



From left to right: Alliance Past-President Eric Maldoff; Alliance Executive Committee member Anne Usher and Léo LéTourneau, Past President of the FFHQ (Fédération des francophones hors Québec).

Linguistic minorities meet

The Minorities: Time for Solutions, a conference sponsored by the Commissioner of Official Languages, brought members of Canada's two linguistic minorities together in a formal setting for the first time.

English-speaking Quebecers and Francophones from outside Quebec met in Ottawa, October 17-19 to, in the words of the Commissioner of Official Languages, D'Iberville Fortier, "exchange practical but imaginative ideas and to undertake some basic planning."

Gilles Leblanc, President of the Fédération des Francophones hors Québec (FFHQ) and Michael Goldbloom, President of Alliance Quebec delivered the key note speeches on Friday night. (See pages 4 and 5 for excerpts from Mr. Goldbloom's speech).

The next two days were devoted to workshops and panel discussions on such topics as "an integrated approach to federal programs for the minorities"; "the provinces and the private sector"; "economic development"; "judicial guarantees"; "organizing and influencing".

Members of Alliance Quebec who participated in the panel discussions included past President, Eric Maldoff; off-island Vice-President, Royal Orr; past President of the Townshippers Association and Vice-President of the Alliance, Marjorie Goodfellow and Alliance board member and Health and Social Services Committee member, Joe Borgo. Other Quebecers who spoke to the conference included the M.N.A. for Argenteuil, Claude Ryan; McGill Law Professor and Alliance Quebec's Legal Council in the Manitoba Reference Case, Stephen Scott; The Gazette editorial page Editor, Joan Fraser; the Quebec Minister of Cultural Communities, Elie Fallu; and Gérard Pelletier who, as Secretary of State in 1969, piloted the Official Languages Act through Parliament.

The conference provided an opportunity for the various French-speaking communities outside Quebec and the representatives of the English-speaking Quebec communities to share experiences. In one workshop, the Vice-President of Alliance Quebec, Marjorie Goodfellow, described some of the economic development initiatives under-

taken by the Townshippers, including: job search seminars for young people; lobbying the federal government for more job opportunities in the region for English-speaking people; development of the tourism potential of the area and encouragement of small business.

In the same workshop, Pierre Laporte, President of the Fédération des Franco-Colombiens, described that community's efforts to build a co-ordinated economic and political base for French-speaking British Columbians. The Fédération has started publishing an annual directory of French-speaking professionals and businessmen. They expect the directory to double its listings in 1986. Community centres have been established in Kelowna and Prince George. Plans are underway for other centres in Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo. The Fédération des Franco-Colombiens is also actively supporting the Société d'Habitation La Vérendrye which is currently undertaking a housing project in the Vancouver area. Fifty of the homes have already been pre-sold. The Fédération has also undertaken a lobbying strategy to point out to the government and the private sector in British Columbia that "the Franco-Columbians are an important 400 million-dollar-a-year market", said Mr. Lapointe.

Ben Samson of the Fédération Acadienne de la Nouvelle-Ecosse (FANE) described that community's 10-year lobbying effort to obtain a Radio-Canada radio station in Halifax. A station was promised for September 1985, but it has now been delayed indefinitely because of the recent budget cuts to CBC/Radio-Canada.

He also described FANE's efforts to

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AQ presents election concerns

Alliance Quebec launched a province-wide effort November 13 by the English-speaking community to meet with the candidates from the major political parties in every region of the Province.

"Our goal is that on December 2, there will be 122 men and women elected to the National Assembly who have met with representatives of the English-speaking community in their area and who have an understanding of the preoccupations of our community", said President Michael Goldbloom.

"We have a number of specific issues that we intend to raise with the candidates but more importantly, we see the election campaign as an occasion to begin a constructive dialogue with the local members and to acquaint them with the diverse nature and character of the English-speaking community", he said.

The following is the full text of the document, entitled "Concerns of the English-Speaking community", prepared in consultation with all Alliance Quebec chapters and regional associations, which will serve as a reference point for discussions:

Election periods provide an important opportunity for constituents to inform their local candidates of their needs and concerns. This is the first opportunity for the English-speaking community, through Alliance Quebec, to make its views known in a concerted and coordinated manner during an election campaign. Like all Quebecers, our concerns and aspirations are both local and provincial in nature.

Our two linguistic communities are currently rewriting the social contract which binds them and a sense of solidarity on language issues has begun to emerge. Quebecers know that it is false to claim that measures designed to guarantee the rights of English-speaking Quebecers are a strike against the rights of French-speaking Quebecers. We have come to understand that minority rights are not a zero-sum game in which recognition of the rights of one entails the loss of rights for the other.

Over the past few years the climate of confrontation and aggressiveness regarding language in Quebec has dissipated and has been replaced, more and more,

with sensitivity and dialogue. The fragility of the French-speaking community of Quebec within the North American context is not a subject of debate nor should the need to ensure a viable and flourishing English-speaking community within Quebec. Quebecers realize that these goals are important and compatible.

The English-speaking community of Quebec has played an important role in the development of our province and of its various regions. We are an integral part of what makes Quebec a unique society within Canada. A large part of Quebec's distinctiveness stems from the fact that it is the only province in which the majority of the citizens are French-speaking. But a concomitant of that social reality is that Quebec is the only province in which there is an English-speaking minority community. We too are thus part of the unique linguistic entity that is Quebec.

We are committed to participating in Quebec society as a whole and we are determined to do our share in helping to develop the Quebec of tomorrow.

The over 800,000 members of the English-speaking community in Quebec can be found across this province. We are farmers, fishermen, managers, blue and white collar workers. The myths about our community must be dispelled and our reality understood. Many of us have played an important role in the development of the economic sector of our province. But many members of our community are also found among the most disadvantaged. A recent study by the Surfacing the Poor Research Collective indicated that 17% of all English mother tongue Montrealers, approximately 86,800 English-speaking persons, live below the poverty level as established by Statistics Canada. The percentage figure is only slightly lower than the figure for French-speaking persons living in Montreal. Similar parallels can be found off the island of Montreal as well. The English-speaking community of Quebec is neither an ethnic group nor a cultural community. It is a multicultural and multiracial linguistic community whose members can trace their roots back to all parts of the world.

Turn to page 11 for full text.

INSIDE

Discover local history and learn how AQ chapters and associations are busy tracing their roots. AQ also launches its own special Local History Contest. See page 15

There is an innovative new program in Montreal for youth in search of work.

Former AQ staff member Graham Weeks is directing the YMCA's Job Generation Program. Story on page 10.

A highly successful community development project has been operating on the Gaspé coast for the last three years. For the story on the Gaspé auction, turn to page 14.

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AQ PROVINCIAL NEWS

«Moving Ahead» theme of AQ seminar

Some 175 representatives of Alliance Quebec's 21 chapters and regional associations across the province met in Montreal November 1-2 to attend a special Community Development and Programmes Seminar.

The Seminar, under the theme *Moving Ahead*, featured special presentations by senior Alliance volunteers on election strategies and national issues, as well as workshops focussing on both programme issues and skills development at the local community level.

The seminar also featured special guest speaker Robert Layton, federal Minister of Mines and Minister responsible for English-Speaking Quebec. Mr. Layton spoke of the need for renewed commitment to the dual cause of multiculturalism and official bilingualism at the national level. He indicated that his office continues to seek input and feedback from the Alliance on issues of concern.

In his opening remarks Friday evening on "The Role of Alliance Quebec during a Provincial Election Campaign", AQ President Michael Goldbloom identified key provincial election issues of concern to all English-speaking Quebecers. Seminar participants then broke up into workshops examining "Strategies and

Approaches for Lobbying Candidates at a Local Level." (see story on page 1 of this issue).

On Saturday morning, workshops provided participants with useful information and strategies for dealing with issues at the local level. The workshops focussed on five key programme areas: Health and Social Services, Government Services, Education, Business & Employment, and Communications.

Participants in the Health and Social Services workshop were given an overview of the provincial decision-making structures which have a direct impact on health and social service delivery at the local level. They were also briefed on the importance of participating in regional public consultations which will determine structures and mechanisms for delivery of social services across the province.

The Government Services workshop identified needs and strategies at the local level for securing government services in English and for ensuring local representation of the English-speaking community in the municipal, provincial and federal public service.

The Education workshop dealt with key issues raised in the preliminary discussion paper of "The Estates

General on the Quality of Education", a spring conference which will bring together parents, school boards, teachers, administrators and community groups to formulate recommendations on improvements to the school system in Quebec.

The Business and Employment workshop outlined approaches for organizing career days/nights in high schools at the chapter and association level. Such initiatives are encouraged as a means of enhancing the role of the Alliance at the community level and responding to the important area of concern which is youth employment.

The Communications workshop assisted participants in identifying strategies for raising the profile of their chapter or association at the local community level.

Afternoon workshops focussed on skills development and featured such topics as: "Being an Effective Board Member of a Public Institution", "Youth Issues and Involvement", "Effective Meeting Skills", "Creative Grantsmanship", "Strategizing Around an Issue", and "The Role of Alliance Quebec in the Upcoming School Board Elections".

At the concluding plenary, Michael Goldbloom emphasized the need for a common denominator of language rights for official language minority communities at the national level and stressed the special role of the Alliance in advocating linguistic justice in this country.

Le guide des aînés - translation please!

In 1984, the Quebec Government published an information guide of services for senior citizens entitled, "Le Guide des Aînés". The guide contains a wealth of information on a wide variety of subjects, including: health services, money matters, legal rights, employment, education, leisure activities, housing, insurance, and transportation. It is also a useful reference guide to government and community services for the elderly.

