



Collectif éducation sans frontières

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Montréal, August 9, 2012

Angela Mancini
English Montreal School Board
6000 Fielding avenue, Montréal (QC)
H3X 1T4

Dear Ms. Mancini,

I am writing you, on behalf of the *Collectif éducation sans frontières*, to bring to your attention a scandalous reality in Montreal's schools, and to solicit your position on the issue.

As you know, the right to education for everyone, without discrimination, is recognized in several international human rights conventions to which Canada is a signatory. While many countries in the world have laws and other means to protect the right to education by people with irregular immigration status, in Quebec legal residency is required for access to free schooling. This creates an obstacle to education for many children and youth who live here temporarily, or who will grow up here.

The non-access to education, due to the impossibility of providing the required documents for registration or to pay the required processing fees (which can amount to thousands of dollars) is synonymous with isolation and social exclusion for people who have complicated and difficult living conditions. This marginalization also creates precarious long-term effects.

Considering that school board's are concerned that all youth or adults should have access to education services to which they have a right no matter their particular needs or geographic situation, we are of the view that the power you hold permits you to consider an end to this injustice which concerns numerous adults and youths living in Quebec . We would like to know, therefore, your views on this subject.

While awaiting your reply, we are at your disposal to answer any questions or concerns you might have.

Sincerely,

Linda Guerry
for le *Collectif éducation sans frontières*