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# Support for English-language school boards in Quebec is growing: poll

*Only 13 per cent of respondents said they supported the provincial government's intention to abolish them.*

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The English Montreal School Board offices in Montreal Friday Sept. 13, 2019. PHOTO BY JOHN MAHONEY /Montreal Gazette

A poll suggests that already solid support for independent and elected English-language school boards in Quebec has grown even higher during the past three years, the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) announced on Wednesday.

The web-panel survey, conducted by Léger Marketing for the Quebec Community Groups Network and the Association for Canadian Studies from Nov. 1 to 4, found that 90 per cent of the national poll's 1,704 respondents (601 of them living in Quebec) felt that English-language schools boards are important to them, an increase of six percentage points compared with results for the same survey question in 2019.

A total of 84 per cent of respondents felt that English-language school boards should be elected by the population at large, an increase of six percentage points over 2019, while 93 per cent felt the elimination of English-language school boards would place minority rights at risk, an increase of five percentage points compared with three years ago.

The survey found also that 84 per cent of respondents felt English-language school boards should be independent from government, an increase of eight percentage points from 2019.

Meanwhile, only 13 per cent of respondents said they supported the provincial government's intention to abolish English-language school boards, a policy that had received support from 19 per cent of respondents three years ago.

QESBA president Dan Lamoureux said the survey results showed that "our community continues to see the value and show support for English-language minority school boards in Quebec.

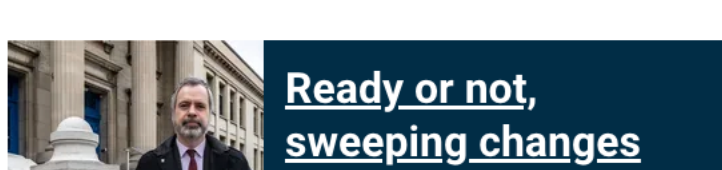
"This is the second poll of its kind in three years and while the support was overwhelming in 2019, the results have only increased. It is representative of the will of the English minority community to maintain the only English-language institutions in Quebec and the importance of democracy to our communities, parents, staff and students."

QESBA represents 100,000 students in more than 300 elementary schools, high schools, and adult and vocational centres across Québec.

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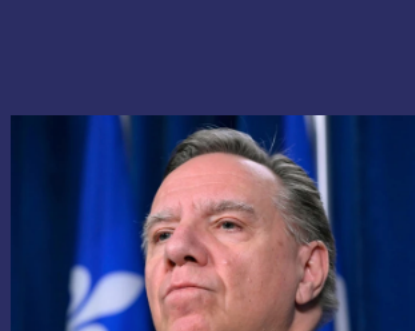


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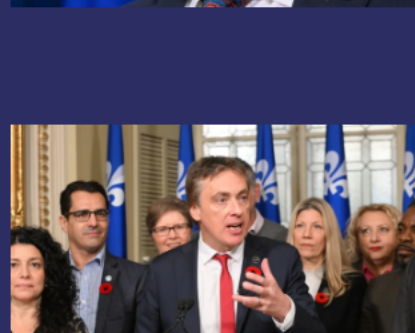
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