



*REGULATION RESPECTING THE QUALIFICATION OF
TEACHERS HAVING CHARGE OF
CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION
IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS
NOT RECOGNIZED AS CATHOLIC*

E3S9
C65
A11/R344
1988 A
QCSE



*REGULATION RESPECTING THE QUALIFICATION OF
TEACHERS HAVING CHARGE OF
CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION
IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS
NOT RECOGNIZED AS CATHOLIC*



This regulation of the Catholic committee of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation was approved by the government on December 9, 1987 (Decree 1859-87).

This regulation applies to public and private elementary and secondary schools not recognized as Catholic.

The present regulation respecting the qualification of teachers having charge of Catholic religious instruction in public and private elementary and secondary schools not recognized as Catholic was enacted by the Catholic committee of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation. The regulation was published in December of 1987, after being approved by the government.

In order to facilitate the task of those responsible for applying the regulation, the Catholic committee thought it advisable to provide a few explanatory notes on the text.

Where context demands, the masculine gender is used to denote both sexes.

WHEREAS all children are entitled to an education which allows the full development of their physical, intellectual, affective, social, moral and religious dimensions;

WHEREAS the religious dimension constitutes an important area of experience and meaning for the human person;

the Catholic committee of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, in accordance with paragraph f of section 22 of the Act respecting the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, has formulated as follows its Regulation respecting the qualification of teachers having charge of Catholic religious instruction in public and private elementary and secondary schools not recognized as Catholic:

PREAMBLE

REGULATION RESPECTING THE QUALIFICATION OF TEACHERS HAVING CHARGE OF CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS NOT RECOGNIZED AS CATHOLIC

COMMENTARY

1. In order to be eligible to dispense Catholic religious instruction in an elementary school, a teacher shall:

1° be of the Catholic faith;

2° have acquired, in a training program prescribed in the regulations made under section 30 of the Act, not less than 9 university credits pertaining to the moral and religious dimension of the person and the essential content of the Catholic faith as well as the programs of Catholic moral and religious instruction approved by the Catholic committee; or possess equivalent training;

3° not be opposed thereto for reasons of freedom of conscience.

2. In order to be eligible to dispense Catholic religious instruction in a secondary school, a teacher shall:

1° be of the Catholic faith;

2° have acquired, in a training program prescribed in the regulations made under section 30 of the Act, 60 university credits pertaining to the moral and religious dimension of the person, the essential content of the Catholic faith and religious pluralism as well as the programs of Catholic moral and religious instruction approved by the Catholic committee; or possess equivalent training;

3° not be opposed thereto for reasons of freedom of conscience.

In public and private non-confessional schools, pupils whose parents request a course of confessional religious instruction for their children are entitled to receive such a course in accordance with provisions of the régime pédagogique.

As stipulated in the Act respecting the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, the Catholic committee has enacted a regulation concerning the qualification of teachers dispensing Catholic religious instruction in non-confessional schools. The provisions of this regulation are the same as those which apply to teachers dispensing Catholic moral and religious instruction in confessional schools.

Catholic moral and religious instruction can only be assigned to persons of the Catholic faith who satisfy the academic qualifications which will enable them to offer high quality courses, and who agree to dispense such instruction in full freedom of conscience.

The words "be of the Catholic faith" mean that the person in question has been baptized in the Roman Catholic Church (or a baptism as recognized by the latter), and that the person declares himself or herself to be of the Catholic faith. This condition respects the right of the parents to ensure that their children receive religious instruction in accordance with their convictions.

Equivalent training will be assessed in accordance with the existing mechanisms used for this purpose.

The right to dissent from teaching religion is essential as a guarantee of the teaching staff's right to religious freedom.

*The Catholic committee has outlined a number of models of pedagogical organization which accommodate elementary school teachers who might wish to be exempted from dispensing religious instruction. These models are already being used in a large number of schools. Such models cannot continue to exist and develop without the political and administrative will to respect the wishes of teachers who might wish to have recourse to such exemption. The models in question are enumerated in **Faith Education in the Schools**, published by the Catholic committee in 1984.*

A guide on timetable organization for teachers exempted from Catholic moral and religious instruction has been made available to school administrations by the ministère de l'Éducation.

COMMENTARY

3. A teacher shall dispense Catholic religious instruction in accordance with the requirements of the programs approved by the Catholic committee.

4. Paragraph 2 of section 1 and paragraph 2 of section 2 apply from 1 July 1992.

However, they do not apply to persons who dispense Catholic moral and religious instruction during the 1991-1992 school year nor to persons who do not teach during that school year because of a leave prescribed in their conditions of employment, but who dispensed such instruction before that leave.

Subject to the second paragraph, any person hired or assigned from 1 July 1992 and who does not meet the requirements prescribed in paragraph 2 of section 1 or paragraph 2 of section 2 may dispense such instruction where he undertakes in writing to meet those requirements within two years following the year in which he gave such an undertaking, in the case of a teacher at the elementary level, and within five years following the year in which he gave such an undertaking, in the case of a teacher at the secondary level.

Where a person has not fulfilled his undertaking at the expiry of the period indicated in the third paragraph, he may no longer dispense such instruction.

5. This Regulation comes into force on 1 July 1988.

The requirements related to teacher qualification will become mandatory on 1 July 1992. The objective is to ensure that teachers' acquired rights in this area be preserved, and to enable future teachers to acquire the training they need. As well, any person can be hired or assigned on the condition that he or she satisfies the requirements within the prescribed time.

CONSEIL SUPÉRIEUR DE L'ÉDUCATION



QCSE005484