ESCC

STATEMENT ON LOYOLA CHOOSING ITS CATHOLIC VALUES

Submitted by

The English-Speaking Catholic Council

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ESCC Brief on Loyola High School and Quebec Bill 9

Overview

Loyola High School has announced its decision to forgo provincial subsidies and transition to full financial independence in order to preserve its Jesuit and Catholic identity. The decision follows the implementation of Quebec's Bill 9, which requires government-funded institutions to comply with the province's secularism framework. Loyola determined that compliance would require changes that would compromise essential elements of its mission and therefore chose to remain faithful to its Catholic educational mandate.

Key Message

A vibrant and inclusive Quebec is one that makes room for faith-based institutions to contribute fully to society while remaining true to their religious identity, mission, and educational vision.

ESCC Perspective

The English-Speaking Catholic Council recognizes Loyola's decision as a significant moment for Catholic education in Quebec and as part of a broader conversation regarding religious freedom, parental rights, and the place of faith-based institutions within a pluralistic and secular society.

For more than a century, Loyola has contributed to the intellectual, spiritual, and moral formation of young people, helping to shape generations of committed citizens, leaders, and faithful Catholics. The school's decision reflects its conviction that Catholic education is not simply about religious instruction, but about forming the whole person through values, faith, service, community, and academic excellence.

The ESCC believes that Catholic schools play a vital role in the social fabric of Quebec by:

- Supporting parents in their primary responsibility as educators of their children.
- Providing environments where faith and learning are integrated.
- Promoting service, social responsibility, and care for the common good.
- Contributing to the diversity and richness of Quebec society.

The decision announced by Loyola highlights the challenges faced by faith-based institutions when public policy and religious identity come into tension. While recognizing the authority of government to establish educational policy, the ESCC affirms that religious communities must also have the freedom to maintain their beliefs, practices, and educational missions.

Accessibility and Inclusion

The ESCC is particularly encouraged by Loyola's commitment to maintaining accessibility through expanded financial assistance and fundraising efforts. Catholic education should not become a privilege reserved only for those with significant financial means. Preserving both mission and accessibility is a goal worthy of support and collaboration across the Catholic community.

ESCC Statement

The English-Speaking Catholic Council acknowledges Loyola High School's decision to preserve its Jesuit and Catholic mission in response to the requirements of Quebec's Bill 9.

Catholic education represents far more than the teaching of doctrine. It is the formation of young people in faith, character, service, leadership, and commitment to the common good. Institutions such as Loyola have been important contributors to the cultural, educational, and spiritual life of Quebec for generations.

The ESCC supports the principle that parents should have meaningful access to educational choices that reflect their religious convictions and values. We also affirm the importance of religious freedom and the right of faith-based institutions to maintain their distinct identity and mission.

We commend Loyola's commitment to ensuring that financial accessibility remains central to its future plans and encourage continued dialogue that respects both the diversity of Quebec society and the important contributions made by faith communities.

We the English-Speaking Catholic Community prays for Loyola's leadership, faculty, students, alumni, and families as they undertake this significant transition.