



**ASSOCIATION DES COMMISSIONS SCOLAIRES ANGLOPHONES DU
QUÉBEC
QUEBEC ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

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TO: QESBA Board of Directors

FROM: Jeff Polenz

RE: Parliamentary Commission: Daycare services

As a follow-up to the Board of Directors meeting of October 4th, please find below a summary of the salient points raised during the Parliamentary Commission on daycare services.

- Accessibility

The number of students benefiting from school day care services has more than doubled since the introduction of the \$5 a day program in 1997-98. The total number of students registered has risen from 92,664 in 1997-98 to 204,476 in 2001-2002. More than 550 school daycare services have been added to the network since 1998-99.

Recent poll results indicate that the main reason explaining the absence of school daycare services in some areas is the lack of or insufficient demand for this service.

In the English sector, all boards operate school day care services with a number of boards offering day care services in more than 70% of their elementary schools.

- Training of daycare personnel

The last round of collective bargaining resulted in the introduction of higher levels of initial training for new daycare workers. Daycare coordinators (responsables) now must have specialized CEGEP diploma while daycare educators must have a minimum level of Secondary 5.

Virtually all boards provide on-going in-service training from first aid courses to conflict resolution.

- Employee background checks

Parliamentary Commission : Daycare services

This file is currently under review by the MEQ pending a consultation with other government departments and agencies to ensure compliance with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A guide for school boards is expected sometime later this school year.

- Space needs

Most schools do not have exclusively dedicated space for daycare and as a result use classrooms, gyms, cafeterias and open areas to provide the service. Although this is not an ideal situation, particularly in schools experiencing enrollment growth, it was noted that the government would require approximately \$500 million to add specialized rooms to existing schools.

- Follow-up to Auditor-General's Report

The MEQ and school board federations have established a joint committee to oversee the follow-up to the Report.