At present, the guide is available only in French. The Ministry of Communications has indicated that they have no plans to publish an English guide outlining services available to English-speaking senior citizens in Quebec.

Alliance Quebec is concerned that English-speaking senior citizens are being deprived of an important source of information. These citizens have made significant contributions to Quebec society; it is only just that they should benefit from such government information publications.

Officials from the Ministry of Communications cite a lack of demand as a justification for not making the guide available in English. The Ministry highlights the fact that in 1983, they published five thousand (5,000) copies of "Le Guide des Citoyens" in English and they were only able to sell approximately 793 copies. It is their belief that the same would happen with a publication such as "Le Guide des Aînés".

We cannot allow the government to ignore the fact that 15% of Quebec's senior citizens speak English as their mother tongue. It is the provincial government's responsibility to educate these citizens and to make the entire population aware of government services.

Alliance Quebec has embarked on an awareness and letter-writing campaign aimed at informing senior citizens of the existence of the guide. We are encouraging chapters, associations and senior citizen groups within the community to pressure the government to publish an English version of "Le Guide des Aînés."

This campaign was initiated by the Alliance's newly established Government Services Programme. The programme has been created to lobby for increased changes from the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government in the following areas: access to services, access to documentation, and

access to civil service employment for members of the English-speaking community.

It is only with your support that we can realize our objectives to improve government services and to publicize the existence of compendiums such as "Le Guide des Aînés" in English.

If you share our concerns that "Le guide des aînés" should be available in English, we urge you to make your views known in writing to: M. Claude Lecavalier, Director of Marketing, Government Publications, Ministry of Communications, 1283 ouest, blvd. Charest, Québec, Qc., H1N 2C9.



AQ PROVINCIAL NEWS

H&SS update

Throughout the past year, Alliance Quebec has coordinated a community and institutional effort to sensitize social affairs planners to the needs of the English-speaking community.

The effort is focussed on the need for legislative guarantees of access to English-language health and social services throughout the province and of the continued existence of the network of English-language health and social service institutions that have traditionally served our community.

The Alliance has met on several occasions with Health and Social Services Minister Guy Chevrette, to express our concerns. The local health and social services committees have been active in discussing the issues of access to English-language services with the various institutions and regional councils in their areas.

Public opinion overwhelmingly supports the Alliance Quebec position in this issue, as shown by numerous polls conducted on behalf of the Alliance. As well, over 340 municipalities, community groups, schools, churches, institutions and professional associations across the province have voiced their concerns by sending in resolutions demanding legislative guarantees of English-language health and social service institutions.

Robert Bourassa and the Quebec Liberal Party have stated clearly that a Liberal government will guarantee English-language health and social services as well as the continued existence in law of the network of institutions that service our community.

Pierre-Marc Johnson and the Parti Québécois have recently stated their belief that English-speaking people should have the right to access to English-language health and social services guaranteed in law. However, they have not given the same support to the continued existence of the network of English-language health and social service institutions.

Therefore, the issue has advanced a great deal and progress has been made but it is far from resolved. Some examples of cases that Alliance Quebec is involved with illustrate the need for these legislative guarantees. Three English-language elementary schools in Boucherville, Morin Heights and Ste. Adèle have been assigned unilingual French-speaking nurses by their local CLSCs. The only English-language senior citizens home in Gaspé, St. Mary's boarding home, in Ste. Jules de Pascapedia, faces shutdown. If the home closes, residents will be transferred to "centres d'accueils" which offer no guarantee of services in English. For two-and-a-half years, administrators of Philemon Wright High School in Hull have been asking for an English-speaking social worker, to no avail.

In the South Shore area of Montreal, 200 out of 500 social service workers at Richelieu Social Service Centre have been transferred to CLSCs which have no legal obligation to provide services in English.

Ville Marie Social Service Centre, which has had a special mandate to provide services to English-speaking citizens, is facing the same situation.

In its attempts to standardize social service delivery across the province, the

Government has failed to recognize the network of English-language institutions already serving the English-speaking community. It has not guaranteed availability of services in English throughout the social services network. The government has not adequately considered the importance of language in the delivery of health and social services.

The issue to the Alliance is more than the transfer of budgets and staff from certain institutions to others. Primarily, it is the fact that this major reorganization of the social affairs network is being carried out without adequate consideration of its effect on access to quality health and social services for English-speaking Quebecers. The Alliance believes that Quebec must have a social affairs network that is universally accessible to both French and English-speaking people.

A further dimension was added to this debate when the Quebec government mandated the Rochon Commission to study the question of access to English-language health and social services as well as the mandate of the existing network of institutions. The Rochon Commission was originally set up to study the financing and functioning of our social affairs network. Therefore, the studies and the recommendations of this commission will be extremely important to our community in the future.

Following the health and social services workshops at the November 1 & 2 provincial seminar, the local committees have committed themselves to presenting briefs to the Rochon Commission when it tours the various regions seeking consultation with community groups.

Alliance Quebec Chapter and Association representatives continue to meet the social affairs planners at the local level to monitor the availability of English-language services. They will come together again on January 10 and 11 to finalize their various positions, and the Alliance will present its findings to the Rochon Commission by January 31.



Frank Vetere

AQ President Michael Goldbloom confers with Mr. Lahiri, N.A.C.O.I. (National Association of Canadians with Origins in India); Norbert Pinto, CAN Orient Christian Association; Milton Winston, CHAI TV; and Dr. Muhammed Hedayetullah, "Image of Bangladesh" TV.

AQ hosts ethnic press breakfast

Alliance Quebec President Michael Goldbloom and senior staff and volunteers of the Alliance hosted a press breakfast for representatives of the cultural community media on Sat., October 26. About 30 members of the cultural media attended.

Mr. Goldbloom told the group that, "The English-speaking community of Quebec is multicultural, multiracial and, in many cases, multilingual."

"The Alliance is open to all English-speaking Quebecers, whatever their ethnic or cultural background", he said.

"The role of the Alliance is to be a forum where English-speaking Quebecers can come together on common linguistic concerns", he added.

The President of Alliance Quebec identified and reviewed key issues which are of vital concern for members of the English-speaking community, and indicated that, while the climate of tolerance has improved in Quebec in recent years, there are still serious challenges to be met.

In his concluding statements, Mr. Goldbloom stated: "We know that our success depends on being able to work out common positions among many individuals from many different backgrounds."

AQ attends AQREM general meeting



AQREM
AMRAQ

Alliance Quebec President Michael Goldbloom and off-island Vice-president Royal Orr met with the editors of the Quebec regional English-language media at the semi-annual meeting of A.Q.R.E.M. (Association of Quebec Regional English Media) held November 13-14 at Ile Perrot. The breakfast meeting was sponsored by Alliance Quebec.

Mr. Goldbloom discussed the issues the local leadership of the Alliance will be raising with candidates in the provincial election. He also discussed the future of the Alliance and the importance of the commitment to linguistic justice across Canada.

One of the highlights of the two-day meeting was the presentation of the Paul Dumont-Frenette awards for excellence in journalism. Third prize went to Shawn Murphy, a reporter for the *West Quebec Post*. Second prize went to Michael Benazon, a freelancer for the *Townships Sun*. And first prize went to Philip Norton, a freelancer for *The Gleaner*. Paul Dumont Frenette was a founding member of A.Q.R.E.M. and its first Executive Secretary.

The Minorities: Time for Solutions

The following are excerpts from a keynote address delivered by Alliance Quebec president Michael Goldbloom, October 17 in Ottawa, at the national colloquium of the Commissioner of Official Languages entitled, "The Minorities: Time for Solutions."

The conference in which we are about to participate offers a unique and refreshing approach to the issue of language rights in Canada. The subject is reform, and the perspective is that of the linguistic minorities — those of us who live the minority language experience from day to day.

The Commissioner's initiative bears not only mention but emulation, because any process of language reform, if it is ultimately to be meaningful and successful, must include the direct participation of both linguistic minority communities...

Our national identity is the product of our shared experiences and values within which the co-existence of our two linguistic communities and the continuing struggle for linguistic equality and justice have been dominant themes since long before the birth of our federation. That co-existence, which over the years has brought out both the worst and the best in us, is now an indelible feature of our nationhood. It serves to identify us to ourselves and to the world.

The co-existence of our two linguistic communities symbolizes the society of

freedom and tolerance, justice and compassion which we seek to build. An understanding and acceptance of our nation's duality can only engender greater respect for the rights of all minorities and for the ideal of an open, pluralistic society. Linguistic duality, therefore, far from being antithetical to a policy of multiculturalism, is a guarantor of pluralism and cultural diversity.

Moreover, it is important to recognize that both of Canada's linguistic communities, English-speaking and French-speaking, are now heterogeneous and multicultural in nature. One finds in both the English and French-speaking communities Canadians of different races, mother tongues, cultures and religions. Language, as opposed to race or culture, has become the common bond, the principal definitional characteristic of each of the linguistic communities. It is in this context that policies supporting Canada's linguistic duality may be advanced simultaneously with policies on multiculturalism. The former need not, indeed must not, detract from the latter.

To some extent, the perceived difficulties between linguistic duality and multiculturalism also stems from an inability to reconcile regional perspectives with a national view.

Regional demographics may well justify support for cultural communities and their heritage languages. Yet, at the same time, regional demographics must

not cause us to lose sight of our national vision. Too often we are unable to see beyond the boundaries of our respective provinces and regions. We are unable to see small and isolated minority language communities as integral parts of our national linguistic communities. We forget that whatever may be the dictates of regional demographics, we have in addition a national commitment, a commitment to respect and support the linguistic duality of Canada.

