

RÉFORME DE LA TAXE SCOLAIRE

Les contribuables des Hauts-Cantons et d'Eastern Townships avantagés

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SHERBROOKE — En Estrie, ce sont les contribuables de la Commission scolaire des Hauts-Cantons et de la Eastern Townships qui seront les plus avantagés par la réforme de la taxe scolaire proposée cette semaine par le gouvernement Couillard.

Si le projet de loi 166 est adopté tel quel lors de la prochaine session parlementaire, ils bénéficieront d'une baisse équivalente à 50 pour cent de leur compte de taxes scolaires en 2018-2019, soit une économie de l'ordre de 305 \$ pour une maison évaluée à 200 000 \$.

À la Commission scolaire de la Région-de-Sherbrooke, la baisse devrait plutôt tourner autour de 265 \$ pour la même valeur foncière de 200 000 \$ tandis qu'à la Commission scolaire des Sommets, on parle d'une économie d'environ 45 \$.

C'est ce que *La Tribune* a pu estimer à la lumière des informations disponibles, puisque les commissions scolaires n'ont pas encore calculé ou obtenu de données plus officielles jusqu'à maintenant.

« Ce n'est pas une course au plus bas taux au Québec, c'est une course à l'équité. Ça fait 25 ans que le système de taxation scolaire doit être modernisé », met en perspective le président de la CSHC, Yves Gilbert, qui parle au nom des présidents des quatre commissions scolaires de l'Estrie dans ce dossier.

Les commissions scolaires accueillent favorablement le pro-

jet de loi puisqu'elles ont obtenu l'assurance qu'elles seront compensées par le gouvernement pour la baisse de revenus issus de la taxe scolaire et qu'elles conserveront leur pouvoir de taxation.

« Pour l'ensemble des contribuables c'est intéressant puisqu'on allège leur fardeau fiscal et comme présidents de commissions scolaires c'est aussi intéressant puisqu'on maintient les services aux élèves », analyse M. Gilbert.

Le projet de loi 166 stipule que la taxe scolaire sera harmonisée dans chaque région de la province au plus bas taux imposé par une des commissions scolaires du territoire.

En Estrie, la Commission des Sommets impose un taux de 0,18 \$ du 100 \$ d'évaluation foncière, la Commission scolaire de la Région-de-Sherbrooke est à 0,29 \$, et les Hauts-Cantons et la Eastern Townships sont à 0,31 \$.

Le projet de loi prévoit également une exonération de taxes sur les premiers 25 000 \$ d'évaluation foncière, ce qui explique la légère baisse anticipée pour les contribuables de la Commission scolaire des Sommets.

COMITÉ RÉGIONAL

M. Gilbert explique qu'un comité régional regroupant un élu et un dirigeant de chaque commission scolaire sera également mis sur pied dans la foulée de la réforme, notamment pour s'entendre sur le taux de taxes. « C'est important qu'on s'assure de garder notre marge de manœuvre locale », dit-il.

Pour le président de la CSRS, Gilles Normand, cette annonce

« à coût neutre » pour les commissions scolaires est de bon augure. « On remet en place d'une certaine façon le système de péréquation qu'on avait perdu en 2013 sous le gouvernement Marois. »

Au Québec, les contribuables de l'Outaouais et de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue seront généralement les plus avantagés par cette réforme. La situation en Outaouais n'est d'ailleurs pas étrangère à tout ce combat pour l'équité puisque dans cette région, depuis quelques années, on assiste à un transfert des contribuables sans enfants vers la commission scolaire anglophone dont le taux de taxation est nettement plus bas que dans les commissions scolaires francophones.

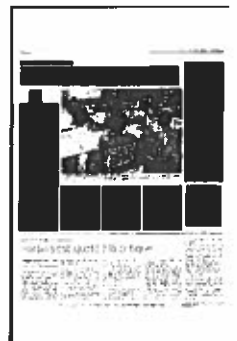
Le ministre de l'Éducation Sébastien Proulx a prévu compenser les commissions scolaires avec une subvention récurrente de 670 millions \$ financée à même les surplus budgétaires accumulés par le gouvernement.

La Commission scolaire des Hauts-Cantons regroupe la MRC de Coaticook et une bonne partie du Granit et du Haut-Saint-François tandis que celle des Sommets couvre les MRC des Sources, de Memphrémagog et du Val-Saint-François.

