

Religious symbols : ADGESBQ denounces a bill that goes against what we teach in schools

Montreal, March 28, 2019 - The Association of Directors General of the English School Boards of Quebec (ADGESBQ) is very disappointed with the Provincial Government's proposed legislation barring authority figures in the public service from wearing signs of religious observance, despite facing pushback from teachers and the Human Rights Commission.

Since 1998, Quebec school boards have been organized along linguistic rather than religious lines, making them secular institutions. That being said, defining characteristics of our school network, in our society, are the recognition and advancement of diversity whereby we respect personal and religious choices. For our students and employees, we consider this diversity a richness and a strength. The learning opportunity it provides, helps us address the stigmatization of minorities, radicalization, and the fear that is at the root of some of the most terrible tragedies in the world.

We recognize that our success is directly related to the dedication and performance of all of our employees and we value their individual involvement. We will do everything we can to protect that contribution to our very successful educational network.

At a time when we are trying to focus on educational projects, improving student success and tolerance of others, a debate on the wearing of religious symbols in the workplace will detract from the core mission of our schools and centres. Furthermore, it also exacerbates a real issue we are currently facing, the shortage of our most precious asset, our staff.

The Association will take the time to read the proposed legislation thoroughly and will take every action to formally bring forward concerns regarding the impact this legislation may have on schools, centres, services, and communities within its network.

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