The reality of the constitutional division of powers in this country is such that much of what directly affects a minority language community falls within provincial jurisdiction — from education to the regulation of the workplace. This means that without the active involvement of the provincial governments in the promotion of our linguistic duality, our national ideal will remain no more than an unfulfilled promise...

The federal government's initiatives over the past 15 years have been a major first step towards revitalizing our linguistic duality and ensuring that it is a national, rather than a territorial reality. But those accomplishments remain no more than a foundation upon which we must urgently build. I say "urgently" because the linguistic minority communities are in jeopardy. French-speaking communities outside Quebec are running out of time. So, too, are an increasing number of rural communities

within English-speaking Quebec. If this is to be a time for solutions, we will require renewed and vigorous national leadership...

Our two linguistic communities are rewriting the social contract which binds them, and a sense of solidarity on language issues has begun to emerge. Quebecers know that it is false to claim that any measure designed to protect or guarantee the rights of English-speaking Quebecers is a strike against French-speaking Quebec. Respect for the legitimate rights of our community in no way impairs or diminishes the rights of French-speaking Quebecers. We have come to understand that minority rights are not a zero sum game in which recognition of the rights of one entails the loss of rights for the other...

There is, in short, within French-speaking Quebec a sense of confidence, a spirit of accommodation and a genuine commitment to co-existence with the English-speaking community.

The situation of English-speaking Quebecers is, of course, to some extent paradoxical. We are a linguistic minority community yet the majority community of Quebec is itself a linguistic minority within the Canadian context. We are thus, in a sense, a linguistic minority within a linguistic minority.

Although Quebec has always had an English-speaking population, it is only in recent times that English-speaking Quebecers have begun to develop a strong sense of community. Moreover, until recently, English-speaking Quebecers had generally perceived themselves, and had been perceived, as an extension of Canada's English-language majority. However, with the rapid development of provincial government activity in the early 1960's in the fields of education, health and social services, the workplace, industry and commerce, to name but a few, the self-perception of the English-speaking community began to evolve...

We are an essential part of what makes Quebec a unique society within Canada. A large part of Quebec's distinctiveness stems from the fact that it is the only province in which the majority of citizens are French-speaking. But a concomitant of that social reality is that Quebec is the only province in which there is found an English-speaking linguistic minority community. We too are thus a part of the unique linguistic entity which is Quebec...

The English-speaking community has undergone a turbulent process of evolution over a very brief period. Our rapid population decline has had major repercussions at all levels of our community. Our educational system is being seriously eroded by a rapid decline in enrolments and our health and social service institutions face reductions in their population base. Fewer people means fewer volunteers for a whole range of community based activities, from amateur theatre groups to minor hockey to hospital auxiliaries. The survival of many of these volunteer-supported activities is threatened by declining numbers, and it is precisely these institutions that makes up a large part of the fabric of life in our community...

The combination of these dem-

Commissioner's colloquium in Ottawa

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obtain bilingual services from the Government of Nova Scotia, particularly from the Ministries of Fisheries, Justice, Health and Social Services.

In the same workshop, Joe Borgo of Alliance Quebec described the on-going campaign in Quebec to obtain legislative guarantees for social services in English.

Besides sharing experiences, the delegates also shared ideas for solutions. Michel Bastarache of the University of Ottawa law faculty put forward a proposal for a permanent, co-ordinated, federal government approach to supporting the official language minorities. He pointed out that this could not be done through the Department of the Secretary of State alone, but must involve all government departments and agencies.

Alliance Quebec Off-island Vice-President, Royal Orr, pointed to some specific areas where the federal government could support and expand Canada's linguistic duality, including: better representation of the official language minority communities on government boards and commissions; more government advertising for the official language minority media; more support from agencies such as the Canada Council and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to the artists and scholars in the minority communities; and a requirement that federally chartered institutions such as banks and insurance companies should provide services in the minority language of the region and bilingual signage.

One of the most dynamic workshop discussions was that involving the past President of Alliance Quebec, Eric Maldoff and the past President of the Fédération des Francophones hors

Québec, Léo LeTourneau. The theme was "An integrated approach to involving the provinces and the private sector."

Mr. Maldoff and Mr. LeTourneau emphasized the need for a more co-ordinated approach by the federal government as an essential framework for enhancing Canada's linguistic duality and the importance of obtaining provincial government support. "Provincial governments must recognize the enormous responsibility they have towards the building of the national character and the maintenance of the unity of this country. I recall vividly the period preceding the referendum on independence in Quebec in 1980, the visits we received in Quebec from the Premiers of many of the other Canadian provinces. At that time, the Premiers expressed an urgent concern about the destiny of Canada and the need for Canadians to stay together. Clearly, the provinces are capable of understanding their responsibilities and responding in an urgent manner. It is essential that the provinces once again demonstrate the same urgency in ensuring that French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians may feel at home across this country and fulfilling the promises, expressed or implied, of 1980", said Mr. Maldoff.

He added, "Finally, the federal government is the ultimate custodian of the national soul: the federal government has the responsibility to look to the national interest. Progress on official languages in Canada will not occur without courage and leadership. However peaceful linguistic détente may appear to be, it cannot be anything other than a fertile breeding ground for intense frustration so long as profound

and legitimate grievances remain unaddressed and unanswered. It is within the means of the federal government to bring people together, to bring provincial representatives together and to bring representatives of industry together."

In the discussion that followed, the two past Presidents challenged the workshop participants to find new ways of promoting Canada's linguistic duality. The group emphasized the need for public awareness strategies to convince the majority community of the benefits of making "space" for the linguistic minorities. A great deal of time was devoted to defining an issue around which the two minority communities could collaborate, such as lobbying for bilingual service and signage from federally chartered institutions. It was agreed that municipal governments could be important allies, both in terms of direct provisions of services in the minority language and as a lobbying force with their respective provincial governments. The special role of the Quebec government in promoting linguistic duality across the country was emphasized. Participants called for the establishment of more regional offices of the Commissioner of Official Languages across the country. They recommended that the Standing Senate-Commons Committee on Official Languages should tour the country. The group also discussed ways of working with sympathetic groups in the majority community such as Canadian Parents for French.

The conference culminated with a common synthesis presented by Gilles LeBlanc of La Fédération des Francophones Hors Quebec, and Michael Goldbloom of Alliance Quebec.

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Les Minorités: Le Temps des Solutions

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nographic trends — a continued decline in population, increased aging, selective out-migration entailing the loss of our better educated and our young people — and their impact on our institutional and social life, are cause for disquiet. Thus, when we speak of the urgency of language reform, we do so not only out of empathy for the grave situation of French-speaking persons outside of Quebec, but also from a sense of personal urgency. We know all too well the consequences of adverse demographic trends and the need for bold, creative national leadership in arresting those trends...

In comparing the situation of the English-speaking community of Quebec with French-speaking communities in the other provinces it is evident that the presence of more than 800,000 English-speaking persons in a single province gives our community a greater depth of human and financial resources than are available to other language minority communities. Moreover, we have had within Quebec a history of tolerance and mutual respect which, until recent times, has been unsurpassed in Canada. Furthermore, the existence, primarily on the island of Montreal, of an English-language institutional network in the fields of education, commerce and health and social services, is an invaluable asset...

We have advantages which few French-speaking communities outside of Quebec enjoy, just as we have specific problems which others do not face. We still have signs legislation, which denies us visibility and violates our freedom of expression and legislation which denies access to English schools for English-speaking people coming to our province from beyond Canada's borders.

We have our own specificity, which sets us apart from other linguistic minority communities. At the same time, it is significant that a number of the problems facing our community bear a growing resemblance to those of French-speaking persons outside of Quebec. I have mentioned the problem of language transfers and assimilation in our rural communities. We are also faced with the problem of access to governmental services in our language. Again, the problem is particularly acute in rural areas but is also found in Montreal. Recent actions by the Quebec government to de-centralize the delivery of social services will have the effect of undermining the principal English-language institutions in this sector and jeopardizing the delivery of English-language social services. More generally, the problem in terms of access to provincial government services and documentation is one of inconsistency — whereas some services are offered in both French and English, many are not.

Other issues of common concern include access to justice, fair regional and local representation in the federal and provincial civil services and fair access to governmental support for minority language economic development initiatives. As the latter issue assumes an increasing importance for our community, we find not only that our concerns parallel that of many French-speaking communities outside of Quebec, but also that we have much to learn from them...

From its inception, this conference has provided an exceptional opportunity for Canada's linguistic minority communities. Through the good offices of the Commissioner of Official Languages we have come, for the first time, from all ten provinces and the territories, to discuss issues of mutual concern. Never before have all of our communities sat together at a common table and set out our hopes, our frustrations, our understanding of ourselves and our vision of Canada.

We have explained our differences. We have identified the unique problems, challenges and aspirations of the nearly 1,000,000 French-speaking Canadians living outside of Quebec. And we have also discussed the problems, challenges and aspirations of a nearly equivalent number of English-speaking Quebecers, who live as a linguistic minority within a linguistic minority.

At the same time, we have learned that our understanding of this nation, and of the vital and dynamic role of the linguistic minority communities in Canada is a shared understanding. We have learned that the ideal of co-existence, of the equality of our two languages and of linguistic justice is a shared ideal. We have also learned that despite our differences we share a number of common problems, objectives and values. Notwithstanding the distances which separate us, we have a common ground.

We have spoken particularly of Quebec, of the special relationship between French-speaking Quebecers and French-speaking communities outside of the province, and of the particular opportunity for English-speaking Quebecers to relate the concerns of a linguistic minority to the English-speaking majority in the other provinces.

