

Program



CARE CONFERENCE

September 25 & 26, 2024

Community + Action + Resolve = Education

Holiday Inn Centre-Ville

999, Saint-Urbain, Mtl.

Program

Under the leadership of the Quebec English School Boards Association, community stakeholders have been assembled to hold a Conference called CARE (Community + Action + Resolve = Education) September 25 & 26, 2024.

Our partners in planning this important conference are the Association of Directors General of English School Boards of Québec, Québec Provincial Association of Teachers, English Parents' Committee Association of Québec, Association of Administrators of English Schools of Québec, Québec Federation of Home and School Associations and the Québec Community Groups Network.

The aim of the Conference is to strengthen the vital link between the education community and the wider official language minority community and society it serves, share knowledge, and develop innovative ways to make the public English education system more effective. We will be recording all sessions over the two-day conference and will be producing a complete report with recommendations to deposit with the Minister of Education.

The five themes identified are:

1. Sustainability
2. Programs/Expertise
3. Strengthening links between the education community and other communities within the English-speaking Community of Quebec
4. Best practices in working cooperatively with government and positively contribute to the development of legislation, regulations, policies and programs
5. Government support to the English school system in Quebec

Sustainability;

Theme 1

Teacher recruitment and retention are complex issues that have taken the main stage in the focus and attention of not only school leaders and teachers, but of governments and elected officials who are now actively involved in seeking ways to solve the problems associated with teacher shortages. It is widely reported that the teacher shortage is real, large, and growing and continues to get worse with each passing school year. When indicators such as teacher quality, salaries, training, and professional development activities are considered, the shortage is actually worse than what reports and other research currently show. The purpose of these discussions is to identify successful strategies that the MEQ, Universities and School Boards can use to bolster recruiting programs as well as retention plans that help keep teachers in the profession as a life-long career.

These sessions will help us analyze and understand current perceptions of school personnel regarding recruitment and retention strategies and what effective solutions we can all implement to counteract the growing trend with teacher shortages and offer tangible solutions-based recommendations to the Minister of Education.

Programs and Expertise;

Theme 2

This session will be divided into two workshops, one examining French second language training and a second session focusing on vocational education.

Language, perhaps understandably, is an important issue when parents are choosing a school in Quebec, and certainly more so than in other areas of Canada. Our system is rich in opportunities to offer successful French second language instruction to students across Quebec. Where we need to focus is marketing the capabilities of our programs to appeal to parents of English eligible students across the province.

We typically think of bilingualism in more practical terms, such as job skills and international communication. The languages we learn can impact our identity and our sense of cultural space and can contribute to a sense belonging and identity within a cultural space, something that we can observe within Montreal's multilingual population.

Québec is a world leader in vocational training. These programs are focused on learning skills directly related to the job market. The quality of education in Quebec is internationally recognized. The importance of vocational education on both the individual level and the societal level is reviewed, and the advocacy of vocational education programs by the MEQ is explained in the context of concern for the future of children and young people in Quebec.

Today's labour market is one of constant and unpredictable change because of the social, economic, cultural, technological and political transformations it depends on, our sector is also competing for programs with our French counter parts.

Strengthening the link between the English public education sector and broader community served by our school system;

Theme 3

Schools play a crucial role in the vitality of communities, particularly minority communities. Schools provide a foundational education that helps preserve and promote the language, culture, and identity of the community. They are key sites for cultural transmission, where traditions, customs, and the community's history are taught to younger generations, ensuring that these cultural elements are sustained over time. Our schools often serve as community hubs, fostering engagement and participation among community members. They host events, meetings, and activities that bring people together, reinforcing social cohesion.

Quality education is also linked to better economic opportunities. Schools provide strong educational outcomes that can help lift the economic prospects of the community, making it more attractive for families to settle and stay. They also often provide access to social services, health programs, and extracurricular activities that support the well-being of students and their families. This holistic support system can significantly enhance community vitality by addressing various social and health needs.

