



May 3, 2019

M Jean-François Roberge,
Minister of Education and
Higher Education, Québec
Édifice Marie-Guyart
1035, rue De La Chevrotière
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M Roberge,

I have the distinct pleasure of serving as President of the **LCEEQ** (Leadership Committee for English Education in Québec), an action-oriented organization that is committed to the strategic growth and sustainable success of the English Educational Community in the province of Québec. Our membership represents all levels of education from youth through University, including Adult and Vocational Education, in both the public and private sector.

One of LCEEQ's strategic goals is to *advocate for the timely delivery of quality educational resources and support for the English sector*. This includes, but is not limited to, the English translation of programme materials developed by the MEES, textbooks, and various documents that provide support and direction from the MEES. M. Roberge, there are elements of the Linguistic Policy which need to be addressed, but the immediate concern is receiving documents for which we are entitled to, in a timely manner.

The 2018-19 school year required the entire Quebec educational community to implement the newly created Sexuality Education content in all levels of the youth sector. There has been ongoing development of resources by the MEES, in particular, content Frameworks for each grade level. Yet the delay in translation of these resources and subsequent release to the English community has caused many unnecessary issues. As you are aware, these Sexuality Education Frameworks provide the learning content, explanations of such, and examples of what this looks like in the life of a student. You can imagine the difficulty in our schools with teachers navigating this new material, school teams organizing a plan of implementation to be brought to the Governing Board, and Principals having to support hesitant parents understand the content – all without a full set of resources in the language of instruction.

At the March meeting of the LCEEQ, Terry Wang Jun Lin, le Chef d'équipe, Direction du soutien au réseau éducatif anglophone, informed members of the many steps of the translation process that a document must go through before it can be officially released in English. We were informed that there are a number of factors which exacerbate the frustration of not having documentation, the least of which is that many Departments within the Ministry fail to take into consideration the need for translation when establishing timelines for the release of programme materials. A most appalling piece of information was that translation can take longer depending on the relationship between people in different MEES departments.

LCEEQ is not privy to a detailed schedule of the translation of these particular documents and subsequent release timeline, but to date, I understand that there are 9 out of 19 English Frameworks for our Secondary Schools, and 8 out of 20 English Frameworks for our Elementary Schools. These numbers do not illustrate an equitable distribution of resources and thus support for all students in Quebec. The current translation practices result in materials for the English-speaking Community not being accessible for months, if not years after the release of official materials in French.

Ideally, when new programmes are being developed the English Sector should be actively engaged in the process from the outset which itself would eliminate the need for a catch-up phase once materials are approved in French. Equity is something that the English Sector has long requested but little, if any, advance has been made in this regard.

LCEEQ proposes that a working committee be created to include representatives of the English Educational Community which would determine guidelines for all Departments related to the development of educational materials in a fashion that release in both languages would be done simultaneously.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Hipps
LCEEQ President 2017-2019

- c. Isabelle Charest, Minister of Education
Steven Colpitts Assistant Deputy Minister