It is in the best interests of all of our

Consequently, our view of the relationship between French-speaking persons outside of Quebec and English-speaking Quebecers is founded on a recognition of the specificities of each community but also on an appreciation of the problems which are of mutual concern and the mutual benefits which are to be derived from increased cooperation...

We stand in a unique position in Canada's linguistic framework. For we are the only English-speaking community to live the minority experience. True, we have not lived it as long as French-speaking persons outside of Quebec, but

we have lived it intensely. As the only English-speaking community to live the minority experience, we are a natural bridge between the English-speaking majority and the French-speaking communities outside of Quebec.

Only we are able to communicate the minority language experience, from the perspective of English-speaking persons, to Canada's English-speaking majority and to contribute in this manner to the shaping of Canadian public opinion on language reform...

Through our words and our actions before the courts and legislatures in New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, the

reaffirm the linguistic duality of the country. Our hopes and aspirations can only be attained if the federal government exercises a vigorous leadership and acts as a catalyst for action by other governments.

As a first step and an attainable objective, we call upon the Government of Canada to:

- Establish mechanisms for coordinating the activities of all federal ministries and organizations which ensure — or could ensure — services to official language minority communities;
- clarify the obligations of each government ministry and organization toward these communities;
- and, finally, to develop methods for evaluating the impact of these measures on the life of minority communities in each of our regions.

To that end, we respectfully request a meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada. The Prime Minister has already granted an interview to representatives of the Federation of Francophones outside of Quebec and to Alliance Quebec...

But now, the time has come to discuss the particular initiatives which we have identified and which represent only a strict minimum if we wish to achieve a new national agreement ensuring the equality of our two languages.

As an example, the FFHQ and ALLIANCE QUEBEC could work together by participating in joint initiatives aimed at encouraging private sector bodies such as banks and large retail chains, to increasingly reflect Canada's linguistic duality in advertising and customer services.

The time has come, as the Commissioner of Official Languages has aptly stated, to give language reform a fresh start. Our proposal is a useful first step in the process of renewal and reform.

Common Synthesis of Remarks by the FFHQ and Alliance Quebec

For this idea to become a daily reality, it is imperative that our two communities have equal access in our languages to government services, health and social services, and economic development assistance programmes.

It is essential that the provinces undertake in good faith the necessary steps to ensure that the right to minority languages education — enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms — can be exercised on a practical basis. It is also essential that legal services be available in both languages, that we be fairly represented in the public service ranks at various levels of government and that discrimination on the basis of language be prohibited.

Nevertheless, and above all else, it is up to the federal government to once again assume its role as a leader and to

we have lived it intensely. As the only English-speaking community to live the minority experience, we are a natural bridge between the English-speaking majority and the French-speaking communities outside of Quebec.

Only we are able to communicate the minority language experience, from the perspective of English-speaking persons, to Canada's English-speaking majority and to contribute in this manner to the shaping of Canadian public opinion on language reform...

Through our words and our actions before the courts and legislatures in New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, the

English-speaking community of Quebec has shown that it will stand up for the same rights for our French-speaking fellow citizens as we claim for ourselves. We will continue to be an advocate for linguistic justice throughout the land.

In conclusion, therefore, I wish to assure our French-speaking colleagues from outside of Quebec that we are prepared to join with them in identifying joint initiatives by which we may further our common objectives, thereby turning the ideal of coexistence, of cooperation and mutual respect into a living reality.

«Language and Society»

The proceedings of the colloquium, "The Minorities: Time for Solutions", will be included in a special issue of *Language and Society*, O.C.O.L.'s quarterly journal, to be published in early February.

If you wish to obtain a free copy (copies) of this special issue, please fill out the coupon and return it to:

The Editor, *Language and Society*, Ottawa, Canada — K1A 0T8; (613) 995-7717.

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION/GROUP: _____
(if applicable)

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

Mainland gets new p.m. radio show

On September 30, 1985 at 3 p.m., CBC radio in Quebec City offered something new to the "English-listening" audience living off the Island of Montreal. That date and time marked the inaugural broadcast of the new late-afternoon radio program, *Breakaway*.

The program, hosted by Jeannette Kelly, and produced by Rob Renault, is aired 3 p.m. — 6 p.m., Mon.-Fri. and features a mix of community and provincial news and information, current affairs, and on-location reports, in both interview and straight-news format, interspersed by a rich offering of music, both vocal and instrumental.

In the past, the "English-listening" matinée audience off the Island of Montreal tuned into *Home Run*, a show originating in Montreal and offering only sketchy regional coverage. Now, English-speaking Quebecers from Blanc Sablon to Rock Island can tune into a late-afternoon radio program which covers community activities of interest to them, and which speaks to their attitudes, interests, opinions and concerns.

CBC Radio Quebec City broadcasts the new program, in addition to the existing morning show, *Quebec AM*, produced by Patricia Pleszczynska, (and the Montreal show, *Radio Noon*), through a network of 42 transmitters reaching all regions of the province except the Outaouais.

If you want to phone or write the CBC studios in Quebec City, the numbers are: (418) 525-2120 (regular hours) or (418) 525-2123 (after hours). The address is: CBC Radio, 700 St-Cyrille est, Level 'C', Québec, Qué. — G1L 5A9.

In the past, English-speaking Quebecers from the Townships to the Saguenay, driving home from work, and tuning into the Montreal-based program, 'Homerun', would receive Montreal traffic reports. This prompted *The Sherbrooke Record* editor Charles Bury to prepare the following radio essay for the initial broadcast of *Breakaway*.



Courtesy: The Sherbrooke Record

Charles Bury

From up here everything looks a little fuzzy, Jeannette, but there's no doubt about the trends. Three things affect the Quebec traffic map: Cars, politics and moose.

We'll be keeping our helicopter away from the big concentrations of cars in greater Montreal during rush hour today. In Quebec City, the rush hour ended about two-and-a-half hours ago when the civil servants all went home for the day just after their two-hour lunches. In Sherbrooke, of course, the heavy traffic doesn't last long; it's known locally as rush minute and takes place at about 5 p.m. at the corner of King and Wellington Streets, where the auto traffic, the buslines and Via Rail all fight for the same space.

Right now we are flying over northwest Quebec, where I can see a clear sign of politicians out playing in the traffic. The main streets of Témiscamingue, Ville Marie, Rouyn, Noranda, La Sarre, Amos, Malartic and Val d'Or are all dug up for some long-overdue sewer work. As well, there's a rough couple of miles at the detour on Route 111 between La Sarre and Amos. Deputy Gilles Baril must be running scared to get this kind of roads department action up here all at once.

We are flying now over Route 113, the highway to Chibougamou, and it's clear all the way there. There's hardly any traffic on Routes 169 and 167 from there down to Lac St-Jean; from there Route 155 is clear through La Tuque to Shawinigan and Trois-Rivières; there is a brief wait at the lights by the bridge on 372 between Jonquière and Chicoutimi, but from there on it looks like smooth sailing all the way to Tadoussac, on 172 south. All the ferries across the gulf of St. Lawrence are running on time today; and Route 138 is clear with light traffic all the way to Hâvre St-Pierre, where there is a bit of a slowdown for some construction work.

Rutting reason is upon us and the moose traffic is at its worst here this week as both the big animals and the eager hunters are out in record numbers. At Forestville alone, Sunday game wardens registered 15 moose kills — and that's just in the woods. Watch out for these big critters everywhere the woods meet the road.

Work may not have started on the 40-million dollar extension of Route 138 east from Hâvre St-Pierre to Natashquan, but all the signs are there — the billboards, that is, announcing that the project was brought to you by Brian Mulroney, M.P.

Across the gulf, Route 132 is wide open, with only light traffic all the way round the Gaspé Peninsula, with one exception. That's east of Ste-Anne-des-Monts (not Mont Ste-Anne, which is somewhere else altogether). Between Anse Pleureuse and Manche d'Épée, the highway runs beneath high cliffs and it used to have the unfortunate habit of falling into the sea at every spring high tide. Make sure you don't fall in yourself, as you wind past the heavy construction equipment; this stretch of highway is actually built over the sea itself. They have been having a bit of controversy down there about that. Along the Chaleur Bay coast, watch for the many level crossings and the trucks full of fresh New Brunswick herring.

As we approach the Magdalen Islands, we can see the entire 86 kilometres of Route 199. There are no traffic problems here today and there won't be any until next summer when the mainland tourists begin to flock, just like the gannets on bird rock. Heading back towards our home base at Quebec, I can see a couple of speed traps along the Trans Canada, so take it easy on the gas pedal.

Before we go back to the studio, Jeannette, I'd like to thank the folks at *Breakaway* for making this traffic report possible. But, next time, would you please try to rent one of the newer helicopters, the ones with the roofs. It's coooool up here!



CBC photo

Jeannette Kelly

Dial-A-Poem

At midnight, September 21st, Montreal publisher Fortner Anderson inaugurated the city's Dial-A-Poem service. Day or night, Montrealers can now listen to contemporary English-speaking Quebec poets recite their work. By dialing 843-7636, Montrealers can hear the poems of an impressive list of Quebec poets, including: R.G. Everson, Shulamis Yelin, Erin Moure, Peter van Torn, Louis Dudek, and many others, published and unpublished.

Since the free service began, 35 different poems by 22 authors have played to an audience that soon peaked at 700 calls a day and has been accepting 2500 calls a week ever since.

At midnight each day the schedule changes, presenting a new poem and new poet. Poems vary in length from several seconds to several minutes and are humorous or serious, intellectual or nonsensical, horrific or light — running the gamut of contemporary verse.