Finally, schools educate individuals who can become advocates for the community, helping to secure resources, influence policy, and promote the community's interests at higher levels of government and society.

Because of the central role schools play in the overall health of our minority community, links between the public education sector and the broader community are particularly important.

Developing strategies to work cooperatively with government and positively contribute to the development of legislation

Theme 4

In Canada, education is primarily the responsibility of the provincial and territorial governments. However, the federal government plays a role through its spending power in support of minority language education rights for the public primary and secondary system, and across the educational continuum.

Canada and Quebec have a special relationship within the federation. Intergovernmental transfer agreements between these two levels of government can be challenging. The educational institutions that serve English-speaking Quebec are at the same time institutions of the Government of Quebec, making direct relationships between these institutions and the Government of Canada – and federal funding – difficult.

Quebec also has an understandable preoccupation with language and cultural protection. Provincial and now federal language legislation recognizes French as not only the official, but common language of Quebec.

English-speaking Quebec exists in a complicated political and societal climate. Developing strategies to work cooperatively with both levels of government and positively contribute to the development of legislation, regulations, policies and programs that affects our community is vital to our collective vitality.

The Importance of government support to Minority language education

Theme 5

Public education is of critical importance to our society. The promise of public education is equal access to education regardless of background and circumstances. It is a powerful tool for social mobility and promotes civic engagements and social cohesion. In Canada, minority language education rights are part of our Constitutional foundation, evolving from denominational school rights embedded in the Constitution Act, 1867 to linguistic school board in Quebec in 1998. This reflects another idea, reflected in various international human rights instruments, that the primary role of parents in determining the educational path for their children, recognizing their rights to select the education that aligns with their values and beliefs. The purpose of minority language education is to preserve the cultural identity and heritage of linguistic minority communities. Both levels of government recognize this purpose by supporting minority language education systems.

Although we have seen that education is an area of exclusive provincial jurisdiction, the federal partner has a constitutional obligation to assist the provinces and territories in providing education services to the official language minority that are equivalent in quality to those of the majority. The purpose of the workshops within this theme is to understand how Canada and Quebec work together to support the English school system, explore gaps that may be preventing our schools from providing an educational experience of equivalent quality to majority schools, and, to discuss how another critical government service – health and social services – can be more effectively delivered within our school system.

Program-at-a-glance

September 25

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Opening Remarks
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Panel Introduction - Sustainability
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Concurrent Workshops
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Concurrent Workshops
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch - QCGN
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Plenary Panel
2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Health Break
2:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Plenary Panel
3:30 PM	Networking Cocktail

Program-at-a-glance

September 26

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Opening Remarks
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Plenary Panel
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Health Break
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Plenary
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch - Commissioner of Official Languages
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Concurrent Workshops
2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Pure + Applied Presentation of next steps
2:15 PM	Presidents Panel Closing



Program

September 25, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Joe ORTONA, President Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA)

Katherine KORAKAKIS, President English Parents Committees Association (EPCA)

Rosemary MURPHY, President Quebec Federation of Home and School (QFHSA)

THEME 1 - Sustainability

Plenary panel: What are the system's needs working towards 2035 and how do we collectively achieve these goals.

To be announced – ADGESBQ

Sébastien JOLY – Executive Director QPAT

Julie CARPENTIER – President AAESQ

September 25, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Concurrent Workshops

Staff/Teacher recruitment and retention

Co-presenters:

Christine DENOMMÉE

Bonnie SULLIVAN

Join us for an insightful presentation and panel discussion on the pressing issue of sustainability in recruitment and retention within the Québec English public school board system. As the landscape of education evolves, maintaining a qualified and diverse workforce is essential to fostering a supportive learning environment for our students. In the face of ongoing challenges such as staff shortages and retention, this session aims to provide an overview of the ADGESBQ Recruitment and Retention Project as well as to explore future strategies and solutions.

