

TALQ to Intervene Before Supreme Court on Bill 21 (Laicity of the State)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montreal, March 24, 2026 — TALQ will appear as an intervener before the Supreme Court of Canada this week in the appeal concerning Quebec's Bill 21, *An Act respecting the laicity of the State*. Hearings are scheduled from March 23 to 26, 2026.

TALQ's arguments will be presented by Me Julius Grey. The organization is scheduled to plead on Wednesday, March 25 at approximately 11:00 a.m. The hearings, which begin daily at 9:30 a.m., can be viewed live here: <https://www.scc-csc.ca/cases-dossiers/hearings-audiences/live-endirect/>

TALQ's intervention will focus on section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees minority-language education rights and serves as a cornerstone for official-language minority communities across Canada. TALQ will argue that Bill 21 infringes these rights by interfering with the cultural, institutional, and community framework that section 23 is designed to protect.

TALQ President Eva Ludvig stated, *"Section 23 is central to the survival and flourishing of minority-language communities, and it safeguards their autonomy. Any measure that limits the ability of these communities to manage their educational institutions, reflect their diversity, and transmit their culture must be subject to the highest level of constitutional scrutiny."*

TALQ will emphasize that minority-language education rights are both individual and collective in nature, including the right to management and control of educational institutions. The organization will argue that Bill 21's restrictions on the hiring of teachers and school personnel directly undermine the ability of English-language school boards to maintain environments that reflect the diversity and identity of their communities.

TALQ Director General Sylvia Martin-Laforge underscored the broader importance of the intervention: *"TALQ's presence before the Supreme Court ensures that the voice of Quebec's English-speaking community is heard at the highest level. This case is not only about legal principles—it is about protecting the institutions, identity, and future of our community."* She added, *"By intervening, TALQ is reaffirming the fundamental importance of minority-language education rights and their role in sustaining vibrant, diverse communities across Quebec and Canada."*

TALQ will ask the Court to rule that the relevant provisions of Bill 21 are unconstitutional and cannot be justified in a free and democratic society, at minimum as they apply to English-language school boards. Please [click here](#) to read the Factum (Intervener's Argument) that was presented to the Supreme Court in September 2025.



Talking.
Advocating.
Living in
Québec.

TALQ (www.talq.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together English-language community organizations and individuals across Quebec. Its mission is to identify, explore, and address strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of English-speaking Quebec and to encourage dialogue and collaboration.

For further information:

Genevieve Grenier, Manager, Communications and Media Relations

genevieve.grenier@talq.ca | Telephone: 514-835-2404