



**L'Association des enseignantes
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Annual General Meeting AEFNB Calls for a One-Year Moratorium on Changes to the Education System

(AEFNB News Service – Fredericton) – The Association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick (AEFNB) has asked the provincial government to proclaim a one-year moratorium on changes to the public school system in New Brunswick. It has also called for a general assessment during that year of the state of public education with a view to defining the objectives that New Brunswickers want to see implemented in the province's schools.

These decisions were made at the AEFNB's annual general meeting, which was held this past weekend in Fredericton, in response to the numerous reforms, some of them controversial, that the public school system has been subjected to since the Graham government came into power. The francophone teachers' association is taking the stance that a general assessment, carried out in cooperation with all the main education stakeholders, would help to get a fix on the future of education in New Brunswick.

"New Brunswick has reached a point at which it is important to step back and reflect, Francophones and Anglophones together, on what we want the education system in this province to be and to consider the unique challenges facing each of our linguistic communities," stated Marcel Larocque, president of the AEFNB. "In our opinion, focusing on this for the next school year could have only positive results for all concerned."

Although the AEFNB is pleased overall with the numerous initiatives announced by the Minister of Education in the 2008-2009 education budget, it is also concerned by the fact that responsibility for their implementation falls largely on school management and teaching staff, who are already overburdened. The Minister of Education had also been promising to address this problem for nearly two years now.

"The members of the AEFNB are worried about how unimportant the Department of Education seems to consider the issue of the workload of our teaching staff," said Mr. Larocque. "Although they appreciate a number of initiatives taken at the level of the school district, they find that this is not enough. Given the increasing urgency to take action, the annual general meeting of the AEFNB moved this past weekend to have the issue remain a priority for the Association. "

"Like the Minister of Education, we also want to have the best education system in the country and ensure the success of every student," added Mr. Larocque. "For this reason, we find it essential to foster an educational culture that is consistent and realistic and that draws on contributions from all the stakeholders both within and outside of the education system. We conveyed this message to the Minister of Education yesterday, and we trust that he'll see the sense in adopting this type of approach."

The AEFNB is a professional association dedicated to French education and to the teaching profession. Its 2400 members work in public schools from kindergarten through grade 12.

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