Our panelists, comprised of administrators and educators, will delve into key challenges and strategies in recruitment and retention. Whether you're an educator, administrator, stakeholder or passionate advocate for English public education, this session will provide perspectives on navigating the complex dynamics of talent acquisition in today's unique educational context. From addressing demographic shifts, competition for talent to regional realities, this discussion will be an opportunity to gather knowledge and seek thought-provoking insights.

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with our panelists and contribute to the dialogue, exploring sustainable recruitment practices to best service our schools and communities.

September 25, 2024 - 1 0:00 a.m.

Concurrent Workshops

Census 2021 and s23 Eligibility

Co-presenters:

Étienne LEMYRE, Senior Analyst – Statistics Canada

Thérèse NGUYEN – Statistics Canada

In 2021, for the first time, five questions about the language of instruction were included in both the short- and long-form census questionnaires. The primary goal was to determine the number of children eligible for instruction in the minority official language, as defined in section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. "Minority official language" refers to English in Quebec and French in the rest of Canada. The collected data was combined with other census information, such as mother tongue, family relationships, and place of residence, to calculate the number of eligible children.

The results took many by surprise. In 2021, 304,000 children were eligible for instruction in the minority official language at the primary and secondary level, 175,000 school-aged children attended an English primary or secondary school in Canada, representing 76.2% of eligible children aged 5 to 17 in the province. Nearly 1 million people aged 5 and older living in Quebec at the time of the 2021 Census studied at an English primary or secondary school in Canada.

This purpose of this workshop is to introduce and help community stakeholders understand the section 23 data eligibility now available through Statistics Canada.



Program

September 25, 2024 - 1 0:00 a.m.

Concurrent Workshops

Parent choice and engagement marketing

Co-presenters:

**Michael J. COHEN, Manager, Marketing and Communications
- EMSB**

**Daniel SMAJOVITS, Relations Officer, Digital Marketing and
Media - EMSB**

When it comes to choosing an elementary or high school, parents are integrally involved in the decisions. It is for this reason that school boards must engage in marketing campaigns to target parents with eligibility. In this session we will discuss the importance of using social media tools, school and board websites, organizing open houses and developing stories that might be covered by the general media. We will elaborate upon these examples and more.

September 25, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

THEME 2 - Programs/Expertise Concurrent Workshops

French language or FSL

**Maria POPICA, Teacher, Department of French - John
Abbott College**

**Facilitating labour market entry through experiential
learning of French as a Second Language**

**This workshop describes a collaborative project involving
John-Abbott College, the Lester B. Pearson School Board
and the Montréal West Island CIUSS. Its objective? To help
college students improve their French communication
skills and immerse themselves in various work
environments by becoming involved in immersion classes
or in health and social services institutions.**

**During the workshop, we will discuss collaboration
arrangements, teaching strategies in place as well as
concrete examples of activities aimed at strengthening
students' language skills while providing them with an
experiential learning experience.**

September 25, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

THEME 2 - Programs/Expertise Concurrent Workshops

Vocational Training

Veronica MARIN, Assistant Director General - Lester B. Pearson School Board

Maggie SOLDANO, Director of Continuing Education - Lester B. Pearson School Board

Vocational Training: an insight on a vibrant sector:

Join us for an insightful workshop on Quebec's vocational training programs offered by English school boards. These exciting programs are designed to offer students a hands-on competency-based education that is focused on job market standards and practices and taught by industry specialists. We'll delve into the opportunities these programs offer and the unique way the Quebec English Boards deliver these programs. The exceptional collaboration we have fostered over the years has been essential to ensuring that English boards deliver the best education to the English-speaking community. Delivering English programs in Quebec is not without its challenges. We will explore issues with teacher training, accessibility to programs, changing needs of our clientele, to name a few. We will also share how government policies and laws are impacting our sector now and potentially in the future. The vocational training sector is a vibrant one and we look forward to sharing the exceptional work being done by our vocational centres.



