Request for Exemption from Ministerial Exams

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, / To Whom It May Concern:

Our child (or children), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is (are) currently homeschooling at a \_\_\_\_\_(grade level) signifying he/she will be required to take the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(subject) exam(s) instituted by Quebec’s Ministry of Education.

We are writing to appeal for exemption from the Ministry examination process on the grounds of inequitable application of exam procedure for children who are home-educated. For the reasons listed below, we feel it is in the best interest of the home-educated child to be granted exemption from Ministerial exams until round table discussions have been reinstituted, and a reasonable agreement can be achieved by the Ministry of Education, the DEM ***and*** homeschooling representatives.

Insufficient support for parent-educators

* As the Ministry of Education has yet to define uniform guidelines related to exam procedure, the school service centres which have jurisdiction over homeschooling families vary significantly in their protocol. School Service Centres currently offer home-educated children a single familiarization session just weeks prior to the Ministerial exam. In many cases, parent-educators are prohibited from attending, and children are forbidden from taking notes. The parent-educator remains uninformed, and the student is burdened with identifying exam requirements without personalized guidance.
* Parent-educators have not been supplied with preparatory material equivalent to that which is available to school educators. Per s. 19 of the Homeschooling Regulation, the Ministry must supply preparatory documents for Ministerial exams, yet the existing Guide for Parents as an unaccompanied resource is inadequate for preparing our children for the exams.

Unequal access to information pertaining to Ministerial exams

* If homeschooled students are required to achieve the same academic objectives as their school-attending counterparts, and they are to be tested on this knowledge, there must be equal access to information pertaining to evaluation content and procedure.
* If homeschooled students are required to write Ministerial exams, there must be equal access to support services and exam preparation as those which are available to school students.

Same exam, different application of procedure and grading.

* If homeschooled students are required to write Ministry exams, the exams should be administered in an environment which relates to the child’s habitual learning environment: a neutral environment or a location which is deemed appropriate by governing officials AND by the parent-educator.
* If homeschooled students are required to write Ministry exams, the students should have equal access to the same grading procedure which is afforded to school students. Equivalent to the school student, the homeschooled student should have the option of weighting their Ministry exam marks with work they have completed throughout the year.

**We advocate for Ministerial exams to remain optional for home-educated students.** We feel exemption from Ministerial exams is justified until the following conditions have been fulfilled:

* Improved support from the Ministry of Education and School Service Centres
* The Ministry to define uniform protocol to all School Service Centres
* Attendance of parent-educators at Ministerial exam information sessions
* Provide homeschoolers with exam preparatory resources equivalent to those offered in a school setting
* Option of weighting Ministerial exam marks, equal to the grading procedure applied in a school setting
* Ministerial exams to be administered in a safe and familiar environment for home-educated students

Sincerely/ Regards/ Respectfully,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)