

August 22, 2022

Subject: Complying with the Municipal Election Act for the Election of Members of French-Language School Boards

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO) represents the four French-language public school boards of Ontario. Its mandate is to support its members in order to ensure the development and vitality of the French-language public education system of Ontario. Ontario's 142 French-speaking public schools offer high-quality, inclusive education. With an impressive growth rate of 81% since its creation in 1998, the French-language public education system is experiencing, by far, the largest enrolment growth in the province.

School board trustees across the province work on behalf of Ontario's children, families and communities to promote student achievement and well-being. Trustees play a key leadership role in setting the strategic direction for their local school board and in making sure there is local accountability for students and their families. As the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections are fast-approaching, ACÉPO would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for the time and efforts invested by municipalities across the province to ensure the effectiveness, security and transparency of the electoral process.

As a School Board Association, one of our mandates is to shed light on the key role of school trustees and the importance of the election process, to engage more candidates to run as trustees and encourage greater participation in the School Board Elections. The Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC), on behalf of the four Ontario school board/trustee associations, including ACÉPO, created a School Board Election Website with a wide array of information and resources for potential candidates and voters, in both official languages:

<https://elections.ontarioschooltrustees.org/Voters/WhyVote.aspx?lang=fr>

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For French-Language School Boards, the one recurrent complaint received from candidates and voters during school board elections is the fact that some municipalities provide their election information solely in English, even though Article 9.1 of the Municipal Elections Act clearly states that notices, forms and other information provided under the Act in respect of the election of members of a French-language district school board have to be provided in both English and French.

Since we stand united to ensure the success of the upcoming October Elections, ACÉPO wanted to thank those municipalities that already comply with article 9.1 of the Municipal Election Act, and remind the others of the importance of complying with the legislation. Throughout our School Board Election Promotion Campaign, ACÉPO will remind parents and communities of their rights to receive, from their municipalities, school board election documentation in French, and hope to count on your collaboration to ensure that they do.

Sincerely,



Denis Chartrand, Chair of ACÉPO