

“The consensus is that our system teaches French as well as either of the Catholic or Protestant systems in Montreal.”

The discipline in the schools is firm, because that is what Greek parents want for their children. We expect students to be well-behaved and well dressed, and we are supported by the entire community in maintaining these standards.

As a result of our success, two things have now happened which provide opportunities for other ethnic communities across. First of all, the Quebec government has granted us status as an ‘associate system’ on equal footing with the Catholic and Protestant systems. Secondly, other communities—Jewish, Armenian, and Hungarian—have created similar schools based upon our experience, and have been granted similar status as associate systems. Our model has been studied throughout the Montreal area, and I have personally spoken to groups throughout the country about our methods and success. The Greek community in Toronto, with our assistance, has created a similar educational system.

“We are a multicultural country, but this fact is not reflected in the ruling structures of Canada.”

For me, all of this leads to a more equal footing for minority people in Canada. Right now, more than 30% of the population is outside of the French and English majority cultures. We are a multicultural country, but this fact is not reflected in the ruling structures of Canada. In the Crown corporations, boards, directorates, senior government circles, you see very few ethnic persons. If they are there, too often they are tokens who do not represent their communities. These groups of people rule the country, and they must now open their doors to a large portion of the population who have been systematically denied access. That is the goal of our educational system, to continually educate our Greek children so that they are equal and superior in the skills needed for leadership in Canada. We are doing our part, and now the business and government leaders in the country must change their thinking, so that educated Greeks and other minorities can truly contribute what they have to offer.

