



GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC

# REGULATION OF THE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE

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C65  
R44  
1974  
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QCSE

of the Superior  
Council  
of Education



TEXT  
AND  
EXPLANATORY NOTES  
JUNE 1974



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The Catholic Committee of the Superior Council of Education, in order to comply with the requirements of the Law, has enacted the special regulation concerning the Catholic educational institutions of Quebec. This regulation was promulgated in June 1974 following its approval by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

This regulation is meant to ensure in a given school environment a truly confessional atmosphere while maintaining that high degree of academic excellence which every educational institution must possess.

Furthermore, it reflects the real image that the Catholic Committee has of the Catholic educational institution.

For that reason the Catholic Committee has deemed it opportune to add to the text of the Regulation a few explanatory notes which will assist those who have any responsibility for setting up a Catholic confessional educational institution.

WHEREAS every student is entitled to an education which will permit his complete development on the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, moral and religious level;

WHEREAS the religious dimension constitutes, for man as an individual and as a member of society, an important area field of experience and meaning;

WHEREAS the institution which is the Catholic confessional school must be conceived as the educational institution which openly accepts the religious dimension as an integral part of its education programme and the Christian concept of man and of life as the inspirational principle and norm of its pedagogical action;

The Catholic Committee of the Superior Council of Education, in accord with paragraphs "a", "c", "d" of section 22 of the Superior Council of Education Act, makes the following regulation respecting the Catholic educational institutions of Quebec.

# **Regulation of the Catholic Committee of the Superior Council of Education Respecting Confessional Educational Institutions Recognized as Catholic**

## **Division I Definitions**

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### *Sect. 1*

In this regulation:

(a) the word "institution" means a confessional educational institution recognized as Catholic;

(b) the words "school authority" mean every corporation of school commissioners or school trustees and every physical or moral person that is the owner of an educational institution;

(c) the words "to be of the Catholic faith" mean to have been baptized in the Roman Catholic Church and to declare that one is of the Catholic faith.

### *Explanatory Note*

The Regulation states that the words "is of the Catholic faith" mean: "has been baptized in the Roman Catholic Church and declares himself a Catholic". It must be understood that this definition applied also to a person who, having been baptized outside the visible communion of a Roman Catholic Church by a baptismal rite recognized by this Church, was later admitted to full communion in it through a profession of faith approved by it.

## **Division II**

### **Recognition of Confessional Educational Institutions as Catholic**

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#### *Sect. 2*

Recognition is the legal act by which the Catholic Committee of the Superior Council of Education recognizes, on its own initiative or upon request, that a confessional educational institution, public or private, is Catholic.

#### *Sect. 3*

In order that recognition be maintained, an institution must:

- (a) comply with the regulations of the Catholic Committee; and
- (b) follow the curricula and use the educational teaching material approved or authorized by the Catholic Committee.

#### *Sect. 4*

Recognition may be revoked:

- (a) if the institution ceases to fulfill the conditions mentioned in article 3; or
- (b) if the school authority so requests.

#### *Sect. 5*

The Catholic Committee may recognize as Catholic, on a temporary basis of one year, a confessional institution which does not completely fulfill the conditions mentioned in article 3.

#### *Explanatory Note*

The purpose of recognition of Catholic educational institutions is to provide a legal structure to promote and support the creation or development of a Christian education programme in accord with thinking proper to the Catholic faith.

A Christian education programme transcends the letter of law. Its primary purpose is to create a teaching and learning community where students can "learn to be" on every level — physical, intellectual, emotional, social, moral and religious.

Such a programme is built with the resources and creativity particular to each milieu. The end product may differ from place to place.

The Catholic Committee may revoke its recognition of the Catholic status of an institution when the latter no longer fulfills the conditions of article 3 or at the request of competent authorities.

### **Division III**

#### **Moral and Religious Instruction**

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##### *Sect. 6*

The institution must include in its regular schedule religious instruction which complies with the programmes approved or authorized by the Catholic Committee.

