



EPCA

English Parents' Committee
Association of Quebec

50th Newsletter



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Katherine Korakakis is the President of the English Parents Committee Association (EPCA) and Head of Entrepreneurship at ProMontreal Entrepreneurs (PME), an early-stage VC fund. She has spent over a decade fostering entrepreneurial initiatives in Quebec, particularly through the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. Katherine also serves as Vice-President of PME MTL Centre-Ouest, participates on key investment committees, and has co-authored guidebooks on entrepreneurship education, contributing her expertise to various corporate boards.

President's message

50 Issues Later: A Reflection on Advocacy, Partnership, and the Power of Parents

Dear parents,

As I sit down to write this message for the 50th issue of the EPCA newsletter, I find myself reflecting on a journey that has been both challenging and incredibly rewarding.

Six years ago, I accepted the role of President of the English Parents' Committee Association of Quebec with a commitment to ensuring that parents had a strong voice in education. What I could never have imagined was that just one month later, our world would change overnight.

The COVID-19 pandemic transformed every aspect of our lives. Schools closed; classes moved online; parents became teachers, support workers, and technology trouble-shooters, all while navigating unprecedented uncertainty. During this time, EPCA became a lifeline for families. We listened, advocated, shared information, and worked tirelessly to ensure that parents' concerns were heard by decision-makers.

Since then, the pace has never slowed.

Over the past six years, I have had the privilege of speaking with hundreds of parents from every corner of Quebec. I have listened to stories of triumph and frustration, hope and concern. Parents have shared their experiences navigating special education services, language rights, mental health challenges, school governance, digital technology, bullying, transportation, staffing shortages, and so much more. These conversations have shaped our priorities and strengthened our resolve. They have reminded me time and again that parents are among the most important partners in a child's education.

The educational landscape has also undergone significant change. Since 2020, families have witnessed major legislative reforms that have reshaped our system. From Bill 40, which fundamentally altered school governance, to Bill 96 and its impact on Quebec's English-speaking community, to numerous other legislative and policy changes affecting education, EPCA has worked diligently to ensure that parents' perspectives were represented.



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President's message

50 Issues Later: A Reflection on Advocacy, Partnership, and the Power of Parents **cont.**

We have prepared briefs, appeared before parliamentary commissions, met with ministers and elected officials, and collaborated with partners to ensure that the voices of families remained part of the conversation.

None of this work happens in isolation.

I am incredibly proud of the relationships we have built with our partners across both the English and French education sectors. While our communities may face different realities at times, we share a common goal: creating the best possible educational environment for our children. By working together, we have been able to advance important conversations about student success, mental health, digital citizenship, parental engagement, and educational equity.





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President's message

50 Issues Later: A Reflection on Advocacy, Partnership, and the Power of Parents **cont.**

I am equally proud of the dedicated volunteers who serve on the EPCA Board of Directors. While much of their work happens behind the scenes, their contributions are invaluable. They review documents, attend meetings, participate in consultations, support advocacy efforts, organize events, and bring forward the concerns of parents from their communities. Their commitment, expertise, and countless volunteer hours make EPCA's work possible. They are the quiet force behind many of the initiatives, resources, and successes that parents see throughout the year.

Looking back over fifty newsletters, I am struck by how much has changed and how much has remained constant. Through every challenge, every policy debate, every consultation, and every campaign, our mission has stayed the same: to inform, support, and advocate for parents.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together. I am proud that EPCA has become a trusted voice for families. I am proud of the partnerships we have forged, the issues we have elevated, and the countless parents who have reached out to us knowing they would be heard.

Most importantly, I am proud of the parent community itself. Your willingness to engage, to ask questions, to speak up, and to advocate for your children continues to inspire us every day.

As we celebrate this milestone 50th issue, I want to thank every parent, volunteer, partner, educator, and supporter who has been part of this journey. The work continues, but together we have shown what is possible when parents have a seat at the table and a voice that is heard.

Here's to the next chapter!

Katherine Korakakis
President, English Parents' Committee Association

EPCA Launches a New Website!

In addition to celebrating our 50th newsletter, EPCA is delighted to launch its new logo and website! Come and check out our new website [here](#).



[Home](#) [About us](#) [Our Initiatives](#) [For Parents](#) [For Parents' Committee](#) [News](#) [Contact us](#) [English](#)

Search



A voice for all parents

The English Parents' Committee Association, EPCA, is a coalition of parents' committees of Quebec's English school boards; it represents nearly 100,000 students in the young anglophone sector.

[See what we do](#)



OUR INITIATIVES

What we've been up to

EPCA is a non-profit association funded by the Ministry of Education (MEQ).

