

**UNOFFICIAL COURTESY TRANSLATION OF
THE AFFIDAVIT OF DENIS CHARTRAND
SWORN ON MARCH 30, 2021**

COURT FILE NO.: CV-21-656040-00CL

**ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
(COMMERCIAL LIST)**

IN THE MATTER OF THE *COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT*,
RSC 1985, c C-36

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF
LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY OF SUDBURY

**AFFIDAVIT OF DENIS CHARTRAND
(March 30, 2021)**

I, DENIS CHARTRAND, of the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, AFFIRM the following:

1. I am the current chair of the Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario ("CÉPEO"). I have chaired the CÉPEO on numerous occasions, since 1998. I am also the chair of the Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario ("ACÉPO") since 2016.
2. I have personal knowledge of that facts in this affidavit, except where they are otherwise stated to be based on information or belief.
3. The CÉPEO is one of Ontario's publicly funded school boards. More than 16 000 students are registered in the CÉPEO's 44 French-language elementary and secondary schools in Eastern Ontario (Trenton, Pembroke, Ottawa, Hawkesbury, Cornwall, etc).
4. The ACÉPO is an organization that represents Ontario's four French-language public (as opposed to Catholic) school boards, to which are registered nearly 35 000 students, including the CÉPEO's students.
5. The ACÉPO works closely with the Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques ("AFOCSC"), which represents Ontario's eight French-language Catholic school boards, to which are registered nearly 78 000 students.
6. In sum, pursuant to their mandates under section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the *Education Act*, Ontario's 12 publicly funded school boards deliver homogeneous French-language instruction to more than 112 000

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students, i.e. instruction in French only, save and except for the teaching of other languages, such as English. Ontario's 12 French-language school boards do not offer any French immersion programs. French is the internal working language of these 12 school boards.

7. There is a severe shortage of teachers capable of teaching in French in Ontario, which bars the implementation of section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* throughout Ontario. More specifically, it is estimated that Ontario's French-language school boards need at least 950 more teachers right away. Attached to this my affidavit as **exhibit DC-1** is a true copy of an article from Radio-Canada in which I am cited, dated March 3, 2021, available at the following Internet address: <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1774601/penurie-enseignant-francophone-ontario-canada-joly>.

8. On February 19, 2021, the government of Canada, through the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, announced a major reform of the federal official languages regime. The reform includes measures to address the shortage of teachers capable of teaching in French, for instance by recognizing "in the next pan-Canadian strategy for official languages (the next *Action Plan for Official Languages*), the importance of supporting a training and recruitment strategy for Francophone and French-language teachers—for immersion and teaching of second language programs, and for French-language education—including through immigration initiatives." (at p 14 of both the English and French versions). Further, the government of Canada has undertaken to "[s]trengthen the commitment under Part VII of the Act to reinforce the "learning, acceptance and appreciation" of both official languages, in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments" (at p 14 of both the English and French versions). Attached as **exhibit DC-2** is a true copy of the English and French versions of the federal government's policy document titled "English and French: Towards a substantive equality of official languages in Canada", available at the following Internet address: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/corporate/publications/general-publications/equality-official-languages.html>.

Affirmed remotely by Denis Chartrand of the city of Ottawa in the county of Carleton before me at the city of Montreal in the Province of Quebec, on March 30, 2021 in accordance with O. Reg. 431/20, *Administering Oath or Declaration Remotely*.

DENIS CHARTRAND