

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The future of Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s remains uncertain

Québec, December 8, 2014 – Despite pledges made by Minister Barrette at the National Assembly on December 1 to protect the owner corporations of English language establishments and the services they provide, Voice of English-speaking Québec (VEQ) remains concerned about the future of Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s. When asked whether English-speakers in the province would keep control over their community-based institutions, the Minister replied, “Absolutely. Because the corporations, who are the owners, will remain.”

In response to a direct question that same day from a journalist about the situation of Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s under the new amendments, Dr. Barrette said, “...we preserve their bilingual status, we preserve their corporation, we will guarantee them a seat at the board and we will have an arrangement. This is not something that I can put in the law, but this is something (pause)... a directive that I'm engaging myself to fulfill. There will be a directive given the CIUSSS of Québec City, a directive that will make it so that they will have to, in terms of management, to answer to the advisory committee that will be put in place.”

“A full week has gone by since the Minister made public commitments to protect English language institutions and services, but we have yet to see any written amendments to Bill 10 that will protect Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s,” says Jean-Sébastien Jolin-Gignac, VEQ’s Executive Director. “Our community will not accept losing control of this irreplaceable institution and its historic assets.”

“The fact that this issue remains unresolved at the close of the parliamentary sessions for 2014 is very unsettling,” continues Jolin-Gignac. “We are looking for amendments to the Bill that would turn the Minister’s assurances into changes to Bill 10 that will protect the autonomy of Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s and its owner corporation. If Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s loses its corporation and has insufficient protection for its delivery of services in English, our community’s needs and interests will get lost in the region’s big, new merged health and social services centre, the CIUSSS.”

2.

Voice of English-speaking Québec is an autonomous, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of a dynamic English-speaking community in the greater Quebec City region and to the promotion of its interests. VEQ is spearheading the community's reaction to the Bill 10 through its campaign: "*Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid's: Our Community, Our Health, Our Future.*" To learn more or to add your voice to the campaign, please visit the VEQ Facebook page or website at www.veq.ca.

- 30 -

For more information:

Mr. Jean-Sebastien Jolin Gignac, Executive Director
1270, chemin Sainte-Foy, bureau 2141
Québec, Québec G1S 2M4

418 683-2366
info@veq.ca