

February 09, 2013, Revised March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

TO: [Louisette Cameron](#), Clerk, Ed. Pamphile-Le May, 1035, rue des Parlementaires, QC, QC

**RE: Quebec Office of the English Language:**

**Consultation on Bill 14 (Act to amend Bill 101) by the Committee on Culture and Education**

Dear Mrs. Cameron, Honourable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for making the information readily available to and accepting me to participate in the hearings, although I must contest the location right from the start, since it looks like Quebec City was chosen on purpose to avoid participation from the Montreal, where approximately %80 of the Anglo-Quebecker community is concentrated.

I understand Parliament is a great deal of public service work, so I will be as terse as possible with the requested **Brief**. I am the volunteer Spokesperson for the non-profit organisation Quebec Office of the English Language (l'Office québécois de la langue anglaise - OQLA.org avec 6 milles membres approx.). It is time our organisation, sister groups (CRITIQ, Unity Group here with me, PutBackTheFlag.com), and MNAs (thanks to the PLQ for a clear NO!) begin to voice their support for the 'other' Official Language in Quebec, **English. Why? Since the majority of Quebeckers want to move on from the separatist agenda and re-enforce their ties with the rest of Canada, a good start would be embracing the English language.**

Firstly, and most importantly, we believe that **English be returned to fully official Language status** in QC to respect the constitution our history in *La Belle Province*. We strongly believe that the trend, as set out in the proposed Bill 14, needs reversal in order to give the 80 plus communities across Quebec respite the constant and methodological reduction of services. Any non-ignorant person would never refer to English as a 'Foreign' language in Quebec, though certain PQ Ministers seem to consider this truthiness (Stephen Colbert, of the Colbert Rapport, U.S.A.).

Bill 14 wishes to legislate 'identity', yet another unwanted 'clause' that would hang over on our community, and further reason to legitimise discrimination based on language (predominance, non-official speakers, now 'identity'!?), hitherto additional reasoning to make non-francophones feel that they are second class in their home and native province. Furthermore, playing identity politics is irresponsible, but par for the course with ethno-nationalists here, who think they have replaced the First Nations, who primarily use English (Mohawks, Cree, Hurons), which is why Aborigines have been very offended with the linguistic segregation proposed by PQ policies and rhetoric since the summer last year. Legislating the QC Identity as FR-only would be a violation of the Human Rights Charter in itself (Section 10, language as a prohibited grounds for discrimination), which leads me to my next point.

It would seem there is little respect for the Universality of Human Rights in this province, since again, Bill 14 wishes to amend our Human Rights Charter, to simply do away with Ethnic Communities and turn them into indefensible, e.g. from the standpoint of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague,

‘cultural communities’ – several Barristers have come forward to contribute to the Montreal Gazette denouncing this attempt, yet another, to legislate away the rights of minorities.

If anything should be done regarding related legislation (Bill 101, 22, 178), it is time to consider these four simple concessions to the non-Francophone community that make up around 20% of the population - and pay approximately 40% of taxes. It was René-Lévesque who said you are Quebecker if you pay taxes, did he not? We do not feel that way, and Bill 14 will make us feel as ‘foreigners’ in our own province, not only since we have this contemptuous non-official status to our language, but also due to the proposed legislation of identity.

There is a **great opportunity** to bring balance back and respect of the **Rule of Law in QC**. Now that the Charbonneau commission has made a clean sweep of corruption, we need a similar commission to examine existing discriminatory legislation. As such, a ‘stronger Bill 101’ is totally inappropriate. As the Suburban’s Editor, Beryl Wajzman, has stated – **Bill 14: Don’t Even Think About It!** Instead, should be replaced with Bill 199, as submitted by your namesake, Neill Cameron, in the early nineties. If Britain and France had an *Entente Cordiale* over a century ago, why not us Quebeckers too? We live in the same province after all! There is no physical *Manche* between us, despite the Legal divide placed between us by opportunistic politicians, inebriated nationalists, separatist militants (caribous), *et al.*