Program

September 25, 2024 - 12:00 p.m.

Lunch - Remarks

Eva LUDVIG, President – Quebec Community Groups Network

September 25, 2024 - 1:00 p.m.

THEME 3 - Strengthening the link between the English public education sector and broader community served by our school system

Plenary panel: What the school means to my community

Moderated by:

Royal ORR

Panelists:

Noel BURKE, former Assistant Deputy Minister – Ministry of Education

Tya COLLINS, Ph.D., Assistant Professor University of Ottawa

Alix ADRIEN, President – Quebec Board of Black Educators (QBBE)

Program

September 25, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.

Health Break

September 25, 2024 - 2:15 p.m.

**Plenary panel: Parent Issues and Minority
Language Educational Rights**

**Moderated by: Russell COPEMAN, Director General -
Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board**

Panelists:

**Katherine KORAKAKIS, President - English Parents Committee
Association (EPCA)**

**Rosemary MURPHY, President - Quebec Federation of Home
and Schools Associations**

It takes a village to raise a child, but at the end of the day, the buck stops at parents. Parents have several fundamental responsibilities toward their children to ensure their well-being, development, and preparation for adulthood. The responsibilities of parenthood are all encompassing. Basic needs, emotional and psychological support, moral and ethical guidance, social development, health and safety, providing a stable and consistent environment helps children feel secure and develop trust, and financial support are parental responsibilities. Parents also ensure their children receive a proper education, whether through public, private, or homeschooling. Critically, parents remain involved in their child's education, helping with homework, attending school meetings, and supporting academic growth is part of parental responsibility. This plenary panel, led by community parent leaders Katherine Korakakis, President of the English Parents' Committee Association of Quebec and Rosemary Murphy, President of the Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations will discuss parent issues unique to Quebec's minority language education system.

3:30 p.m. Cocktail and networking event



Program

September 26, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

9:00 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Steven LE SUEUR, President - Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT)

Sébastien JOLY, Executive Director - Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT)

THEME 4 - Developing strategies to work cooperatively with government and positively contribute to the development of legislation

Plenary 1- Impact of Recent legislation and policy decisions on English education in Quebec

Marion SANDILANDS, Partner – Conway Litigation

Graham CARR, President and Vice-Chancellor – Concordia University

Over the past few years, English-speaking Quebec has felt the effects of several federal and provincial legislative initiatives and policy decisions. Quebec has passed two significant pieces of legislation that pre-emptively invoked the notwithstanding clause, shielding An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State and the Charter of the French Language from many of the human right protections afforded by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, with the notable exception of section 23 minority language educational rights. And provincial legislation like Bill 40, An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance continues to be contested as an infringement of section 23 rights. Provincial legislation and policy decisions are also impacting English post-secondary institutions. This plenary will unpack and explain this complex environment and provide participants with an understanding of what it all means for the vitality of English-speaking Quebec.



Program

September 26, 2024 - 10:15 a.m.

Health Break

10:30 a.m.

Plenary 2 - Making things better: how to effectively engage with government

Impact of Recent legislation and policy decisions on English education in Quebec

Tom MULCAIR – Keynote Speaker

11:45 a.m. Lunch

**Remarks from the Commissioner of Official Languages
Raymond THÉBERGE**

September 26, 2024 - 1:00 p.m.

THEME 5 - The Importance of government support to Minority language education

Concurrent Workshops

Understanding Government Investments in the English School System

Moderator:

TBA

Panelists:

Timothée LABELLE, Director of Intergovernmental Policy and Programs - Canadian Heritage

Peter FEQUET, Director – Ministry of Education of Québec

This workshop seeks to answer the question, “How do Canada and Quebec work together to support the English school system?” Representatives from both levels of government will explain the mechanisms through which their partnership is negotiated, and the responsibilities of each.



