

WHY SHOULD I PAY \$20.00 PER YEAR TO THE QFHSA?

Presidents of Home and Schools sometimes get the following question posed to them: "Why should I pay \$20.00 to be a member?" What should the answer be?

The \$20.00 fee helps support the Quebec Federation of Home and School Association's (QFHSA's) mission as per the QFHSA Mission statement. *The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. is an **independent, incorporated, not-for-profit volunteer, charitable organization** dedicated to enhancing the education and general well-being of children and youth. The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. promotes the involvement of parents, students, educators and the community at large in the advancement of learning and acts as a voice for parents. You are not paying \$20.00 to volunteer but to have a larger and louder "voice".*

The QFHSA is an **independent** organization that speaks for parents on educational issues. The QFHSA maintains relationships with the government, school boards and many other organizations and presents the parents' point of view on often contentious issues through briefs, position papers and resolutions. Membership in Home and School gives parents the opportunity to express opinions on various educational matters and to vote on resolutions and policies at the QFHSA's annual general meeting. The membership fee allows us to maintain an independent voice, not dependent wholly on the financial support of the provincial nor the federal government.

At the local level, membership allows parents to independently vote on school projects that they wish to support and to allocate funds as they wish. Insurance-wise, there is 3rd party liability for property damages (with a deductible) and director's and liability insurance for the Home and School executive.

The QFHSA is a **provincial** association whose diverse membership includes large urban schools and rural schools with as few as 28 children. These small schools get support from the QFHSA for travel to the AGM and the Fall Conference and are sent boxes of new and second-hand books for their libraries as there are very few **ENGLISH** resources in their regions. The QFHSA also provides training workshops for Home and School executive members and occasionally offers some free workshops for parents in the QFHSA office during the year. The QFHSA office facilitates communication between Home and Schools across the province via regional council discussion sessions.

The QFHSA's subsidized, annual, Fall Conference offers training workshops as well as workshops dealing with issues parents face on-a-daily basis such as anxiety and depression, bullying and digital citizenship to name a few. For both the Fall Conference and AGM, Home and School parents from outside Montreal may have their travel and accommodations subsidized by the QFHSA.

The QFHSA promotes literacy programs in various high schools, sends books to off-island communities and supports the *Born to Read and Youth Exploring Science* programs which are administered or supported by local Home and School Associations.

The QFHSA board of directors and various committee members are composed of volunteers but your \$20.00 helps support the three (3) part-time office staff members and maintain the provincial office. The QFHSA is also a member of the Canadian Home and School Federation which looks at national issues affecting children and education across Canada. In addition, the QFHSA is a member of the Quebec Community Groups Network, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network, a partner with the Community Learning Centres and sends representatives to other committees dealing with education-related matters.

\$20.00 per year can buy you a few cups of coffee and/or it can give you a voice and a vote at your local Home and School Association. Take this opportunity to improve the educational experience for all the students in your school and in the province.

Aren't your children worth it?

More information may be found on our website at www.qfhsa.org