Taux actuel de la taxe scolaire

(PAR 100 \$ D'ÉVALUATION FONCIÈRE)

Eastern Townships :	0,31 \$
CS des Hauts-Cantons :	0,31 \$
CS de la Région-de-Sherbrooke :	0,29 \$
CS des Sommets :	0,18 \$



Lampe Foundation scholarship and bursary recipients

The Lampe Foundation recently held its annual fall awards ceremony. The event took place on Thursday, Dec. 7 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Lennoxville. Each year, the non-profit community organization supports the education of students from the Eastern Townships by providing financial assistance through a variety of scholarships and bursaries.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE LAMPE FOUNDATION AND SHEILA MCLEAN
Angelica Chenard Tillotson/Lampe Health Scholarship 2017 winner



Carolyn Fauteux and Marie Soleil Larouche who were given Lampe/Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation Health awards



Savio Habash, Lampe SHF Scholarship winner.



Kathleen Weary and Emily Young were presented with the CFJW Sherbrooke and District 2017 Commemorative awards. The award was in honour of Thelma Pitman. Her family, daughter Karen, son Neil and grandson Charles joined us to congratulate Kathleen and Emily



Alesha Grimes was presented the first Lampe/Phelps Helps award. Clea Corman and Jayme Marrotte joined Carol Mooney and Heather Bowman to congratulate Alesha.



2017 Lennoxville Vocational Training Center Health Sector award winners. Rachel Robillard, Vanessa Paxton, Jessica McMorine, Krystal Patterson, Chela De Lafontaine



Stephanie Taylor, Ashley Symes, Daphnee Carrier. Lampe Donna Draper Scholarships 2017

ABOUT TOWNSHIPERS'

Community Partnerships for Success: New bilingual employability program starting in January

Campus Brome-Missisquoi (CBM), in partnership with Emploi-Québec, is launching a new bilingual employability program for people aged 16 and older who are looking for an opportunity to gain employment skills and to explore trades that are in high demand in our region.

"The ideal candidate for this program is someone who is motivated to find a job doing something they enjoy. Someone who is open to exploring new trades, who wants to make a positive change in their life and who is ready to accept some help and advice to achieve their goals," says Social and Vocational Integration (SVI) Program Development Agent Stéphane Larocque.

"If you have been away from the job market for a year or more, you may be eligible to receive financial support during the training," says Pierre Morin, CBM's centre director. "We are offering this employability program because it creates a link between our general and vocational training programs and the job market."

This 16-week employability program starts January 29, 2018, giving both English and French speaking participants an opportunity to develop the skills needed to find and maintain employment. Students learn about the regional job market and gain hands-on experience in four



CAMPUS BROME-MISSISQUOI

A new employment program from Campus Brome-Missisquoi and Emploi-Québec is being launched in the new year to give people training in in-demand trades in the region.

vocational education programs: Retail Butchery, Welding and Fitting, Customer Service, and Production Equipment Operations. In addition, participants are guided in developing a personalized action plan for their future projects.

Building on employment and life

skills learned in the classroom, students receive supervised, on-the-job training from local businesses and community organizations.

"In my many years of experience with local businesses, I know that employers are looking for people who enjoy



working for their company, who can work in a team, and have a willingness to learn," says Larocque.

Campus Brome-Missisquoi offers both English and French general adult education programs as well as many vocational education programs in both languages, making it an ideal setting for students of the employability program who may wish to continue their studies before reintegrating the job market.

"This program is about living successes and building on them...giving students a framework for evaluating their needs, developing their skills and gaining valuable work experience that will help take them to the next step on their career path," adds Sonia Baillon, SVI pro-

gram teacher.

For more information or to register please contact Campus Brome-Missisquoi at 450-263-7901 or visit <http://adultedcbm.etsb.qc.ca/>.

For more on Townshippers' Association and our activities, keep reading this column in the Brome County News and visit our website www.Townshippers.org. You can also follow us on Twitter @Townshippers and Facebook.com/Townshippers. Connect with Townshippers' offices in Sherbrooke at 100 - 257 Queen, 819-566-5717, toll-free: 1-866-566-5717, or Lac-Brome at 3-584 Knowlton Rd, 450-242-4421, toll-free: 1-877-242-4421.

