic success, attending school in person, their school life, and their school social life. The aggregated results can be found in the chart to the above. These results show that 95% of children currently have at least some anxiety. But this anxiety can be a building block for success - join EPCA and partners as we present Dr. Meg Jay who discusses how children can use challenging experiences to become more resilient and "Supernormal"!

[\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)

## How would you rate your child's motivation?



SPECIAL PARENTS ISSUE  
WINTER 2021

### A Healthy Mind is a Springboard to Learning

*...Even at a Distance*

École branchée.com  
THE MAGAZINE FOR TEACHING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

**A Practical Guide for Parents**

Free  
23<sup>rd</sup> year, Special Issue

SUPPORTING my child  
FOSTER ENGAGEMENT  
MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN

HOW TO MANAGE SCREEN TIME | DIGITAL DEVICE USER AGREEMENT | CONNECTED TO NATURE!

In the same EPCA survey, we asked parents how they would rate their child's motivation level as it related to academic success, when they are in school, and regarding their school social life. The chart above presents the aggregated results and shows that 99% of children are at least somewhat motivated, with over 50% of children being rated as very or extremely motivated. EPCA has recently partnered to publish a special edition of the digital magazine École branchée and in it you will find tips on how to keep your child motivated.

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)



## **PARENTS.QUEBEC: Behind the Portal**

This month we launched [Parents.Quebec](#), a unique portal that offers parents one-stop access to services and organizations providing support for their children.

[Parents.Quebec](#) will be your main access portal and to find a wide array of resources; from bullying and homework help to nutrition and psycho-social support. No mere list of services, it is reassurance that the right resource is merely a click away. Bypass the Google, the guesswork, and go straight to the source.

EPCA is proud to have kickstarted this initiative, realized with our partners, the Quebec Federation of Parents' Committees (FCPQ), and released simultaneously in English and French.

Our English-speaking community is diverse, dynamic, and spans the whole of this province, and we have heard the calls for help from our regional communities. What they have in common crosses boundaries: A desire to secure the best outcomes for their children.

This is a great tool for Anglophone parents seeking local resources. Wherever they are, from Gatineau to the Lower North Shore, the many and diverse associations and services represented are relevant to their needs and experiences.

As you receive your child's report card this year, the usual scramble for support services is compounded by the pandemic and general upheaval in our school network. We are hoping that this initiative will make that process a little bit easier.

This is only Phase One. Our next phase will include a bot feature to assist in searches, and more resources will be added. It will also be possible to access [Parents.Quebec](#) via the government's Open School platform at [www.ecoleouverte.ca](http://www.ecoleouverte.ca)

# EPCA IN THE NEWS

## **Parents: the original heroes**

*Joel Ceausu, The Suburban, January 6, 2021*

## **Quebec's back-to-school plan worries teachers and parents**

*René Bruemmer, Montreal Gazette, January 08, 2021*

## **In-person school has been driving Montreal COVID 19 infection rates: study**

*Adam Kovac, CTV News Montreal, January 12, 2021*

## **Some Quebec parents worried provincial tutoring plan doesn't include English services**

*Felicia Parrillo, Global News, January 28, 2021*

## **Quebec's student tutoring plan underway- some parents upset few English services are offered**

*Shuyee Lee, iHeart Radio, January 28 2021*

## **Why are Quebec teachers threatening to strike? (audio file)**

*Heidi Yetman, QPAT President*

*Katherine Korakakis, EPCA President*

*Aaron Rand, CJAD, January 29 2021*

## **New online education portal for parents**

*Joel Ceausu, The Suburban, February 10, 2021*

# EPCA MISSION STATEMENT

The English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) is a coalition of parents' committees of Quebec's English-language public school boards, representing more than 100,00 students in the youth sector.

EPCA advocates for a strong and sustainable English-language public education system to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for our children, while respecting the culture and language of anglophone Quebecers.

To do so, EPCA seeks to engage and motivate parents across Quebec to contribute to strong, representative and effective parent governance, to foster positive relationships with stakeholders across the educational spectrum, and to provide guidance and support to all member organizations.

What would you like to see in  
our upcoming editions?

[TELL US HERE](#)

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# EPCA STRATEGIC PILLARS

## INFORM

Using all communications tools at our disposal, offer up-to-date information on public education initiatives, parent governance interests, best practices and issues management to ensure a healthy, well-engaged anglophone parent community.

## CONSULT

Ensure strong, high-quality and consistent feedback mechanisms with members and partners across the English-language public school network through both electronic and in-person methods.

## SUPPORT

Provide training and professional development at all levels of parent governance, optimize the sharing of best practices and provide multiple support services for parent committees, governing boards and parent delegates in need.

## ADVOCATE

Push for appropriate policy change and improvement through enhanced partnerships with like-minded organizations, Government working groups/tasks forces, and related organizations, through well-considered political positions on behalf of English- Language parents committees across Quebec, taking into account regional difference and the urban/rural divide.



Katherine Korakakis, President  
Tina Oppong-Lefebvre



Darren Pountney  
David Fournier



Pierre Masson



Bart Jeuris  
Dana Hoshowatiuk

# WHO ARE WE?

*EPCA DIRECTORS*



Katherine Mackenzie  
Denise Martin



Ailsa Pehi, Vice President  
Stephannie Hamel



Greg Piggins  
Doug Bentley



Trina Hubley  
Rebecca Genest