



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Lester B. Pearson School Board calls on the Quebec government to amend Bill 100 and reactivates Major School Change Consultation

Dorval QC., June 7, 2010 – The Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) called on the Quebec government to amend Bill 100 in a resolution adopted at a special meeting of the LBPSB’s Council of Commissioners. This bill, currently being studied by the National Assembly of Quebec, will require school boards to reduce administrative expenditures by 10% (by the 2013-2014 school year). The bill also requires school boards to reduce travel expenditures, professional development and publicity by 25% for the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

Bill 100 is a result of the Quebec government’s latest budget, adopted on March 30th, 2010. The bill is an effort to reduce overall debt reduction in Quebec. The LBPSB understands the role it plays in reducing the Quebec’s overall debt, however it is calling on the government to respect the Education Act, which states that school boards in Quebec have the right to manage their own financial responsibilities.

The resolution adopted earlier this evening, states that Bill 100 questions the expertise and autonomy of school boards to make their own decisions as to where to reduce in spending. “We are not disputing the obligation to cut expenditures as outlined in Bill 100,” said Marcus Tabachnick, Chairman of the LBPSB. “We are asking the government to let us do our job and be autonomous in the decisions we make. Let us decide where we cut in the school board’s overall spending.”

The Council of Commissioners also adopted a resolution reactivating the Major School Change Consultation (originally launched in March 2009) to deal with the rezoning of off-island elementary schools. This comes after an announcement that the city of St. Lazare will be ceding a piece of land to the LBPSB in order to build a new elementary school to help ease overcrowding off-island. Documents regarding the consultation will be distributed this week, with a decision on off-island rezoning to be announced on November 29th, 2010.

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.

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