According to Mr. Anderson, "Dial-A-Poem is a service, a gift, and the public makes of it what they desire, be it entertainment, enlightenment, or escape. It is a window to the complex and rewarding project of poetry."

Dial-A-Poem is a private enterprise supported by advertisers whose message is appended after the reading. Advertisers pay \$50.00 for seven days of broadcast. They include local bookstores, publishers, tradesmen, and retailers.

For further information on contributors, background, and sponsorships, phone Fortner Anderson at 843-3873 in Montreal.

Services for seniors in the East Island

"It's really filled a lot of empty lives," says Madge Rutherford, President of ALMAGE, a community centre in the East Island serving principally English-speaking residents 55 and older.

ALMAGE was founded three years ago through the cooperative efforts of three English-language churches in the East Island area of Montreal: St. Aloysius, St. Margaret's and St. George's. The centre is located in the basement of St. George's on Baldwin Street. (The name is taken from the first two letters of the names of the three churches.)

"The East Island English-speaking population is ageing", said Centre Co-ordinator Sue Medleg, "and it doesn't

"It's about people taking responsibility for each other"

have services." That's why the three churches banded together, in an "ecumenical" approach to provide programs and services to a large, but hard-to-reach community, with the common objective of helping the aged to continue living in their community.

The activities offered at the centre cover a wide variety of social, recreational and cultural programming. What makes ALMAGE a true community centre, rather than simply a social club, are the services it offers to the community, including a soup kitchen, meal program, information and referral to community resources and a Friendly Visiting program for the homebound elderly. As Sue Medleg pointed out, "Social clubs close for the summer, but we're working year round. People's needs don't take summer holidays."

ALMAGE has grown rapidly both in membership and in the range of activities and services offered. Just a cou-

ple of years ago, there were perhaps 50 people involved in the centre. Now, says president Madge Rutherford, membership is over the 300 level and there are 40 to 50 'hardcore' volunteers, who do everything from cook the soup, to maintenance work, home visits, fundraise, and sit on the Board of Directors.

Una Dorion and her husband George joined ALMAGE two years ago mainly for the group excursions. They have since involved themselves in just about everything going. Una sits on the Board of Directors and George is the centre's "Mr. Fixit". "We're pretty active," says Una, who is originally from the Eastern Townships, "Maybe too active," she adds with a smile, showing she doesn't mean it.

The volunteers at the Centre exhibit a true community spirit, said Sue Medleg. "It's about people taking responsibility for each other... I have never seen a more giving group of people."

A case in point is the manner in which the Centre responded recently to an appeal by Catholic Community Services (CCS), the organization which oversees the centre. CCS provides ALMAGE with the use of a mini-van for approximately six days each month to provide homebound elderly people with a variety of assistance. When CCS informed ALMAGE that more funding was needed to keep the van on the road, ALMAGE responded by raising more than \$1,200.00, through public events and private donations, in just six months.

Programming at ALMAGE in the recreational and social areas is extremely varied. A quick glance at the three-month schedule published in the Centre's newsletter reveals an ambitious range of projects. In one innovative program, ALMAGE members are showing that it's never too late to increase one's linguistic abilities. With the help of a Montreal Catholic School Commission



Frank Rackow

"Programming at ALMAGE in the recreational and social areas is extremely varied"

instructor, 15 ALMAGE members are taking twice weekly French classes to improve their ability to deal with the mostly French-speaking milieu in which they live. ALMAGE also offers assistance to seniors in the East Island confronted with unilingual government forms and officials. (Sue Medleg stresses that although ALMAGE provides services to the minority population, no one is turned away and in cases where referrals are made, follow-up is done to ensure that the appropriate assistance is received).

ALMAGE receives the bulk of its funding from Centraide, through Catholic Community Services. This enables ALMAGE to hire two permanent staff members. Additional funding from the

Ministry of Social Affairs has allowed ALMAGE to hire Laurie Marrone, a social worker who co-ordinates the Friendly Visiting program.

Although the centre has no budget for publicity, ALMAGE manages to reach out to the community through the *East Island Gazette*, where it places a notice asking for volunteers and, as well, by word of mouth, which is bringing ever increasing numbers of English-speaking seniors in the East Island in from the cold to the warmth of a vibrant community centre.

For more information about ALMAGE, contact the Centre at: 3030 Baldwin Street, Montreal, Quebec H1L 5B7. Tel. 355-1317/2443.

Children's theatre enters 5th season

Four years ago, English theatre in Montreal was at a low ebb.

Apart from the Centaur Theatre, there was a dearth of activity and with less and less work available for young actors, many of them were leaving the province. At that time, Geordie Productions was formed with a special project grant from the Ministère des affaires culturelles du Québec, seed money from the Bronfman Family Foundation, and invaluable support from the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. The first production, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was launched and the mandate of the company, which came to be known as **The Shoestring Shakespeare Theatre Company**, became defined: the presentation of classics in English to school children. Since then, the company has thrived and now receives strong financial support from the provincial government and the Canada Council. The first fund-raising drive in March 1985 generated a great deal of community support from corporations and many individuals.

Operating on a small budget, the company is now in its fifth season of touring and has given over 250 performances to more than 50,000 students. In the process, it has fulfilled several special needs: introducing children to live theatre, exposing them to classic stories and plays, and giving work to young ac-



Scene from a production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

tors who have completed their training and need experience to develop their craft.

In past seasons, students have enjoyed condensed versions of: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, and

Twelfth Night, Gogol's *The Government Inspector*, an adaptation of Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*, and *Stewed Prunes and Pickled Herrings*, an original play about the life of Shakespeare, by Dawson College English professor, Nancy Kahan.

This fall, the company is on the road with its elementary school tour *The Wizard of Oz*. L. Frank Baum's story has been delightfully adapted by Alfred Bradley in a non-musical version, and Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and Cowardly Lion will be transforming gymnasiums into theatres from Québec to Shawville until Christmas.

In the New Year, a revival of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be presented as an introduction to Shakespeare for English and French intermediate and high school students. Then in March, *The Taming of the Shrew* will be touring high schools and CEGEPs.

This season marks an expansion in the company's touring schedule which will include as many schools as possible outside the Montreal area. Plans are underway to visit schools and community centres in Québec, the Eastern Townships, the Gatineau, and even the Lac St. Jean region.

The Company has evolved a certain style of performance. The original language is always used and the productions utilize between six to ten actors

who double roles. The scenery is simple and evocative, utilizing small flats and platforms. The stress is on action, and atmosphere is created through sound effects and incidental music. Depending on the show and age level, the productions are staged in the round or for an end-stage. Everything is then packed into a mini-van.

Elsa Bolam is the Artistic Director and founder of Geordie Productions. (Residents of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in England are known locally as "Geordies" and this is where Ms. Bolam grew up). She began her career as an Assistant Director at the Royal Shakespeare Company and worked in many British repertory companies before becoming a BBC Television Drama producer. In 1968, she came to Canada where she taught and directed at the National Theatre School. She has directed at many universities and regional theatres in Canada, including Montreal's Centaur Theatre, Theatre Calgary, and Theatre Plus in Toronto. She has directed and prepared young audience tours for the Globe Theatre, Centre Stage in Toronto, and Youth Theatre.

Organizations wishing to know more about the group's activities and performance schedules should contact the company's administrator, Nicholas Pines, in Montreal at (514) 845-9810.

Chapter and As

The Upper Laurentians Chapter participated November 12 in a joint meeting of the Task Force on Health and Social Services for Region 06B at the CSSLL in Joliette. The Task Force is composed of representatives from the Upper and Lower Laurentians and Laval/North Shore.

The Chapter welcomes two new members to its Board of Directors: Mary Lou Kelly, the Chapter's former Animator; and Heather Stephens, who is Health and Social Services Committee Chairperson.

"Ski à la carte", a guide to cross-country ski trails in the Laurentians, prepared by the Chapter, is available again this year. To order the guide, contact Chapter Animator Bernice Patterson at 1-514-431-0793 or write the chapter office at: P.O. Box 205, Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, Quebec — J8C 3A3 and include a cheque or money order for \$3.

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The Lower Laurentians Chapter Board of Directors has met with Bertin Legault, Co-ordinator-General of the Long Sault CLSC; Guy Robinson, Assistant Director-General of the CRSSS Laurentides-Lanaudière; and a staff member of the CLSC to discuss board representation as well as availability and access to services for members of the English-speaking community. The chapter will distribute to chapter members a questionnaire, prepared by the CLSC, to monitor the needs of English-speaking residents of the Lower Laurentians.

In other news, the chapter held its "3rd ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY", September 21, at the Mille Isles Community Hall in Mille Isles, Quebec. This event, attended by some 250 people, featured displays of antiques and local crafts, as well as a presentation by the local chapter of the Boy Scouts of Canada who gave a history of Camp Tamaracouta, the oldest Scout camp in Canada. Local MNA Claude Ryan and MP Lise Bourgault were honoured guest speakers.

The chapter has a new office at 383 Main Street, in Lachute. The phone number is (514) 431-0793.

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The East Island Chapter has been busy over the fall renewing memberships and recruiting new members. Chapter representatives are also busy meeting with candidates of the 15 ridings covering the chapter area to express election issues of concern to members of the local English-speaking community.

The Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee has been successful in promoting Chapter candidates to the pre-advisory boards of two new local CLSC's. These are: Al Sullivan, for CLSC Mercier-ouest; and Pat Camacho, for CLSC Mercier-est.

The chapter extends its thanks and appreciation to Deborah Roytenberg, outgoing Animator, who is now AQ Community Development Programme Assistant responsible for liaison with Off-Island Chapters and Associations.

