



April 20th 2021

The Lester B. Pearson School Board is extremely encouraged and satisfied by a Quebec Superior Court judge's ruling that certain provisions of Bill 21 are unconstitutional as they pertain to English school boards.

The LBPSB has vehemently opposed Bill 21 from the outset. For example, in 2019 our Council of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution which spoke out against any legislation that would infringe on freedom of religious expression.

Diversity has always been one of our school board's greatest strengths and assets and today's decision to strike down certain provisions of Bill 21 will go a long way in terms of ensuring religious freedom can continue in our different schools and centres. We also celebrate the court's recognition of religious diversity and the preservation of minority rights as a central part of the English-speaking community's cultural identity. It is unconscionable to think that in 2021 anyone should have to choose between their inalienable right to express their religious beliefs without worrying about the repercussions this could have on their careers and their ability work in a profession that they believe in.

Hopefully, today's landmark decision will send a powerful message that our society needs to move beyond these kinds of divisive debates that perpetuate and foster discrimination in our society.

Noel Burke,

Chairman, LBPSB Council of Commissioners