



**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For immediate distribution*

**AQED WOULD LIKE A CONCERTED FACT-BASED DISCUSSION, REGARDING  
SCHOOL WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES FOR CASES REPORTED TO YOUTH  
PROTECTION SERVICES/BATSHAW**

**Montréal, 5 May 2019** – The tragic events surrounding the recent story of the poor little girl from Granby have made AQED and all homeschooling families it represents extremely sad and appalled.

To avoid such situations, when there have already been reports concerning a child's family, some places such as Ontario and Scotland delay the possibility of withdrawing a child from school until the application has been assessed. Prohibiting all withdrawals would not solve the problem. Taken to the extreme, this stance would force us to consider abolishing summer holidays to protect children.

On the other hand, there are sometimes reports of non-attendance at school because of a child who refuses to go to school or as a result of an event that took place at school. A caring parent might consider homeschooling as a response to their child's school refusal.

AQED dealt with such a case last year. A child threatened to commit suicide if he had to go back to school. As the mother often let him stay home, lack of regular school attendance was reported to Youth Protection Services. The mother did not know that homeschooling was legal. However, it was the best solution for this child and denying it to him could have had irreparable consequences. The needs of children who are traumatized or disadvantaged by institutional schooling cannot be ignored.

The unfortunate case of the girl in Granby presents an extremely deplorable situation where multiple elements of the social safety net failed.

Following this tragedy and in view of the many very complex and different cases of children in difficulty, our response should be based on serious research studies. In addition, the recently established Table de Concertation is a real source of expertise that could provide informed advice on this type of issue and help us move forward together in the search for the greatest benefit for our children, which is your primary concern, as it is ours.

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*AQED is a non-profit, secular organization that brings together more than 900 families who educate more than 3,500 children in Québec. It provides information and support to Québec parents who choose to homeschool. It represents its members before the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur, school boards, and other organizations related to youth and education. It supports and defends the rights of parents to educate their children according to the pedagogical method they prefer, while protecting the child's right to a healthy and balanced education.*

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