The chapter is pleased to welcome Alice Beaudoin as its new Animator. Alice assumes this position with a background of 17 years as a representative on school and parent committees. She is also no stranger to the Chapter, having served as a Member-at-large on the Board since the Chapter's inception.

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The Townshippers' Association is pleased to announce Della Goodsell as its new President. Della was elected to this post at the Annual General Meeting of the Association which took place September 21 in the auditorium of the



The Philipsburg Militia was one of the many Townships groups who made up the entertainment roster at Townshippers' Day. Their musket firing certainly got everyone's attention!

Sherbrooke Elementary School. Motions of thanks were expressed to Marjorie Goodfellow, out-going President, who is currently serving as Vice-president of Alliance Quebec. The Association is also pleased to announce its 1985-86 Executive: Past-President, Marjorie Goodfellow; Vice-president: Neil Burns (of Island Brooke) and Dr. Karl Kuepper (of Lennoxville); Treasurer, Doug Smith (of Cowansville); Secretary, Ashley Sheltus (of Bedford); and Members-at-large: Peter Bishop (of Sherbrooke); Harvey Catchpaw (of Bedford); and David Mackenzie (of Lennoxville).

The Annual General Meeting was attended by community representatives, staff members from the Alliance Quebec offices in Montreal, chapter/association representatives, and local MNAs and government officials. The meeting was part of the annual Townshippers' Day festivities which took place at the school and on the grounds of Howardene Park. Under the able chairmanship of Clarence Blake, and with the theme, "The Place to Be/Ici on s'amuse", Townshippers' Day offered something for everyone. Special events included performances by the Blackwatch Regimental Pipe Band, a display of vintage cars and tours of the museum and greenhouses on the site. Townshippers' Day also served as a showcase for local talent, with a multitude of musicians, artisans and dancers from all corners of the Townships on hand to display their talents and crafts. As well, community and government representatives were present at some 65 information booths set up on the grounds.

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The Saguenay/Lac St. Jean Chapter sponsored a booth this fall at the Salon du Livre in Jonquière. Participation in this event provided the Chapter with an opportunity to raise its profile within the community, to recruit new members and to expose Chapter members to a range of English-language literature not readily available in area bookstores.

The Chapter's major undertaking in the past months has been a project to trace the roots of the original English settlers of the region. This project was funded by a Challenge '85 grant and was coordinated by Margaret MacDougall, Chairperson of the Chapter's Local History Committee. Participating in the

project as well were Gordon Pittman, Myriam Vézina, René Lanteigne and Alan Corber.

Some 200 questionnaires have been distributed to English-speaking individuals and families with a view to collecting information relating to the presence of English-speaking people in the region from 1840 (date of the first recorded settlement) to 1940.

The results of the survey will eventually be published in book form, and will also feature short biographies of prominent English-speaking families of the region, such as the Price family, who opened up the area for industrial expansion in the 1840's and founded the Abitibi-Price Company.

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The Laval/North Shore Chapter congratulates Gail Young on her appointment this fall to the Table de concertation of La Cité de la santé, the local governing body for health and social services in the Laval area. This appointment represents another success in the Alliance's campaign, at the local level, to ensure English-speaking representation on boards of health and social service institutions.

In other news, the chapter has been successful in lobbying the City of Fabreville to provide an English-language book section in the new Gabrielle Roy Library, which opened this summer. The section will contain some 2,000 volumes. The chapter has also received a letter from Fabreville City Councillor André Boileau, informing the community that research has been undertaken which demonstrates the feasibility of opening an English-language library in the Laval area and indicating the desire of local government officials to increase services to the English-speaking population of the area.

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The St. Maurice Valley Chapter has translated and printed 400 copies of a walking tour guide (and background document) detailing historical sites in the Trois-Rivières area. Copies of the guide will be distributed on a yearly basis to English-language schools in the region and will be used for field trips. The aim of the project is to increase awareness, amongst area youth, of local history.

The chapter will focus this year on youth recruitment and participation. A

questionnaire has been sent to youth members as a first step in assessing the needs of English-speaking chapter area youth, and a Workshop on Job Search Techniques is being planned.

The chapter's Education and Health and Social Services Committees are investigating the possibility of obtaining the services of an English-speaking social worker for English-language schools in the St. Maurice Valley, and have written to Health and Social Services Minister Guy Chevrette, expressing this need. The Health and Social Services Committee will be working with the CLSC Pre-Advisory Committee for Trois-Rivières and Cap-de-la-Madeleine to determine the needs of English-speaking citizens. The Committee is also conducting a survey of social service delivery in the area for presentation to the Rochon Commission.

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Outaouais Alliance's Economic Development Committee is preparing a brief which will be presented to the Provincial Economic Summit to be held at Mont. Ste-Marie in February. Preparation of this brief is being made possible by a Canada Works grant.

Former Outaouais Alliance board member Susan Taylor has been hired to co-ordinate the Association's campaign to ensure the autonomy of the Heritage Campus of the CEGEP de l'Outaouais, the English-language section of the CEGEP. Jim Creskey is Chairman of the Heritage Campus Committee.

The Association's Health and Social Services Committee, chaired by Gail Hawley-MacDonald, has held two public meetings and published a report on the concerns of the English-speaking community with respect to health care delivery. The report has been presented to the local Regional Council on Health and Social Services.

The Association is sad to announce the death, on August 7, of Richard (Dick) Henderson, Treasurer of Outaouais Alliance. Dick was a tremendously active member of the English-speaking community in West Quebec. Most notably, as Chairman of the Heritage Campus Board of Governors, he was a key figure in the quest for autonomy by this English-language institution. He was also a regular contributor to the weekly *West Quebec Post* over the past two years. His death is a great loss to the community.

The Association held an open house November 19 in its new offices. Invited guests included Benoît Bouchard, Secretary of State, local MP's and provincial election candidates from the five area constituencies.

The Association's new headquarters are at 18B Caron Street in Hull, J8Y 1Y7 (just off St Joseph Blvd.). The telephone number is still (819) 777-0177.

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The South Shore Chapter's newly formed Government Services Committee, chaired by Paul Jones, is monitoring the availability of English-language services provided by South Shore municipalities.

The Health and Social Services Committee is compiling information on the effects of the transfer of 200 out of 500 social workers from the Richilieu Social Service Centre to South Shore CLSCs. The Committee will present its findings in a public report to the Rochon Commission. The Committee is also organizing public information meetings with

sociation News

local CLSCs.

Education Committee members are informing local parents on upcoming school board elections and have also run workshops at a seminar organized by the Regional School Board on the theme, "The role and responsibilities of school committees."

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The **Montreal Centre Chapter** would like to acknowledge the important contributions made by some departing members. Kevin O'Donnell, who has moved out of the chapter area to Hudson, was an active board member and was involved in the Chapter's Local History Project. Nancy Cameron and Gail Deutsch, both of whom have moved to Toronto, had served as active board members.

The chapter bids a fond farewell to Animator Adriana Fedoryak who is pursuing full-time studies at Concordia University's School of Communications.

The Chapter welcomes new Animator, Dominique McCaughey. Dominique has a background in community organizing, case work with senior citizens and volunteer recruitment, and has worked previously with the Good Shepherd Centre (of Catholic Community Services) and Project Genesis.

The chapter has a new address: 1396 Ste. Catherine Street West, Suite 416, Montreal, H3G 1P9. Tel: 871-1374.

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The **TMR/Outremont/Côte-des-Neiges/Snowdon East Chapter** has successfully lobbied municipal officials in their campaign for bilingual safety signs at Metro construction sites. The campaign was spearheaded by David Saltzman, Signs Committee Chairman. The Committee is also surveying members' concerns in such areas as unilingual signs and advertising.

The Chapter has sent out letters to guidance counsellors in area high schools soliciting their participation in the organization of career days/nights to be held throughout the year.

The Chapter Animator has visited local merchants to inform them of their right to post bilingual signs and has done a walking tour of organizations within the Chapter area, distributing Chapter newsletters and arranging for drop-off points for Alliance Quebec publications.

In other news, the Chapter extends special thanks to Lily Katofsky for her work over the previous year as Chairman of the Health and Social Services Committee. In 1984-85, the chapter was successful in promoting candidates to the pre-advisory boards of three area CLSCs: Lily Katofsky, in Côte St. Luc; Maria Wickers, as President of the Snowdon CLSC Pre-Advisory board; and Donna Salvati, for TMR/Outremont. Lily Katofsky continues to serve on the Chapter committee. Catherine Scofield is the incoming committee chairperson.

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The **St. Laurent Chapter's** summer student research project, under the federal government's Challenge '85 program, has been successfully completed. Three Chapter residents, Bradley Tabac, Mistu Mukerji and Russell Yuen have spent the summer documenting the history of English-language street names in St. Laurent. The results are being compiled and will be available, hopefully in published form.

The Chapter held its Third Annual In-

ternational Holiday Pot-Luck Supper, November 30, at St. Andrew's-Norwood United Church. The event was attended by members of the various cultural communities and featured entertainment by several cultural groups.

In other news, the Chapter is lobbying the City of St. Laurent to provide a bilingual listing of emergency numbers in the local telephone directory.

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C.V.E.S.P.A. (Châteauguay Valley English-speaking Peoples' Association), is pleased to announce the election of Bruce Hains, of Valleyfield, as its new President, effective November 1. Mr. Hains has been Vice-President of CVESPA since early 1984 and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1983. Mr. Hains succeeds Maurice King, who has been appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer.

