



## The English Speaking Catholic Council

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### Le conseil catholique d'expression anglaise

The Board of Directors of the English Speaking Catholic Council (hereafter the ESCC), would like to express its support of the actions and resolutions taken by the Quebec Community Groups Network in opposition to Bill 14. In addition, the ESCC would like to highlight three points of Bill 14 it finds particularly troubling:

1. The English-speaking community of Quebec is made up of a wide array of cultures and ethnic groups, but that same community is recognized collectively as a linguistic minority which enjoys certain rights and privileges as such. Any move to withdraw the protection afforded our community, legal or otherwise, will obviously be regarded as an attack upon those rights granted us.
2. While respectfully acknowledging the foundational importance of the French language and culture to the province of Quebec, it must also be acknowledged that the English language and culture, not to mention the many other linguistic cultures which claim Quebec as their home, has played, and continues to play, an essential role in the historical development and continued vitality of Quebec society. To make claims for the French language ignoring this obvious truth is disingenuous in the extreme.
3. Finally, any move to amend or alter the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, specifically by retroactively ascribing a priority of rights not originally intended, is contrary to the very nature of such a document, and surely diminishes the power and force of the Charter.

Respectfully yours,

Paul Donovan  
President  
Montreal, February 11, 2013