



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Lester B. Pearson School Board asks for support with online Bill 104 petition

Dorval QC., March 17, 2010 – The Central Parents Committee (CPC) of the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) are seeking support for their online petition, which urges the Quebec government to respect the Supreme Court of Canada’s October 2009 ruling on Bill 104.

The Supreme Court ruled Bill 104 as unconstitutional and gave the Quebec government one year to redraft the law. Bill 104 was adopted by the Quebec government in 2002 to close a loophole in its French language charter that enabled students who weren’t eligible to attend English schools to have that right.

The CPC are calling on all parents, students, staff and communities to sign the petition, which can be accessed at www.lbpsb.qc.ca. “This petition is for all citizens and future citizens of Quebec to have the opportunity to choose English public schooling for their children,” said Laura Derry, Vice Chair of the CPC. “Anyone who supports our cause and believes in freedom of choice should sign this petition.”

Since Bill 104 was adopted, the LBPSB has been losing an estimated 500 new registrations every year. The LBPSB is not only partnering with the English Montreal School Board, which also has an online petition but is also receiving support from the newly established English Parents Committee Association, an organization of parents from six of the English school boards in Quebec.

The CPC is hoping to meet with local MNA’s for further support. They are calling on the Quebec government to open a dialogue with the English community regarding French language education before proposing any changes to the French language charter. “This is not just about English public schools. This is an issue that goes to the heart of our Anglophone community. A vibrant, pertinent, supportive, leading edge school system is the cornerstone of any community,” said Marcus Tabachnick, Chairman of the LBPSB. “Our English public schools do so much to ensure that our students graduate, and graduate with the tools they will need to live, work, succeed, and bring up their future families in Quebec. We cannot stand any further attack on the future of our community.”

The Lester B. Pearson School Board is an English school board serving more than 32,000 students and staff in 60 schools, adult and vocational centres, an International Language Centre, and an Administrative Centre on a territory from Verdun westward to the Ontario border. The Lester B. Pearson School Board is recognized locally, nationally and internationally as a progressive and innovative public education institution pioneering a model of inclusive education

and an acclaimed International Studies Program. It is also the first school board in Quebec to pilot a universally-available half-day Kindergarten program for 4 year olds and a tri-lingual International full-day Pre-Kindergarten program.

-30-

For more information or to speak with someone directly, please contact:

Daniela Scoppa
Communications Officer
514-422-3000 ext. 2666
514-207-6625
dscoppa@lbsb.qc.ca