



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

**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SWLSB Council of Commissioners appeals to the Government to let Ukrainian refugee children go to English schools**

**Rosemère, April 7, 2022** – The Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) appeals to the Government of Québec to allow refugee children having a knowledge of the English language to attend English schools. Council has unanimously adopted a resolution to this effect, and has shared it with the Premier, Mr. François Legault, and the Education Minister, Mr. Jean-François Roberge.

“The Charter of the French Language contains a humanitarian clause that allows for non-eligible children to be admitted in the English school system, under exceptional circumstances. There is no doubt that this humanitarian crisis qualifies as an exceptional circumstance,” said Mr. Paolo Galati, SWLSB Chairperson.

The Québec Government has already stated that the province would welcome Ukrainian refugee families with open arms and many school service centres and school boards have announced that they are willing to receive these children. The SWLSB is prepared to take in additional students and teach them in both French and English, and it is willing to assist in the education of Ukrainian refugees.

“We ask that the government reconsider its decision and allow Ukrainian refugee children to attend English schools. These families have been through enough trauma already. It would be unfortunate to deprive them of an English education if they already speak the language,” concluded Mr. Galati.

With a workforce of more than 2,000 employees, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is the third largest English school board of the Province of Québec. Its territory comprises the administrative regions of Laval, Lanaudière and the Laurentides. The school board provides preschool, elementary, secondary, adult education and vocational training services to over 14,000 students in 35 schools and 4 centres, as well as business training services.

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