Les anglophones expriment leurs besoins

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DANVILLE — Les anglophones de l'Estrie veulent que le gouvernement du Québec tienne compte de leur réalité lorsqu'il est question d'investir en santé, en éducation et dans la création d'emplois.

Ces préoccupations ont été au centre des discussions qui se sont tenues jeudi midi, à Danville, dans le cadre d'une table ronde impliquant des membres de l'Association des Townshippers, la ministre responsable des Relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglophone, Kathleen Weil, ainsi que

la députée de Richmond, Karine Vallières.

Lors de cette rencontre, qui s'inscrit dans le cadre de la tournée qu'effectue la ministre Weil auprès des communautés anglophones du Québec, le président des Townshippers, Gerald Cuttings a rappelé que la santé, l'éducation et l'emploi faisaient partie des principales préoccupations soulevées dans un sondage mené auprès des quelque 1500 membres de cette organisation, fondée il y a 36 ans.

En matière de services de santé, M. Cuttings a souligné que la communauté anglophone des Cantons de l'Est est majoritairement composée de personnes âgées et



Accompagnée de la députée de Richmond, Karine Vallières, la ministre Kathleen Weil a rencontré des membres de la communauté anglophone, jeudi, au marché public *La mante* du carré de Danville. — SPÉCFRE MÉDIA MAXIME PICARD

LA TRIBUNE, Dec 15, 2017

que, de ce fait, l'accès aux soins de santé en anglais devient de plus en plus préoccupant.

« Une des pistes de solution qu'on a déjà présentée au ministre (Gaétan) Barrette a été de créer, dans chaque établissement de santé, un comité chargé de s'assurer que les services sont disponibles (en anglais). Le ministre nous a dit qu'il était d'accord avec cette idée, mais on attend toujours... », a déploré M. Cuttings.

M. Cuttings s'est aussi dit préoccupé par l'exode massif des jeunes anglophones, souvent diplômés, qui ne parviennent pas à trouver un emploi correspondant à leurs

aspirations dans la région.

« Il faut faire quelque chose pour retenir nos jeunes ici », a réclamé M. Cuttings. Une des façons d'y arriver, dit-il, serait de s'inspirer du concept « affirmative action » développé aux États-Unis à l'égard des travailleurs étrangers.

« Si le niveau de bilinguisme d'un travailleur anglophone n'est pas suffisant, il devrait exister un programme qui permet de maintenir la personne au travail tout en lui permettant de perfectionner son français », a précisé M. Cuttings, en voyant dans cette approche une façon

de lutter contre la pénurie de main-d'œuvre.

La ministre Weil a indiqué que cette tournée avait pour but d'aller directement à la rencontre des communautés anglophones disséminées sur tout le territoire québécois et ce, avant la grande consultation officielle, prévue en 2018.

« Ce que je constate, c'est que plusieurs thèmes reviennent dans toutes les régions. Le fait que la masse critique ne soit pas assez importante fait en sorte que les programmes ne sont pas adaptés aux besoins », notamment en matière d'employabilité.

Weil returns to the Townships promising consultations early next year



GORDON LAMBIE

Kathleen Weil and Karine Vallieres met with student council members and other representatives of the ETSB as a part of her visit to Richmond Regional High School yesterday.

By Gordon Lambie

Touring the Richmond riding on Thursday morning on her second trip to the Eastern Townships as Minister responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebeckers, Kathleen Weil highlighted the fact that the

province-wide consultations on the needs of the English speaking community will be getting started at the end of January 2018.

Weil returned to the Eastern Townships to visit with institutions and community organizations in Richmond riding having previously concentrated

her focus in the Lennoxville and Stanstead areas. Over the course of the day she stopped into the Wales Home, Richmond Regional High School (RRHS), the Mante du Carré public market in Danville, and ADS Elementary School to

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Weil returns to the Townships

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visit with a wide range of community groups and local institutions.

