



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

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Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Strongly Objects to the Government's Bill Prohibiting Religious Symbols

Rosemère, March 28, 2019 – Last night, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) unanimously adopted a resolution declaring its disagreement with the government's proposed Bill prohibiting anyone in a position of authority, including school principals and teachers from wearing religious symbols in the performance of their functions and duties.

The Council of Commissioners believes that this Bill will alter the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms and for this reason owes it to its communities to take a stance against this proposed legislation. The school board is proud to be part of a diverse community and has long embraced values of inclusion and respect.

"At SWLSB, we have always fostered an educational environment that is safe, welcoming and free from stigma and discrimination for all students and staff and we will continue to do so. We want to ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to express themselves and live authentically. We are proud to celebrate the uniqueness of all individuals and strongly object to any legislation which may prohibit public sector employees from wearing religious symbols in the performance of their professional duties." declared Chairperson, Paolo Galati.

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is the third largest English school board of the Province of Québec and boasts an 85,9% graduation rate. Its territory comprises the administrative regions of Laval, Lanaudière and the Laurentides. It provides preschool, elementary, secondary, adult education and vocational education services to over 14,000 students in 35 schools and 4 centres, as well as a business training division (Service aux entreprises). The school board has a workforce of nearly 2,000 employees.

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