

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CATHOLIC COUNCIL
OF MONTREAL

STATEMENT OF RIGHTS AND PURPOSE

(Français au verso)

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CATHOLIC PEOPLE OF MONTREAL

A STATEMENT OF RIGHTS AND PURPOSE

1. We, the English-speaking Catholic people of Montreal wish to re-affirm our traditional presence within the Province of Quebec as a significant and historic sector identified by our Roman Catholic Faith, our English language, and the values which proceed from those cultural distinctions. We wish to reiterate our legitimate rights and our aspirations as a people whose presence is a continuing factor with deep roots in our province. Furthermore, we support freedom of choice for Roman Catholic people who use English as their principal language and who choose to be identified with the Roman Catholic English-speaking people in Quebec.

2. We are dedicated in our love of, and our commitment to our province and to all its citizens. We recognize strength in the diversity and distinctiveness of Quebec, which is a vital part of the Canadian personality. We recognize the combined and harmonious efforts of all our province's citizens as essential to the growth, progress and well-being of all present and future generations of Quebec.

b) that, as a part of one of our country's two original founding communities, our rights, language and other cultural factors should be respected and be protected by law.

7. We affirm that the spiritual and moral values of our particular community are drawn from our religious beliefs and that they form the principles guiding many aspects of the daily life of our community members.

8. We require those values and principles to be recognized and respected by governments, institutions and other public bodies when dealing with English-speaking Catholic Quebecers.

9. We affirm that it is essential: a) for our community members to be served in their English language.

b) to have the public-funded organizations and services provided for their needs, staffed by qualified individuals who will serve them in English and who respect their religious beliefs and spiritual and moral values.

10. We affirm that parents, in virtue of their individual rights, are the primary educators of their children. Therefore, we are committed to a system of education; a) which respects the

spiritual, moral and cultural values of Roman Catholic English-speaking parents; b) which contributes to the fulfilment of the intentions of those parents concerning the education of their children; c) by which children are guaranteed facilities and a high quality of primary and secondary education in either French or English accompanied by effective training in the second language.

This commitment includes:

- 1) the right and opportunity for English-speaking Catholic children (and non-francophones who are already committed to English as their first tongue) to be educated within a Catholic environment and in the religious tenets of our Catholic Faith,
- 2) the provision of qualified teachers who conform to the Regulation of the Catholic Committee of the Superior Council of Education concerning institutions recognized as Catholic (June 4, 1974), and who respect the norms and attitudes concerning education of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Quebec.*

11. In the field of Health and Welfare services, we request that members of our community be served culturally and linguistically in a manner which is comprehensible to them. Governments must

* Message from the Bishops of Quebec to educators, October 23, 1978.

adopt attitudes and actions which look to the support and comfort of our unemployed, handicapped and our aged and those who for economic reasons, are restricted in their mobility and who could become isolated.

Where there is a question of the application of moral values in the provision of social services to members of the English-speaking Catholic community, we require adherence to the principles of our Catholic Faith.

12. With respect to the growth and progress of our community, we look to governments to ensure policies and programmes which encourage our young people to pursue their futures within the province, to work for, and to participate in the growth and development of their province in association with their French-speaking fellow citizens.

13. We affirm that as members of the English-speaking Catholic community, while requiring that our particular rights and aspirations be respected in the enactment of legislation, we respect the concomitant rights and aspirations of the majority of the population who are our French-speaking fellow-citizens. We seek to work in harmony with all Quebecers for the common good.

Montreal, Quebec
January 25, 1981

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