During the morning visit to Richmond Regional, Weil heard from Special Education Advisory Committee chair Cindy Veronneau about the need for more special needs resources in the English system as well as Eastern Townships School Board Chairman Michael Murray and RRHS Principal Kirk Robinson about other needs at various levels within local English schools. The minister was also given a presentation by Student Council executive members Jessica Coddington, Megan Oakley, Anne Laberge, Amelia Yetter, Alycia Chabot, and Jeremie Girard as well as their supervising teacher, Laurie Hannan. The student council offered the minister perspectives on the importance of community engagement within the school environment.

Invited back for a more in-depth visit with the rest of the student body, Weil expressed great enthusiasm about the idea.

Following the school visit, Weil and Richmond MNA Karine Vallieres at-

tended a round-table lunch event with representatives of a wide range of local community groups including the Townshippers' Association, Youth employment services, Literacy in Action, the ETSB, local historical societies, and several local municipalities. Each group was invited, in turn, to present their concerns to the minister to help present as broad a portrait as possible of the needs of the English community prior to the start of the consultations next year.

Stamsted Journal, Dec. 12, 2017

Christmas Concert Saturday

Galt's winter play will warm hearts



photo Jennifer Taylor Lord

Victoria Vanier, Lennoxville

The touching coming-of-age story about a young teenage girl who goes on a quest to meet the recipient of her brother's organ donation, "Searching for David's Heart", written by Cherie Bennett, is coming to the Alexander Galt High

From the play's first scene we see **Evan Andrews** (left) and **Evangelina Sheppard**.

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A coming-of-age Christmas Tale

School stage for three nightly performances, beginning Thursday evening. What's surprising about this year's Galt Drama winter play is that the complicated and nuanced roles of the play's main characters will be brought to life by some of the school's youngest members: three level one students.

Darcy Deeton is a twelve year-old girl who feels responsible for the death of her brother, David, in a car accident. In an attempt to find some closure over her brother's tragic death, she sets off on an adventure with her best friend to find the recipient of his heart. Evangelina Sheppard, of Lennoxville, is the level one student who will be playing Darcy Deeton. "It's my first real experience of being in a play," said Evangelina who was taking a short break from the nightly rehearsal for an interview with the Stanstead Journal. Speaking about her role, she commented: "I can't really relate to what she's going through, but our personalities are similar. And I like to act as her because she can be very dramatic. What's really challenging is staying in character when something funny in the play happens." Evangelina, who loves singing and acting, is enrolled in Galt's Performing Arts Concentration.

Gregory Ryan, who lives in Waterville and Huntingville, is also in his first year of high school and enrolled in the Performing Arts Concentration. He has enjoyed acting for a few years, appearing in a play when he was attending Lennoxville Elementary School and going to theatre camp at The Piggery. In this play he is in the role of Winston Pawling, the boy who received David's donated heart. "Winston is very dramatic and sad, but happy to be alive. I like that it's a dramatic role because I've done

mostly comedies, so it's a challenge for me to make my emotions sadder and realistic," added Gregory.

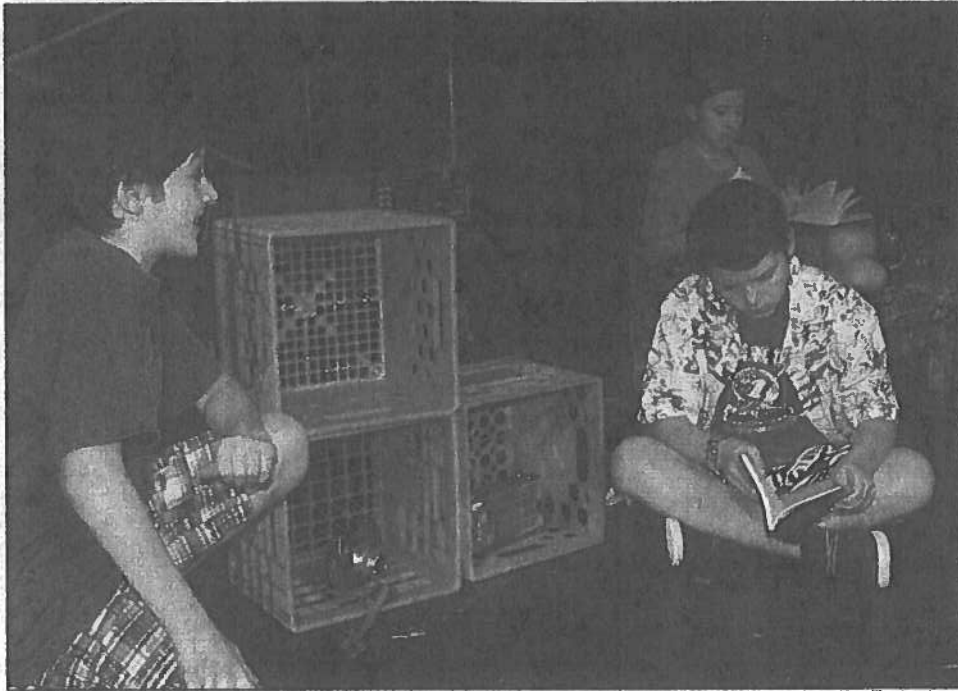
Evan Andrews, a level one student from Lennoxville, has taken on the role of Darcy Deeton's best friend, Sam Weiss, who goes on the adventure with Darcy to find David's heart. Evan has attended many plays but it is the first time that he has acted in one. "I take a Drama course but I am in the Science Concentration Program here at Galt," said Evan during his rehearsal break. "I'm like the comedy relief in the play although he is sometimes dramatic too. I like that I get to be funny because I can be myself; that's what I'm like." The challenge for Evan has been remembering all of his lines. "I wasn't expecting that many lines. Besides all the rehearsals, I read my lines every night before bed!"

