



**Association des retraitées et des retraités
de l'enseignement de la FNEEQ**

NEWSLETTER
Volume 6, Issue 3

March 17, 2025

**DEBOUT POUR L'ÉCOLE
FOR CHANGE IN EDUCATION**

Two years ago, AREF members were invited to take part in **Parlons éducation**. Forums were organized across the province for citizens to express their views on the state of Quebec schools. These forums, along with parallel youth workshops, were attended by over 2,000 people and led to many lively exchanges... Exchanges that all the while confirmed the alarming diagnosis of an education system that is far from living up to the ideals of equity and social justice that led to its creation over fifty years ago.

The ills affecting Quebec schools are numerous. The list goes on and on: a severe shortage of teachers and school staff, a significant increase in the number of students with learning difficulties, a fragmented school population and a three-tier education system. Clearly, these recurring problems are undermining the school's ability to prepare young people and Quebec society as a whole for the future.

[Debout pour l'école](#) (DPLÉ) is a citizen's collective that aims to mobilize the population, as well as organizations involved in education, to improve a system that sorely needs it. Our children deserve better than inequitable opportunity! A quality school system, capable of meeting the needs of all the children entrusted to its care, is no utopia! Some countries have achieved it, such as Finland, and we can achieve it in Quebec too!

This spring, DPLÉ is launching a citizen's white paper entitled ***Pour une nouvelle "révolution tranquille" en éducation*** (*For a New "Quiet Revolution" in Education*) to identify the most important and promising changes needed in education. It proposes four central demands and eight orientations to get Quebec schools back on track.

Citizens are invited to give their opinion on these proposals, using a Web platform developed by the Quebec firm Cocoriko. Online from March 17 to April 25, it will be used to gather comments and opinions on the project. At the same time, the document will be submitted to organizations with an interest in education, such as unions and community groups. The opinions expressed will enable us to improve these proposals, with the aim of launching the final version of what will become our citizen's white paper on education next autumn!

AREF members are warmly invited to take part in this consultation! It's easy and useful: go to pourameliorerlecole.quebec, from March 17, and answer the online questionnaire. It's a simple way to get involved in the movement for a better school!

Jean Trudelle

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