##### *Sect. 7*

The institution must see to the quality of religious instruction so that the student may deepen his Christian faith and broaden his religious experience and knowledge.

##### *Sect. 8*

Religious instruction must be in accord with Christian doctrine, be dispensed with intellectual rigour and be adapted to the personal development of the students' faith.

##### *Sect. 9*

At the elementary level, a minimum of 120 minutes per 5-day week must be devoted to religious instruction; at the secondary level, an average of 100 minutes per 5-day week must be devoted to religious and moral instruction. In both cases, the time must be apportioned and coordinated according to the requirements of the teaching of this discipline, the needs of the students and the schedule of the institution.

##### *Explanatory Note*

Religious instruction in Catholic educational institutions can be directed along two main channels — Catholic religious instruction and religious instruction of a cultural nature.

Catholic religious instruction consists of an explicit presentation of the Christian faith in all its various aspects — doctrinal, historical, moral, liturgical, experiential and social. This instruction can be presented in various way — catechetical, doctrinal, anthropological, biblical — always with a view to helping the students to grow in the Christian faith. The instruction must conform to the Church's doctrine and to the pedagogical requirements of transmitting the faith.

Religious instruction of a cultural nature aims primarily at broadening the religious knowledge of the students by introducing them to the various forms of religious expression encountered in human experience and in the great religions of the world. This instruction uses various approaches taken from the human sciences of religion — historical, sociological, psychological, phenomenological,

*Sect. 10*

In each grade of the elementary level, Catholic religious instruction is compulsory for all students, without prejudice to article 14.

*Sect. 11*

In the first two years of the secondary level, Catholic religious instruction is compulsory for all students, without prejudice to articles 14 and 15.

*Sect. 12\**

In the third, fourth and fifth year of the secondary level, the institution may set up a variety of programmes of religious and moral instruction:

(a) In the third year, the institution may offer a choice between Catholic religious instruction, which must always be offered, and moral instruction;

(b) In the fourth and fifth years, the instruction may offer a choice between Catholic religious instruction, which must always be offered, and religious instruction of a cultural type and moral instruction.

Without prejudice to articles 14 and 15, the student is

*Explanatory Note*

etc. Students must also be informed about the Catholic Church's position with regard to great religions of the world.

The general purpose of moral instruction is the development of conscience. This instruction is focussed on the discovery of personal and social responsibilities. It must be mindful of spiritual values and compatible with a Christian concept of man, of life and of the universe.

During the last three years of secondary school, a variety of programmes in religious and moral instruction is proposed in order to make allowance for various forms of development attuned to the tempo of the individual and to the religious needs of adolescents. This teaching must take into account the rights of parents, but also respect the gradual awakening to the students' autonomy and liberty as well as pedagogical requirements. In view of the diversity which is offered, the use of the exemption clause should become less necessary and less frequent at this level.

\* This section shall take effect on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1975.



required, in each of these three years, to choose one of the programmes offered.

*Sect. 13*

At the post-secondary level, the institution must include in its curriculum a course in Christian thought which the student is free to choose.

*Sect. 14*

At the elementary and secondary levels, parents or tutors may obtain exemption from courses in religious instruction for their minor children by applying in writing to the director of the institution.

*Sect. 15*

At the secondary level, the director of the institution, after obtaining the consent of the parents or tutor, shall exempt a minor student from a course in religious instruction if the student requests it.

*Sect. 16*

The institution must provide students exempted from religious instruction with a programme of instruction or personal research pertaining to moral formation or religious knowledge.

*Explanatory Note*

Exemption is an indispensable guarantee of the parents and students' right to religious freedom. Because of the importance of this right, school authorities should take the required steps to provide an adequate programme for those students who are exempted from religious instruction.



## **Division IV**

### **Pastoral Animation**

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#### *Sect. 17*

The institution must ensure that pastoral animation is provided.

#### *Sect. 18*

The pastoral animator is a member of the institution's personnel. His role consists in making the students and teachers aware of the objectives of Christian education and in promoting projects which will foster Christian faith.

