

*The Task Force on Linguistic Policy will join in Bill 21 Appeal to Supreme Court*

**Montreal, Qc - April 26, 2024:** The Task Force on Linguistic Policy will be requesting leave to intervene at the Supreme Court of Canada with the English Montreal School Board and several other appellants when Bill 21 is taken to the Supreme Court.

Task Force lawyer Michael Bergman will be defending the organization's position on Bill 96 and the CAQ government's arbitrary use of the notwithstanding clause, which cancels fundamental human rights. "While the focus of the EMSB's case will be school board and gender rights, our case will focus on the application of the notwithstanding clause."

While the timing of the appeal is not known, the deadline for requests to intervene is May 29. "This case is so important to individual rights in Canada that it cannot be ignored," said Andrew Caddell, President of the Task Force. "It also has significant ramifications for the cases we have brought before the Superior Court in May of last year and in January."

Michael Bergman emphasized the importance of the case: "If the Supreme Court finds the notwithstanding clause can be invoked as a formality, and the guarantees in the Charter are cancelled, then most Bill 96 cases will fail. It will be very hard to relitigate this matter, and the key guarantees of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms will have no cause or effect."

The Task Force, a volunteer organization with no government subsidies, has raised over \$100,000 for its court challenges of Bill 96. It will require further funding from the community to pursue this appeal. "We are calling on the community to support us, as we are the only organization representing the interests of individuals affected by Bill 96" said Andrew Caddell.

The Task Force on Linguistic Policy, formed in June 2021, is a non-partisan, grassroots not-for-profit organization defending Quebec's English-speaking community's linguistic rights. It boasts thousands of subscribers and social media followers and has served the Attorney Generals of Quebec and Canada in lawsuits fighting Bill 96. Learn more at [www.TheTaskForce.ca](http://www.TheTaskForce.ca).

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