Although taking part in the school play experience can be very time-consuming, all three young actors can see the benefits. "It has helped me to keep my life organized. I dedicate a lot of time to it but it's fun!" said Evangelina. "It has taught me to be less shy around others and to be more social," admitted Evan. "I've made lots of new friends from being in the play and it's lots of fun," added Gregory.

Besides being described as a heart-warming "Christmas Story", the play is also a quiet reminder of the importance of organ donations.

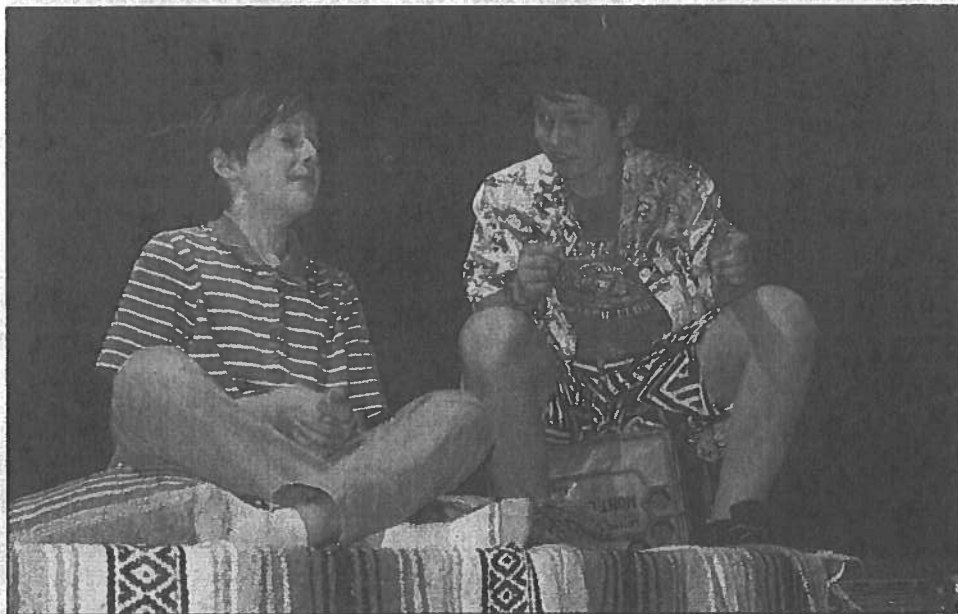
"Searching for David's Heart" will be presented in the Alexander Galt High School auditorium on December 14th, 15th and 16th, beginning at 7:30 pm each night.

Tickets can be bought at the door or reserved by calling the school at 819 563-0770, extension 22056.



photos Jennifer Taylor Lord

At the left is **Gregory Ryan** as Winston Pawling, with **Evan Andrews** as Sam Weiss and **Evangeline Sheppard** as Darcy Deeton, in back.



Gregory Ryan (left) and **Evan Andrews** during the rehearsal of "Searching for David's Heart".