EPCA advocates for public education in English in Quebec and lobbies for questions that concern members of our parent committee.

[See what we do](#)

50 Newsletters - Parental Governance insights from EPCA Directors

Doug Bentley - Vice President

I started my journey in parental governance nine years ago as a substitute on our elementary school Governing Board when my eldest of two entered Grade 1. I wanted to be part of the discussions behind the decisions that shaped my children's education. Becoming a full member of that Governing Board was the next step, and I have now served as Chair of the Governing Board at St. Patrick Elementary for four years. I also sit on the Governing Board of Macdonald High School.



Joining Parents' Committee was a natural opportunity to connect with parents from other schools who shared a commitment to public education and a desire to better understand the decisions affecting our children. Together, we explored the challenges and opportunities facing our schools and worked to ensure parents' voices were heard. After seven years on Parents' Committee, I am now completing my second year as Chair of the Lester B. Pearson School Board Parents' Committee.

When the opportunity to join EPCA arose during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, it felt especially important to contribute in any way I could to support our English-language educational institutions and the families they serve. First as a Board member, then as Communications Officer, and now as Vice-President, it has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated and passionate parent volunteers. This is truly an exceptional team.

Presenting briefs before the National Assembly and speaking at the Canadian Senate on issues affecting minority-language education in Quebec have been profound and meaningful experiences. Throughout it all, supporting our president, Kathy Korakakis, has been an honor. We have shared a six-year journey together, including the production of each of EPCA's 50 newsletters.

As members of Quebec's English-speaking community, it remains important that we stay engaged, informed, and involved. Our education system continues to evolve, and the perspectives of parents are essential in ensuring that students and families are well represented. By working together, we can help strengthen our schools, support our communities, and ensure that future generations continue to have access to quality educational opportunities.

50 Newsletters - Parental Governance insights from EPCA Directors

cont.



Victoria Chavez - Treasurer

In 2021 I joined EPCA. I was both excited and nervous at the same time. Excited to be able to support parents at all different levels of their child's educational journey and excited to be a part of a committee that supported and advocated on behalf of the minority, the English-speaking parents of Quebec. I was nervous as I did not know what to expect when so many parents counted on us. However, since joining, I have had the amazing opportunity to help parents at every level, sharing parent resources, creating memory aides and toolkits, co-presenting workshops (from helping with homework to transitioning to highschool & CEGEP), and more. It's been such a great honour to support parents across this great province, helping ensure that parent tools and resources are accessible and available in English.

I feel grateful to have sat on this board as a voice to parents during these last tumultuous years, as it has been more than simply advocacy. It's been an honour, a right, and a necessary action. While I hope to continue to advocate for the English-speaking parents for years even beyond my children attending school, I hope even more to be a positive influence and leave a lasting impact for the parents to come. Please continue to spread the word of who we are. The only voice of the English-speaking parents of Quebec, 100k strong!

Shannon Languay - Communications Officer

I come from a family of educators, and while teaching was not my calling, being involved in my child's education was a given from the very beginning. I poured myself rapidly and deeply into parent governance to help channel my desire to have an impact and give back to a community that gave me so much growing up. EPCA gives me a voice and a platform to share important information with other parents, and an opportunity to advocate for meaningful change in our education system. Through this work, I have met passionate parents from every corner of Quebec who remind me that when we work together, we can make a real difference for students, families, and school communities. It is both a privilege and a responsibility that I continue to value deeply.



50 Newsletters - Parental Governance insights from EPCA Directors

cont.



Alexandra Grebenukk - Director

In September 2021, as my daughter was starting Grade 2, after years of pandemic disruptions, I raised my hand to be part of our school's Governing Board. I thought it vital to understand how school administration works, how decisions are made for the benefit of our kids. I mostly wanted to make a difference for all the kids who attend schools in our community, to make sure their interests are taken care of, especially as we are navigating in a minority English speaking environment. In my second year, I signed up as parent delegate at the Parents Committee, wanting to further extend my impact at a School Board level.

That same year, I discovered EPCA and its essential work, immediately becoming involved as a Director. It was crucial for me to offer my assistance to the cause of defending the rights of our children and the English - speaking community, as we started feeling pressures as a family of immigrants. Ever since, I have been actively involved in workshop planning, in decision making, in advocating for our community and its rights, and government meetings to carry the voice of English-speaking parents. I dove deep in the intricacies of legislations, putting my professional expertise to use. I have learnt a lot and am extremely proud of the work that is accomplished daily by this group of exceptional parent volunteers. Parent governance has given me a deep sense of purpose and EPCA, specifically, has inspired me to be a more informed parent, one that is engaged for the well-being of all kids.

