

Senator Fournier: You have French and English?

Mr. Wilson: As you see on the sheet, the mother language, 55 per cent French, 33 per cent English, but the official language is 30 per cent French and 33 per cent English and 34 per cent bilingual. On the next page you can see the education statistics and the employment and the unemployment.

Senator Fournier: You mentioned about the frustrations of the children going to school. I quite agree with that. I believe possibly the parents have a large effect on the frustrations of the children and the conditions under which they live. I think you defined it very well.

Mr. Rosenfeld: We have to realize that it is a two-way street and that we can't really blame the parents in the community. Some of the problems lie with the attitude of the parents towards education. This system itself is not geared towards the children in the community. Far too often when we try to look for a fault as to why something is not working, we tend to blame the individual rather than the system. For example, in medical services you find that people will say that people in the community, for instance, Pointe St. Charles, can't come to the hospital. They do not say that the hospital has not come to them.

It is the same process in the schools. You can say that the people have not come to the schools, but the schools have not really reached out to children either.

Senator Fournier: What can we do to overcome that situation? Let us talk about the schools. I will leave the medical part to the doctors. What would you do to overcome the problems in the schools?

Mr. Rosenfeld: I do not think you can have a simple solution. Like I said before, it has to be done across the board. It has to start with pre-school education. It has to in all phases involve parents as actively as possible. In our pre-school we are trying, although we have not been entirely successful, to have parents from the community form the major part of the staff. On the French side, I am told, we have had better luck.

Madame St. Aubin: In the French school it used to be very bad, and a group of people got together and really worked on it. They had an awful lot of trouble, but now our schools are getting much better, starting in the very small classes. We are waiting for the schools to provide the higher grades, because now we have to send the children to St. Henri after the ninth grade. That is why most children leave school. If they have to

go to St. Henri it costs the parents much more money, and the children get discouraged because it makes a very long day for them.

Senator Fournier: Are St. Henri and Pointe St. Charles adjoining districts?

Madame St. Aubin: Yes, but the connecting bus service is very bad.

Senator Fournier: They are two adjoining districts.

Madame St. Aubin: Yes.

Senator Fournier: Is the French population of children more than the English population?

Madame St. Aubin: Yes.

Senator McGrand: How many medical students have you involved in this program—I mean senior medical students who have a chance to get some clinical knowledge of people in this condition?

Mr. Wilson: Would you like it over the two years?

Senator McGrand: At the present time how many people are involved?

Mr. Wilson: At the present time there are three students on elective at this clinic. Elective means one-quarter of your school year where you can do anything you want. This is what McGill does as part of its education. Also, there were four or five students working there during last summer who were paid by the university.

Senator McGrand: Do I understand that the McGill medical students have one semester elective to do as they like, and you have two or three of them?

Mr. Wilson: Two or three from one class this year who decided to work down at the clinic.

Senator McGrand: What proportion of the class would that be—1 per cent, 10 per cent?

Mr. Wilson: There are also students who work down there at night, they work one night every two weeks for the whole year, so I guess you could say that they were involved in the whole concept of the clinic as well. It comes out to about 10 per cent of the class.

Senator Inman: This is a very informative brief we have before us. I am interested to know whether there are any welfare recipients on your board?