CVESPA's Community Development Committee, through its "Participation Project", continues to sponsor a series of meetings throughout the Valley to reach members in their communities.

The Education Committee is consulting with representatives of the Châteauguay Valley Regional School Board and Canadian Parents for French Association in Montreal on implementation of French second-language training programs in area schools.

The Health and Social Services Committee is developing a "Seniors' Guide to Services" and a kit on "Adolescents and their Community". The committee has also conducted a survey on access to English-language services and continues to meet with representatives of local health and social services institutions.

The Business and Employment Program has conducted a survey of 600 industries and manufacturers in the Valley. The survey indicates that 20% of specialized manpower must be recruited from the outside and points to the need for training programs for the unemployed and re-training programs for members of the workforce.

The Culture and Heritage Committee has conducted a special local history project to tape-record the stories and anecdotes of senior English-speaking citizens of south-western Quebec. The goal is to publish the tapes in book form.

Under its International Youth Year project, "Youth and their Community", CVESPA held a special youth colloquium Oct. 30 at the Arthur Pigeon School in Huntingdon. Participants met with community and government resource people from the region who spoke on the job market, job search techniques, federal and provincial government training programs, careers in computers and agriculture, back-to-school and on-the-job training programs, and community work in non-profit organizations. Other Youth Year projects have included college visits and field trips. CVESPA is pleased to acknowledge support and participation for these activities from federal and provincial agencies as well as from CLSCs, CEGEPs and local school boards.

In other news, CVESPA is studying the feasibility of opening a local non-profit radio station. This proposal is in response to a growing need for improved communications within the English-speaking community in south-western Quebec as an essential element in maintaining the identity and vitality of a widely-spread population. Such a sta-

tion would serve as an outlet for every kind of community news, including farm reports, local events and activities, school news, local weather reports and warnings; and would serve to promote local talent and culture, provide new career opportunities, and facilitate the exchange of ideas. The radio committee is awaiting the results of a market study being conducted by the McGill Business Consulting Group.

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Côte Nord Chapter's Education Committee, chaired by Brenda Bond, is working on a proposal for the opening of an English-language section in the CEGEP de Sept-Iles. Graduates from English-language high schools in the area must travel to Quebec City, Montreal or Lennoxville to pursue CEGEP studies in English. The goal of the Committee is to receive approval for their proposal in time to allow the opening of the section in September 1986.

Members of the Health and Social Services Committee, chaired by Louise Jones, are contacting CLSCs and hospital administrators in the area to voice their concerns over the lack of services in English. There is particular concern that l'Hôpital de Sept-Iles, which is a regional hospital, should be able to provide services in English to members of the English-speaking community in the chapter area, and to people living in the predominantly English-speaking



CVESPA booth at the Havelock Fair in September.

communities of the Lower North Shore.

In other news, the chapter is conducting an extensive membership campaign in Sept-Iles and Port Cartier. The campaign is being organized by Orion Haynes and Nicholas Vidykhan.

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Voice of English Quebec (VEQ) is pleased to announce that David Cannon was proclaimed President over the summer. Mr. Cannon is a Quebec City lawyer and publisher of the *Quebec Chronicle Telegraph*. He takes over from Glen O'Farrell.

Richard Walling, former Programme Director for Health and Social Services, has been named Executive Director. Mr. Walling replaces Kevin Saville who is now Liaison Officer with the Commissioner of Official Languages in Montreal.

VEQ has hired a new Programme Director for Community Animation and

Development, Helen Meredith. A native of Quebec City, Helen recently completed a B.A. in Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa and brings to her new position diverse experience in working with community groups in the Quebec City area.

VEQ has opened three nursery school programmes for children in the Quebec City area entering the English school system. Total enrollment is 40, between the ages of three and five.

VEQ held its fourth annual fall festival, "Family and Friends at Fall Fest '85", over the Thanksgiving weekend, on the grounds of St. Patrick High School. Activities included a senior citizens' supper, games for children, N.F.B. films, a pub with musical entertainment provided by the 'Town and Country Dance Band', and an ecumenical service. Fall Fest '85 was capped by a well-attended dance at the Château Frontenac.

A youth conference for members of the English-speaking community aged 15-24 was held in November. Over a two-day period, Secondary V, CEGEP and university students examined the quality of education in Quebec and discussed their future in the province. This conference was made possible by a grant from the provincial government within the framework of International Youth Year.

In other news, VEQ has just completed a local history project entitled, "Memoirs of English-speaking Quebecers". For more on this project, see page 15 of this issue of *The Quebecer*.

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The **West Island Chapter** distributed *The Quebecer* as a promotional tool for its fall membership campaign to 6,000 homes in the chapter area. The *West Island Chronicle*, a weekly newspaper, included *The Quebecer* as an insert in specified areas.

Chapter board member Michael Weil has been elected Chairman of the Lac St. Louis pre-CLSC Committee. The Chapter is working to ensure that the emerging CLSCs are responsive to the needs of the English-speaking community.

The Business and Employment Committee recently invited Kevan Durrell of the Townshippers' Association to speak to twenty former high-school dropouts, now enrolled in the Second Chance program at Pierrefonds Comprehensive School. Kevan gave an interesting ex-

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YMCA program generates jobs for youth

by Frank Vetere

Operating out of offices on Drummond Street, the Montreal YMCA Job Generation program started in February of this year.

The goal of this federally funded 'Job Corps' program is to "help disadvantaged, unemployed youth become 'employable' and stay employed", says the Director of the Montreal program, Graham Weeks.



Under a three-year agreement between the federal government (Canada Employment and Immigration) and the YMCA, similar programs are operating in nine other centres across the country.

The Montreal program is open to youth, between the ages of 18 and 24, who have been out of school and out of work for at least six months.

The program offers a mixture of life skills and job search training to meet the needs of a diverse clientele, both French and English-speaking. The program offers two levels of training: an "Intensive" and an "Incidental" service.

The "Intensive" service consists of a five-week training period in life skills and job search techniques. Participants are paid a nominal fee, which can be in

addition to UIC and welfare benefits, and are expected to treat the experience as they would a job, by being punctual and demonstrating a sense of responsibility. A team of counsellors tests participants for aptitude, interests and fitness. Participants are introduced to computers, taught budgeting, and résumé writing. They practice interview techniques on videotape. "Above all, they are taught to set goals for themselves," said Mr. Weeks.

The "Incidental" service is a job counselling and referral service for youth who are not in need of intensive training. This service has also included courses at the downtown 'Y' in 'How to start a small business.'

Since Montreal Job Generation started, 35 youth have enrolled in three "Intensive" groups. Twenty-seven have found jobs. This is a success rate of 77 percent. Two more groups have started up this fall. In addition, 79 young people have received career counselling and job referral services.

During the course of the program, potential employers come to talk about the workplace and employer expectations. Participants go on industrial visits and field trips. A recruitment counsellor guides youth in their choice of work, and an employment coordinator maintains a bank of employers to which the youth are referred. Job placement can last as long as sixteen weeks and is generally paid by the employer. "The role of employers is a key to the success of the program," said Mr. Weeks.

Since the program started, a total of



Former AQ staff member Graham Weeks continues to put his community organizing skills to good use, helping young Montrealers get much needed experience in the job market. Mr. Weeks is director of the YMCA's Job Generation program.

74 companies have offered 99 positions to Job Generation "graduates". They have found jobs in hospitals, in hotels, as factory workers, machine-shop assistants, plumbers' apprentices, hair stylists. One youth, a so-called

'skinhead' (the ultra 'punk' style sporting a clean-shaven head and tattered clothes) arrived at the YMCA one day with a boa constrictor coiled around his body. A place was found for this applicant too (not the boa constrictor!). He landed a job in an 'exotic pet' shop.

Asked about long-term goals, Graham Weeks said the program needed to: 1) increase its media profile to reach an even wider audience; 2) build up the network of contacts with employers and various training centres; and 3) refine the selection and screening process to reach those committed to succeeding in the program. Another goal is to enhance services in branches of the YMCA serving neighbourhoods or communities with the highest rates of unemployment.

Asked about the general value of the program, Mr. Weeks commented: "For many of these youth, such an experience is the first time that they have been taken seriously by other adults: it is the first time as well that they are taught to make decisions on their own. At the same time, instead of finding themselves all alone on the job market, they are supported by a network of Job Corps counsellors, employers and volunteers who help them to find and hold onto jobs."

Applications to the Montreal YMCA Job Generation program can be made in person at: 1452 Drummond Street, 3rd floor; or by phoning 845-6121.

Chapter and Association news—cont'd

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posé on the job market and job search techniques.

The Chapter lost one of its most ardent supporters and volunteers 'par excellence' when Fred Hanna died after a brief but hard-fought battle with cancer. His enthusiasm, energy and sense of humour will be long-remembered.

The Chapter is pleased to announce the winners of its 1985 Local History Contest. The purpose of the contest, open to Grade 6 students in the Lakeshore and Baldwin-Cartier School Commissions, was to increase public awareness of the contributions of English-speaking persons to the development of West Island communities.

The grand prize winner was Pamela Howard of Wilder Penfield School who wrote an excellent history of St. Thomas à Becket Church. The second-place finisher, Heidi Bloomfield of Christmas Park School, submitted a very interesting write-up on the oldest house in Beaconsfield, along with a taped interview with the current owner, Mr. Peter Lust. The third-place finisher was Andrea Mueller of St. Edmund School, who wrote a beautiful account of the history of her community, Senneville.

The three winners received commemorative plaques, and each of their schools received a donation towards its Library Fund.

The NDG/Montreal West Chapter has concentrated its efforts this fall on two newly established work groups focussing on Community Economic Development and Community Profiles.

