

## **AQ Dismayed that OLF would Fine Municipalities for Having Generic English Word on Street Signs**

**Montreal, Thursday, March 1, 2001** – Alliance Quebec was dismayed to learn that the *Commission de la protection de la langue française* has taken policing the English-language to an unprecedented level and fined Montreal, Beaconsfield and Pointe-Claire for having generic English-language words on street signs.

“I cannot fathom that so much time, energy and resources would be wasted in this manner when our government should be focusing its attentions on improving our health care system and ensuring that our children are provided with the best possible education,” said Alliance Quebec Vice President Stephen Schenke.

Schenke also expressed his disappointment that the *Commission de la protection de la langue française* would demand that the city of Cote St. Luc justify the use of English language street names in the municipality.

“Over the years the English-speaking community has built an impressive array of institutions - hospitals, social service agencies, schools, libraries and universities, which not only serve our community but contribute to the larger Quebec and Canadian society,” continued Schenke. “Naturally it follows that our community’s contributions are acknowledged and reflected in various ways throughout the province. In this particular instance, in street signs. You would think that in an international city like Montreal, the present government would allow some type of latitude to reflect the cultural mosaic of this city.”

“Today, it would seem the PQ government is determined to erase every trace of our communities’ contribution to the history, growth and development of our province,” concluded Schenke.

Alliance Quebec is committed to the preservation and enhancement of the English-speaking communities and its institutions within Quebec.