

## Society's Choice

### Government guidelines

- Following a debate on the place of religion in the school which took place more particularly within the framework of a special parliamentary commission, the Government of Québec provided guidelines on the subject. Thus, a provision was made to replace Catholic pastoral and Protestant religious animation with a common service called Spiritual Care and Guidance and Community Involvement.<sup>1</sup>

### The Education Act

- As a result of these government guidelines, the *Education Act* was amended by Bill 118. Three main sections are linked to the Spiritual Care and Guidance and Community Involvement Service:
  - Students other than those enrolled in vocational training or adult education are **entitled to complementary services** of spiritual care and guidance and community involvement. (EA, s. 6)
  - Every school board shall **ensure that schools offer** to all students complementary services for spiritual care and guidance and community involvement. (EA, s. 226)
  - A school shall, in particular, **facilitate the spiritual development** of students so as to promote self-fulfilment. (EA, s. 36)

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<sup>1</sup> Québec, Ministère de l'Éducation, *Québec's Public Schools: Responding to the Diversity of Moral and Religious Expectations* (Québec: Gouvernement du Québec, 2000), p. 14-15 (49-1319-01A).