Stephanie Wasylyk - Director

As a member of my school governing board for two years, and Parent Committee and EPCA for one, I have found getting involved in school governance incredibly rewarding. At the school level I love finding out what's going on behind the scenes and having a say in how things are run, and EPCA just does such powerful advocacy work, especially with all the more recent English-language rights violations, it is super cool to see provincial policy change happen in real time. I knew I always wanted to be involved in the schools but I wanted to find something other than fundraising so this has been a great fit for me.



50 Newsletters - Parental Governance insights from EPCA Directors

cont.



Sara Hossaini - Director

Why I Stay Involved with EPCA

My involvement in parent governance began with a simple goal: to support my child's education and better understand how decisions are made within our school system. As the parent of a child with special needs, I quickly learned how important it is for families to have a voice and access to information, resources, and support. Over time, I discovered that parent advocacy can make a real difference, not only for our own children but for families across Quebec's English-speaking minority community.

One of the things I value most about EPCA is its commitment to keeping parents informed and engaged. Through advocacy, workshops, consultations, and its newsletter, EPCA helps ensure that the concerns of parents—including those raising children with special needs and those living in English-speaking communities across the province—are heard and represented.

I am proud to be part of an organization that works to strengthen communication between families, schools, and policymakers while promoting student well-being and educational success. The EPCA newsletter has played an important role in connecting parents, sharing valuable information, and fostering a sense of community among English-speaking families, regardless of where they live in Quebec.

To parents considering getting involved, I encourage you to participate. You do not need special expertise—just a willingness to contribute. Every parent perspective matters, and by working together, we can help create a more inclusive and supportive educational environment for all students, especially those who may need additional support.

Happy 50th edition to the EPCA Newsletter and thank you to all the volunteers and parents whose dedication continues to make a difference.

50 Newsletters - Parental Governance insights from EPCA Directors

cont.

Jessica Sabatini - Director

I first got involved in parent governance shortly after moving to Quebec in 2021. I had never lived anywhere with this structure in place and was intrigued by the power parents seemed to have. I started by volunteering for the governing board at my children's school and continued to get involved at different levels over the years. I have now been part of parent governance for four years and EPCA for one.



I am constantly in awe of the dedication EPCA directors demonstrate and how hard they work to advocate for the parents they represent. Directors from EPCA sit on a significant number of government committees, advocating for our rights as English-speaking parents and fighting for our access to information and resources. EPCA directors have consulted at the National Assembly and written briefs on many bills, always with the goal of giving parents a voice.

I am very proud to be a director at EPCA for many reasons, but I think my proudest moment was attending a federal Senate committee meeting with two other directors this spring. The Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages invited EPCA to a consultation meeting where we were able to be the voice of English-speaking parents in Quebec. That moment reminded me of the power we have as parents. When we come together, our voices matter, and people are listening.



50 Newsletters - Parental Governance insights from EPCA Directors

cont.

EPCA English Parents' Committee Association of Quebec



WE REPRESENT PARENTS AT THE ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARD LEVEL

EPCA is the official parent committee recognized by the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA).

We give a voice to parents and work in partnership with English school boards to improve services for students and families.

We inform, consult and collaborate on important issues that impact English public education in Quebec.



WE SUPPORT EDUCATION TOGETHER

Parents are a child's first teachers and lifelong advocates.

We support learning at home, encourage well-being, and stay engaged in school life.

When parents and schools work together, children thrive.



OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN AT THE CENTER

Every child has the right to a quality English education in a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment.

We all work together to help them learn, grow and reach their full potential.

From EPCA's Partners

La Fédération des comités de parents du Québec

Dear EPCA,

Our partnership goes way back and we've done great things together. Our National Survey on the Well-Being of Quebec families and our website parents.quebec are two of our proudest achievements. It's always a pleasure to work together for parents and to attend events to celebrate successes or talk about important issues.

Let's continue to join our voices so that parents with children attending both anglophone and francophone school networks can be heard nation wide.

With friendship,

La Fédération des comités de parents du Québec



ParentTeen Focus

EPCA is an outstanding organization that plays a vital role in supporting parents across Quebec's English-language school boards.

Through its commitment to empowering families, EPCA provides high-quality, relevant resources and practical tools that help parents navigate and actively engage in their children's educational journey. Its work consistently reflects a deep understanding of the needs of parents and a dedication to fostering meaningful home-school partnerships.

EPCA is a strong advocate for parental involvement and engagement, ensuring that parents are informed, supported, and equipped to contribute confidently to their children's success.

