ASSOCIATION OF ADMINISTRATORS OF ENGLISH SCHOOLS OF QUEBEC

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

• Update on the Coalition of Partners in Education Press Conference at the National Assembly

Update on the Coalition of Partners in Education Press Conference at the National Assembly

Here is a brief recounting of events from past president Julie Carpentier, who represented AAESQ at a press conference held at the National Assembly on February 25.

The press conference, hosted by the Quebec Liberal Party and the Coalition Avenir Québec, with the participation of the Coalition of Partners in Education, took place at the National Assembly of Quebec.

Representatives from each partner group—support staff, professionals, teachers, parents, and administrators—highlighted the urgency for the current government, as well as the next one, to change its practices and avoid repeating this year's budgetary issues.

Francis Côté spoke on behalf of all administrators. Below is a summary of his remarks:

Our education system urgently needs greater budgetary predictability. We are united in our view that any cuts or reductions in education are simply unacceptable. Beyond that, we must be honest about the numbers. Current funding levels do not adequately reflect the real and growing costs we face every day, rising student enrolment in our schools and centres, increasing needs among students with disabilities or learning and adjustment challenges (HDAA), aging and deteriorating infrastructure, and operating expenses that continue to place significant pressure on our resources.

During the question period, members of the media asked administrators about the importance of subsidiarity in decision-making and the impact of recent changes to the Programme de l'expérience québécoise (PEQ) on schools. That is, the Quebec immigration program that allows certain international students and temporary foreign workers who have studied or worked in Quebec and speak French to apply for permanent residence through a faster process.

Here are photos taken of the administrators standing together: Francis Côté (FQDE), Julie Carpentier (AAESQ), André Bernier (AQPDE), and Kathleen Legault (AMDES).