** THE QUEBEC PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONOF RETIRED SCHOOL EDUCATORS**

**ASSOCIATION PROVINCIALE DU PERSONNEL D’ENSEIGNEMENT**

**RETRAITÉ DU QUÉBEC**

**MEMBER REPORT**

1. **Major concerns of QPARSE**
2. **Federal** – QPARSE continues to follow with interest and concern the developments being pursued by ACER-CART in the areas of Pharmacare and other Seniors’ issues. The sharing of information from ACER-CART has been achieved by posting it on our website and on our Facebook page.

We are very interested in following any directions being planned for participation in the upcoming Federal election in October

1. **Provincial** – The newly elected CAQ government is proposing some very worrisome legislation that concerns us all. The introduction of legislation known as Bill 21, would prohibit teachers and in-school administrators from wearing any religious symbol or clothing while on the job. The outright ignoring of the Canadian Charter for Rights and Freedoms and the announcement by Premier Legault that he will invoke the Notwithstanding clause, if necessary, to implement this law is extremely distasteful and very concerning. QPARSE has written a statement of its position in this case and are asking individual members to address these concerns to their Member of the National Assembly. Other organizations representing the English community such as QPAT (teachers), QESBA (school boards) and Directors General association have made vocal their opposition to this proposed law. However, given that only a few of our organizations have been invited to the parliamentary hearings, we are not very hopeful about the outcome.

The second piece of legislation has not yet been tabled but we have been informed of the intended direction of the bill. This law would do away with the elected school boards to be replaced by service centres run by Ministry- appointed members. This is of course being contested by the school boards who are, in particular claiming that this would not be constitutional protection for the English minority in Quebec. This whole direction of decentralizing administration to the schools and taking away the layer of elected school boards is causing great consternation and we are waiting to see what the details will be once this bill is tabled.

We continue to have representation on the Advisory Board for English Education which has existed for over 25 years as an advisory body to the Minister of Education.

1. **Main activities of QPARSE**
2. **Membership** – We continue to struggle with declining membership. In looking for solutions for getting our membership information to potential retiree, we are presenting a workshop at the Fall Teachers’ Convention entitled “The Joys of Retirement”. Last year an amendment to our bylaws has resulted in allowing for educators who are participating in gradual / progressive retirement plans, to join us as members before they officially are fully retired. The results from this change are not great so far but we are making every attempt to get the word out.
3. **Programming** – we have been more active in providing opportunities for our members to socialize with regular luncheons, outings and workshops on interesting topics. Attached is the program organized for 2019-2020.
4. **Newsletter** – The committee working on the QPARSE Newsletter has produced 3 excellent editions, each based on a particular theme. The input and feedback from members has been very positive and the work of the Editor and the Producer of these editions is much appreciated. We still mail out about 400 hard copies of the newsletter with the other 900 or so being sent digitally. We are working hard to reduce the mailings and this is gradually happening.
5. **Motions** – None

Report submitted

Jan Langelier,

President of QPARSE and ACER-CART delegate

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**QPARSE PROGRAM CALENDAR**

**2019**

**Tuesday, September 10th                                   *“Welcome Back Lunch”***

**11:15am**                                                                      Barbie’s Restaurant & Grill

                                                                                      15 Bouchard Ave, Dorval

**Thursday, October 17th                                        *“Fall Bus Excursion –Akwasasnee Casino, NY* (must have passport)**

**BUS @ 8:30am Galeries des Sources More info to follow**

**Return ~ 7:30pm**

**Tuesday, November 12th**  “***Introduction to Memoir Writing”***

**10:00am** Coffee & Cookies **Guest Speakers: Julie Nadler & Malcolm McLean**

**10:30am-12:00pm**                                                  QPAT Building, 17035 Blvd. Brunswick, Kirkland, Qc, H9H 5G6           

**LUNCH OPTIONAL in the West Island**

**Friday, December 6th                                           *“Holiday Lunch****”*

**11:30am**                                                                        Via Marcello Restaurant

                                                                                        1790 Blvd. Côte-Vertu (corner Côte-Vertu) St-Laurent, Qc, H4L 2A6

**DONATIONS TO NDG FOOD BANK**

**2020**

**Thursday, February 6th                                          *“The Healing Power of Nature- Seniors & Medicinal Marijuana”***

**10:00am Coffee** & Cookies                                 Guest Speaker: Anne Lapointe (Director of Education & Training @ Aurora)

**10:30am -12:00pm**                                                 EMSB 6000 Fielding Ave, NDG, QC H3X 1T4 (corner CSL Rd.)

Laurence Patterson Room

**LUNCH OPTIONAL in NDG**

**March TBA                                              “*Spring Luncheon & Reception for New Members*”**

**11:45am**  Reservations Essential

Le Saucier Dining Room- Pearson School of Culinary Arts

8310 Rue George, LaSalle, QC, H8P 1E5

**Friday, April 17th                                                “*Our Travels: A Taste of Africa – video and photos”***

**10:30am** Coffee & Cookies                      Guest Speakers: Janet Kennedy & Alain Lamarre

**11am -12:30pm**                                                       QPAT Building, 17035 Blvd. Brunswick, Kirkland, Qc, H9H 5G6           

**LUNCH OPTIONAL in the West Island**

**Tuesday, May 5th                                                      Annual General Meeting**

**10:00am** Coffee & Cookies                                     EMSB Laurence Patterson Room

**11am-12:30pm**      Guest speaker TBA

*IF YOU ARE ATTENDING THE LUNCHEONS/ PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT EITHER:*

**Claudia Thierry (514) 457-2499 /** [**cthierry@aei.ca**](mailto:cthierry@aei.ca)

**Carol Klein (514) 696-3447 /** [**retired0821@gmail.com**](mailto:retired0821@gmail.com)