I am grateful for EPCA's leadership, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to families and school communities.

My sincere thanks to the entire EPCA team for the meaningful impact of your work and for all that you do to support parents across Quebec.

Sincerely,

Karen Delage, Family Life Educator



alloprof



Summer Learning Resources: How to Avoid the Summer Slide with Light Learning Tools

Mission: Alloprof helps students in Quebec to transform academic challenges into successes, thanks to its free, professional, and stimulating services.



Kids across Quebec are getting ready for the final school bell of the year and the excitement for summer is undeniable! While this season is for rest and rejuvenation, many parents worry about the "summer slide": the loss of academic momentum over the long break. At Alloprof, we believe that staying sharp over the summer doesn't require a classroom; it's about integrating light, engaging learning into your summer rhythm.



How to Prevent the Summer Slide
Maintaining progress is all about consistency rather than intensity. You can help your child avoid learning loss by establishing a flexible summer routine that balances play with intentional review. Small, daily habits, like five minutes of focused work every day are all that's needed to keep learning alive over the summer break. For more strategies, explore our guide on preventing summer learning loss.

alloprof



Summer Learning Resources

cont.

Activities to Do with Your Child This Summer

Learning is most effective when it's fun. Use a [summer vacation checklist](#) to track light educational goals. Take learning [outdoors](#) with [educational activities](#) that bridge the gap between play and discovery. To keep reading skills sharp, try these [tips for choosing the best books](#) or dive into our [vacation-themed book suggestions](#).

If Your Child is in Summer School

It can be tough to see your child headed back to the books while others are heading to the park, and it's completely natural for them (and you!) to feel discouraged or overwhelmed. As their most important supporter, you can help transform this feeling into a sense of accomplishment. By providing the right tools and recognizing their effort rather than just the final mark, you can help them navigate [summer school](#) with resilience. Remind them that mistakes are learning opportunities and use our [summer school survival guide](#) to break complex tasks into smaller, achievable steps.



A Shared Mission: EPCA and Alloprof

As a parent, you are the ultimate support system for your child, but you don't have to be an expert in every subject to set the stage for their success. It's the shared mission of Alloprof and the English Parents' Committee Association of Quebec (EPCA) to ensure parents feel supported every step of the way. This year, we are especially proud to celebrate with the EPCA as it marks 50 years of dedication to Quebec's anglophone families. Since 2022, EPCA Quebec has been vital to the evolution of Alloprof in English, providing specialized resources to empower anglophone parents and students. We believe success is about building habits that last a lifetime, even during the holidays. No matter the challenges this season brings, Alloprof and EPCA are always in your corner to support your family's academic journey!

Have a wonderful summer



Biblio Club

Mysteries — AND — investigations

See if your library is taking part in the program:

Summer reading for a lifetime of success



A project of

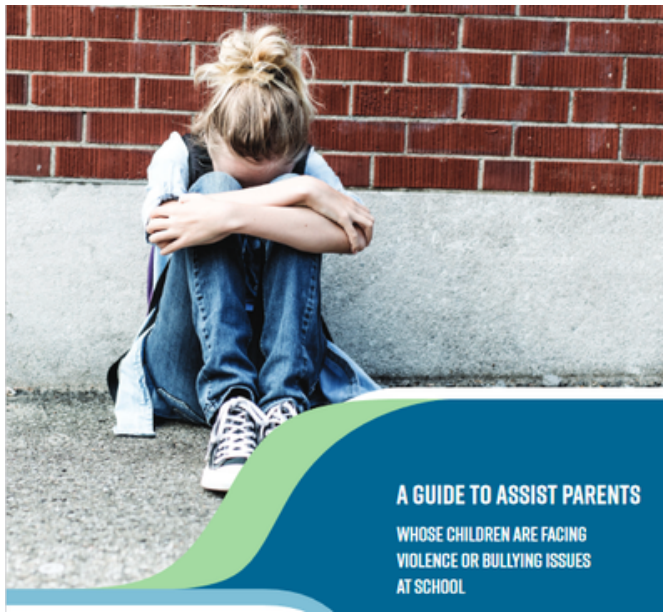


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Illustration: Iris Boudreau

Parent Resources



The Quebec Federation of Parents' Committees, with support from various partners - including EPCA's President Katherine Korakakis, has put together a guide to assist parents whose children are facing violence or bullying issues at school - click [here](#).

Tutoring



Homework Help



ENGLISH ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATES

Explainer: What Quebec parents and students need to know about English eligibility certificates: At this [LINK](#) are details on how to apply for a certificate and who is eligible to attend English schools in Quebec.

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.