Program

September 26, 2024 - 1:00 p.m.

THEME 5 - The Importance of government support to Minority language education

Concurrent Workshops

Maximizing the potential of partnerships to benefit students, families and the community

**DR. David D'ARIENZO, Pediatrician, Montreal Children's Hospital
David MELOCHE, Executive Director, Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA)**

Co-founders Dr. David D'Arienzo, pediatrician, and David Meloche, former Regional Director of the Lester-B.-Pearson School Board, will explain their journey and highlight the incredible benefits of partnerships between the education sector, the health sector and community organizations.

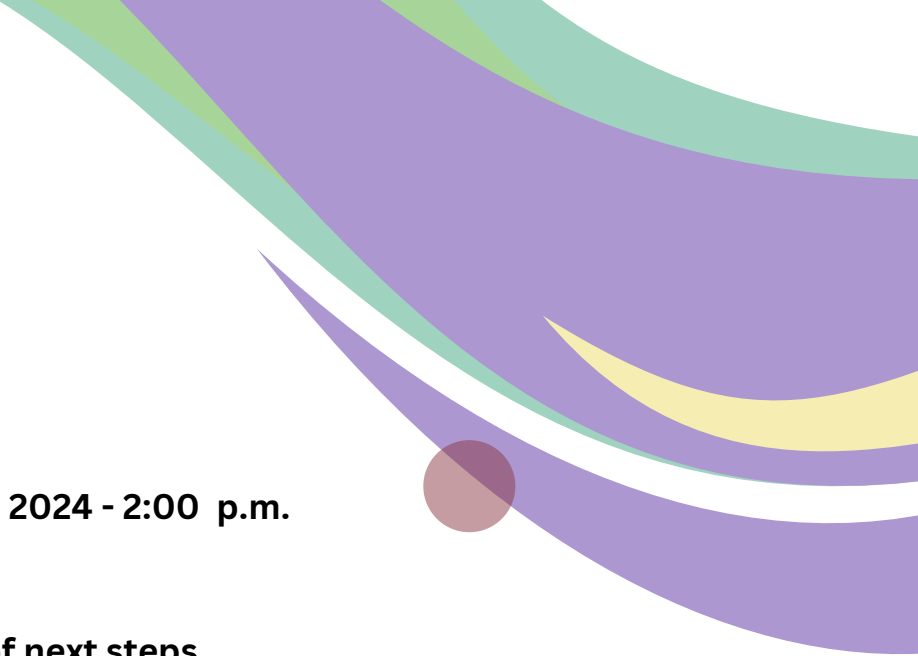
In 2019, the Just For Kids Heart and Hands Pediatric Clinic opened its doors at Verdun Elementary School to provide medical services, right in the school, to children in the Verdun community. The Heart and Hands clinic is the first and only pediatric resident-led clinic in Canada. Housed directly within an elementary school, the clinic serves the families of local community schools while serving to provide a supervised learning environment for university students in health care.

A multidisciplinary clinic, over the past five years the clinic has expanded its services to include other allied health professionals such as speech therapists, occupational therapists and dietitians-nutritionists.

This innovative model of healthcare delivery increases the accessibility of healthcare among vulnerable populations, by immediate care to families and their children. The clinic allows pediatric residents to interact with school staff and other health professionals (School Board, CIUSSS and McGill University) to bring a consolidated, holistic approach to children and families in the community.



Program



September 26, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.

**Pure + Applied
Presentation of next steps**

Presidents Panel/Closing Remarks

Julie CARPENTIER, President, Association of Administrators of English Schools of Québec (AAESQ)

Joe ORTONA, President, Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA)

Katherine KORAKAKIS, President, English Parents Committee Association (EPCA)

To be announced, Association of Directors General of English School Boards of Quebec (ADGESBQ)

Sébastien JOLY, Executive Director, Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT)

Rosemary MURPHY, President, Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA)

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