

EDUCATION REFORM -

AN IMPERATIVE FOR THE ENGLISH SPEAKING COMMUNITY

Since its inception in 1993, the Advisory Board on English Education has been an active advocate for education reform as a means for revitalizing English language education in Québec. First in terms of school board restructuring:*

Throughout our discussions, consultations and inquiries, we have found that school board reorganization is closely linked to the development of better education for young English-speaking Québécois; education that is better adapted to today's requirements, better suited to the English-speaking student body and more responsive to the social and cultural values and aspirations of Québec's English speaking community.

The Advisory Board emphasized the importance of trust and the need to ground the new system in the school communities they serve; it also stated that the new school boards should be seen as support structures for schools which should become the locus of pedagogical decision making:

The issue of where decision-making powers should lie in the reorganization of school board structures is an integral part of the attitudes of English-speaking Québécois towards the proposed reform. A consensus bordering on unanimity has developed around more decision-making powers at the school level. Rather than weakening the perceived need for linguistic boards, it has strengthened it.

* Advisory Board on English Education, *The reorganization of school boards along linguistic lines: Bill 107 - an English language perspective* (Report to the Minister of Education) (Montréal: Author, 1994), pp. 1, 6.