

Letter sent to QAHBE/AQED re “Guide de la bonne entente”. The original is in French on official letterhead, one copy to each QAHBE/AQED board member. The body of the letter has been translated below.

Le vendredi 23 mars 2007

Aux membres du conseil d’administration de
L’Association québécoise pour l’éducation à domicile
C.P. 82132, 1100 Maloney ouest
Gatineau QC
J8T 8B6

Copies individuelles envoyées à :
Marie Tremblay, Présidente
Danielle Faubert, Vice-présidente
Nadine Barrette, Vice-présidente
Adèle Dufour, Administratrice
Chantal Bédard, Administratrice
Jocelyn Lortie, Administrateur
Marie-Chantal Giguère, Administratrice

Sujet : Guide de la bonne entente

We are writing to you concerning the “Guide de la bonne entente” drafted by your association. Rest assured that the objective of our letter is not to be confrontational but to share with you our concerns with regards to the “Guide”. The principal reason motivating us is that the legal interpretation put forward by this “Guide” could cause prejudice to numerous ACPEQ members. As an association representing its members, we must intervene on their behalf.

Recently, a certain number of ACPEQ members have expressed their concerns regarding the “Guide” and, according to information we received (some of these members are also members of AQED), this Guide could be officially published shortly and sent to Québec’s 72 school boards, as well as to the Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. After having read this Guide, we would like to make the following requests, whether you decide to publish it, to send it to your members or to use it with them.

1. The covering page should indicate clearly that the guide is intended for AQED members only and not for parent-educators in general. This term broadens the impact of the document which should be produced on behalf of AQED members only.
2. The term “parent-educator” throughout the document should be replaced by the term « parent », as mentioned in point no. 9 on page 4 of the Guide. This term causes confusion in people’s minds and could even do so for school boards and the MELS, since it is part our association’s name.

3. Point no. 32 should indicate the exact number of AQED members as well as the years where an increase of 25% in membership was noticed, so as not to claim that AQED represents the majority or the totality of Québec homeschooling families. For your information, the association representing the greatest number of homeschooling families in Québec at the present time is HSLDA. As of March 2007, HSLDA had 454 active Québec members. ACPEQ's database indicates that a certain number of our members are not HSLDA members. If we add this number to 454, together, HSLDA and ACPEQ, represent more than 500 families in Québec.

We trust you will take these points into consideration and we thank you in advance for the attention that will be brought to our request.

Respectfully yours,

Michel Cardinal
For the ACPEQ Board of Directors

cc. ACPEQ family-members