Secondly, we need increased access to our bilingual English public schools (starting with the EMSB and LBPSB immediately, who have been short of ‘oxygen’ for years) – some 10,000 non-eligible children per year. Immigrants, especially those from English-speaking jurisdictions outside of Canada, should have the **full freedom of choice in public schools** to respect U.N. Conventions that existing provincial legislation currently flouts, and would **only worsen with Bill 14** regarding CEGEP access, and openly disrespect Military Families. We would accept, as a proper management decision by a Quebec that has its ENTIRE population’s interests considered, at an absolute minimum that a proportional percentage of immigrants (approx. 20%) are allowed into the English School System. A system, I might add, which produces a qualified majority of bilingual Quebeckers, as Angela Mancini recently made clear, thus indirectly contributing to linguistic majority.

The third community need is **guaranteed bilingual medical services**. Considering the Federal Government provides the QC Provincial treasury with special allocations for our community, why is this currently an issue? Given the systemic corruption identified by the Charbonneau Commission and ‘*le nivellement vers le bas*’, one can only speculate why we think that our Health services are not negotiable. Nobody should have to pass a language test to ‘qualify’ for medical services! Mark S. Bergeron’s [incident with an Ambulance technician](#) during Autumn pas was horrifying - he has since stepped forward to denounce the situation we are in, and is current Leader of the Equality Party 2.0! It should be noted that in Ontario, the French Language Services Act recently celebrated 25 years of existence. Why does our minority in QC, almost double the size, not have the equivalent agreement? Why do francophones from outside of Quebec, namely Senators Maria Chaput and Andrée Champagne, in their report from 2010, recommend that monies go directly to our institutions? Why do they make the point of mentioning the need for a win-win situation?

Our fourth demand, and last request, is **to lower the threshold to have bilingual municipalities from 50 percent to 15 percent of English speaking population. Alternatively, leave it entirely in the hands of the municipality, without OQLF harassment and respect for localised democracy.** This would stop this PQ-imposed threshold that is unrealistic for the survival of our communities, and reflects the PQ's neo-colonialist-reconquestual intent to rewrite over our community's existence despite peaceful EN & FR speaking neighbourhoods thriving as part of the inter-woven multi-cultural (and not unicultural, unilingual) fabric over hundreds of years - even after two conquests (Kirke, Wolfe) and two lost referendums. There are countless examples of street, parks and monuments are renamed **without** public involvement and are repetitive attempts to **outlaw the use of English** by any means possible. *En sommaire, il faut la préservation de la richesse de notre province, quoi que ce soit, au niveau de côté linguistique, de l'histoire. Au Québec cela ne se passe pas uniquement et seulement en français !*

In expectation of good faith, this will involve changes to Bill 101 as opposed to Bill 14, although we suggest the former be replaced with former MNA for Jacques-Cartier, Neil Cameron's Bill 199, [Charter of the French and English Languages](#). It would resolve much of the linguistic tension by declaring both languages equal since **French in our province is not threatened** with well past 7M people speaking it.

Furthermore, this would respect the constitution of our great country by promoting the use of English *also* to save Quebec from this poor, bankrupt, and isolated province it has increasingly become over the past generation, and to remedy the colossal negative interdependence with the rest of Canada.

We hope to have the Liberal + CAQ MNAs agree to concede these four principles so that Ethnic Minority Communities (not forced be 'cultural communities' without universal rights) are reassured publicly that their interests be recognised in eventual legislative change. Only, in this way, can the economy profit from being **open to the *Lingua Franca* of the business world.**

Yours sincerely, Veuillez accepter mes meilleures sentiments distingués.

Hugo Shebbeare

Spokesperson – Porte-parole

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**I am a Champion for Canada, et le Québec est Inclus dans Mon Pays !**



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