#### *Sect. 19*

The director of the institution must facilitate the inclusion of pastoral animation in the school programme.

#### *Sect. 20*

Secondary and post-secondary level institutions must provide premises suitable for pastoral activities. They must also provide an office for the pastoral animation staff.

#### *Explanatory Note*

Every educational institution aims to be a place of apprenticeship, a centre of intellectual, social, cultural, athletic life. Catholic institutions, while fully accepting this objective, also view it in a Christian perspective. They seek to provide for young people the apprenticeship and experience of a Christian life.

This objective creates a responsibility for all the personnel of the institution, but its implementation is the specific task of the pastoral animation service, a task assigned to one or more pastoral animators, on a full-time or part-time basis, according to the particular needs of the institution.

The pastoral animation service offers activities designed to fill individual and collective needs for meditation, prayer, worship. It is concerned with every aspect of school life and seeks to provide scope for freedom, charity, faith and commitment, so that those associated with the institution may learn and live experience evangelical values.

## **Division V**

### **Management and Professional Staff**

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#### *Sect. 21*

Every person in management, teaching and other educational services in an institution is required to respect its confessional character.

#### *Sect. 22*

The personnel of an institution must be Catholic. Should it be difficult to obtain the services of a competent Catholic person, the services of a competent non-Catholic may be retained provided such person promises to respect the confessional character of the institution.

However, Catholic religious instruction shall only be given by persons of Catholic faith.

#### *Sect. 23*

The director, in his capacity as the chief responsible officer of the institution, must ensure conditions favorable to the active participation of students and members of the teaching and non-teaching staff in the implementation of an educational programme in harmony with the Christian concept of man.

#### *Explanatory Note*

The distinctive character of a Catholic educational institution depends primarily on the clear understanding of its goals and on the quality of its personnel. It consists principally in the ability of a team of educators to lead young people along the way of progressive discovery of the world, of man and of life with the illumination of faith.

In a Catholic institution, it is normal to expect that teachers should be in communion of thought with the Catholic faith and should take an active interest in promoting a type of education inspired by Christian principles. Because much is expected of the educators, they should be supported by pedagogical and pastoral animation.

In accepting personnel who are not of the Catholic faith, Catholic educational institutions require that, as a matter of professional ethics, these persons respect the faith of the students and parents. When the Catholic institution requires that all persons responsible for management, teaching or educational services in a Catholic school *respect* the confessional character of the institution, the word *respect* is to be understood in its dullest extent.

*Sect. 24*

It is the duty of the school authorities to take into account the particular needs and requirements of each institution when they hire and assign management staff as well as teaching and non-teaching staff.

*Sect. 25\**

To guarantee the right of a child to religious instruction of quality, the institution must see to it that a teacher be exempted from giving such instruction:

- (a) when such teacher persists in giving instruction which does not comply with the requirements mentioned in articles 7 and 8;
- (b) when the freedom of conscience of the teacher so dictates.

*Sect. 26*

The school authorities must take the necessary measures to provide pastoral animation as well as the coordination of religious instruction and pastoral activities in institutions under their jurisdiction.

*Explanatory Note*

Animation, coordination, direction and evaluation of all activities connected with religious instruction and pastoral animation are necessary to assure the quality and proper operation of these activities and the implementation of the overall Christian education programme. Responsibility for these tasks lies with the counsellors in Christian education and the coordinators of Religious Instruction who collaborate, on the various levels of educational structures, with those responsible for the school programme.

\* This section shall take effect on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1975.

The Regulation of the Catholic Committee of the Superior Council of Education has been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on June 4, 1974. Order in Council 2024-74.

The Regulation applies to confessional educational institutions recognized as Catholic.

The Regulation replaces Regulations 1, 2 and 3 of the Catholic Committee approved under Order in Council 1431 dated 2 June 1967.

Section 12 of the Regulation shall not take effect until first day of September 1975.

Section 25 shall not take effect until the first day of March 1975 for the ensuing school years.

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