Chapter Animator Fred Anderson did a walking tour survey of area merchants to make an inventory of chapter area

businesses and to gauge interest of local businessmen in participating in career days/nights. Information obtained through the inventory will be useful to the efforts of the Community Economic Development Work Group.

The Community Profile Work Group is developing a questionnaire to make a detailed demographic profile of the area, including statistics on language, age, income and ethnicity. The Work Group will hold workshops to explore issues of concern identified in the study.

C.A.S.A (Committee for Anglophone Social Action) is pleased to announce the appointment of Albert Patterson as Executive Director, replacing Kenneth Ward, who is now with the Adult Education Division of the Regional School Board of Gaspesia. Albert has worked as Animator in the Gaspé office over the past year and brings to his new position a wealth of experience in community work.

Joan Richards, who has worked for CASA for the past three years, most recently on the Health and Social Services Committee, is now the Animator in the New Carlisle office. CASA is also pleased to welcome Nikki Clinton as the secretary/bookkeeper in the New Carlisle office.

CASA hosted an Economic Information seminar in Chandler on Nov. 2. The seminar, attended by some 75 area businessmen and by guest speakers from Revenue Canada, is the first step in setting up the first English-speaking Businessmen's Association on the Gaspé coast.

The Baie Comeau Chapter held a

general meeting on Oct. 16 at Baie Comeau High School. Guest speaker Deborah Roytenberg, Community Development Programme Assistant at the Alliance provincial office, spoke on the social services campaign and other provincial issues.

At the general meeting, the chapter's Youth Committee elected its Executive for 1985-86: Co-chairs: Bonnie Goodfellow and Richard Ferlatte; and Secretary, Katie McGee.

The South West Chapter has initiated a local history project consisting of tape recorded interviews with senior citizens and a wide cross-section of the community. The aim of the project is to paint an historical, anecdotal picture of life in South West Montreal. An account of the project is included on the Local History page of this issue.

The Chapter extends warm congratulations to Animator Linton Garner who was married this fall.

The Côte St. Luc/Hampstead/Snowdon West Chapter has contacted 50 educational, religious, community and health and social service organizations in the Chapter area to explain the goals of the Chapter in 1985-86 and to encourage cooperation in areas of mutual concern.

Chapter Chairperson Rosemary Mavrokefalos and Vice-chairperson Jonathan Herman have accompanied AQ President Michael Goldbloom in speaking engagements at the Womens' Club of the Chevra Kadisha Synagogue and the Mens' Club of the Shaare Zion Synagogue.

The Chapter bids a fond farewell to Animator Marlene Baran who is pursuing an MA in Psychology at the State University of New York in Plattsburgh.

The Chapter welcomes new Animator Francine Knoops who joins the chapter with six years experience in community work in Calgary and Ottawa



Members of N.D.G Chapter's Community Profiles Work Group meet. Clockwise left: Paul Belshaw, Fred Anderson (Animator), Clarence Bayne, Albert Bridgewater and Brian Webber (Chapter Chairperson).

CONCERNS

of the

English-speaking

Community

“During this election period our community has a number of concerns which must be conveyed to the candidates for office.”

During this election period our community has a number of serious concerns which must be conveyed to the candidates for office. We are concerned about the viability of many of our smaller communities in various regions of Quebec. We are concerned about the availability of services in English from the Provincial Government and its agencies. We are concerned about the education of our young people and the maintenance of our institutional infrastructure. Lack of representation of our community in the public and parapublic sectors is another problem which demands attention.

We intend to acquaint candidates for election to the National Assembly of Quebec with the character, concerns and aspirations of our community. The issues which are outlined in the following pages must be addressed by the members of the National Assembly. We present our views in order to promote a greater understanding of the problems facing the English-speaking community and to serve as a guide to future action.

EDUCATION

Access to English Schools

There should be no restrictions upon the rights of English-speaking people to send their children to English schools in Quebec. The issue of access to English schools must be considered in the context of a community that has suffered a net emigration loss of 158,000 people between 1971 and 1981, thus putting into jeopardy the

existence of some English-language schools, particularly those on the island of Montreal. These institutions and the leadership roles played by those people elected to direct their boards of directors are crucial to the survival of our community.

There has been much rhetoric but little analysis of the potential impact of s.23(1) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms of Quebec: the Government of Quebec owes it to Quebecers, French-speaking and English-speaking, to broach this issue in good faith, with an open mind and to undertake a forthright, and comprehensive analysis of the issue.

The Illegals

The issue of the “illegals”, a small number of children illegally enrolled in English schools, mainly in the Montreal region, has created hardship for the students and families involved. The Quebec government’s insensitivity and intransigence is disgraceful.

The problem arose from the retroactive application of Bill 101 which prevented several categories of pupils from attending English schools. Despite Bill 101, a number of families, in cooperation with teachers and administrators, continued to send their children to English schools. The Government appointed the Acquin Commission to examine the problem, but it did no more than recommend that the children be transferred to French schools.

Alliance Quebec believes that it is imperative

that the Government of Quebec resolve the problem of the so-called “illegals” in a responsible fashion and in full recognition of the legitimate expectations which the families concerned had when they came to Quebec. We urge the Quebec government to regularize the status of the illegals in the English-language school system.

Bill 29

Bill 29, which effectively disenfranchises non-Protestants and non-Catholics residing in the territories of the confessional school boards in the Montreal and Quebec City regions, is unacceptable for our community and unacceptable for Quebec society. No contemporary democratic society should accept a limitation to the basic principle of universal suffrage.

We urge the Government of Quebec to restore the right of all citizens of Quebec, irrespective of faith, to participate as equals in the school board electoral process. Moreover, in recognizing that Bill 29 is closely linked to the broader issue of school board re-organization, we urge the government to listen and to respond to our community’s proposals regarding educational structures more appropriate to the social and linguistic reality of present-day Quebec.

School Board Re-organization

The impetus for school reform currently appears to have stalled as a result of the recent

Continued from previous page

Superior Court judgement declaring Bill 3 unconstitutional. While the constitutionality of the legislation may be tested all the way to the Supreme Court, we believe that the English-speaking community cannot afford a lengthy delay in the resolution of this problem.

Declining student enrolments have adversely affected the Quebec school system and have had a particularly negative impact on the institutions serving the English-speaking community. Alliance Quebec has therefore identified the need for our community to consolidate its educational institutions and resources on a linguistic basis.

Approximately half of the English-speaking community is currently served by the Catholic School Boards and is denied the fundamental right to control and manage its educational system. The Alliance believes that these members of our community should be accorded the right to participate as equals in the educational system of Quebec.

Alliance Quebec calls upon the Government of Quebec to:

- provide for better control and management of our public school system by all members of our community;
- seek constitutional guarantees of the right of the entire English-speaking community to control and manage its school system.

French as a Second Language

Alliance Quebec believes that English-speaking Quebecers should continue their efforts to learn French. The English school system has considerably improved its French second language teaching, and in the past decade our community has achieved considerable progress in this regard. The fact that young English-speaking people between the ages of 15 and 24 form the most bilingual group in Quebec is an eloquent example of the effort that English-speaking Quebecers have made.

The Quebec Government, while establishing laws and regulations enforcing the use of French on the job market, has not made an equivalent effort to support the English-speaking community's efforts to learn French. The government to date has not provided sufficient financial support to the institutions providing immersion and other French second language programs.

In order to achieve these aims, our network of school boards and colleges must regain the curriculum flexibility which is needed to ensure that improved opportunities to acquire French language skills are readily available.

Adult Education

With the recent structural changes in the organization and management of adult education, the needs of the English-speaking community require greater attention and action by the government.

We are particularly concerned about the English-speaking population outside of the Greater Montreal area which is facing increasing difficulty in securing English language adult education programs. Furthermore, in many regions, English-speaking Quebecers are not generally aware of the programs that are available to the community.

If English-speaking Quebecers are to participate in and benefit from the wide range of programs designed to prepare Quebecers for the labour market, it is essential that the Quebec Government provide the English-speaking community with access to adult education. The Quebec Government should also explicitly instruct the institutions and agencies responsible for managing the delivery of adult/vocational training to provide counselling and program services in English.

In order to ensure our community's input into these programs, we require fair and equitable representation on the governing and consultative boards and on the staffs of those institutions.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Access to Civil Service Employment

Alliance Quebec is concerned with the government's failure to increase the level of

representation of the English-speaking community in the Quebec civil service. The under-representation of our community reduces our input into the public administration and decreases the government's sensitivity to the needs of the English-speaking community.

The government of Quebec should ensure that the civil service is representative of all the communities it serves. To do so, it must increase significantly the current two per cent level of English-speaking representation. Change will not occur from expressions of goodwill by government representatives or from the issuance of public policy statements; procedures must be instituted to achieve tangible and measurable results.

The Government of Quebec has recently announced a program to encourage applicants to the provincial civil service from the non-French-speaking communities. Elements of the program will include advertising all positions in Montreal's *The Gazette*. In addition there will be visits to some universities. This program will be in force for too short a period of time and will unfortunately be evaluated before the issue can be fully explored.

If the government plans to address the problem effectively, the entire recruitment procedure must be thoroughly evaluated to identify the problems inherent in the system. Our community must make a particular effort to become aware of the opportunities available to it in the civil service. At the same time however, the Government of Quebec must make a substantial and sustained effort to attract the English-speaking population into its ranks.

Access to Services

Government services are vital to the existence of a minority community. We are concerned with the lack of direction in government planning and the failure to make public services generally accessible in English.

Government services from welfare offices to rental boards, from court houses to day care centres, affect us all in our daily lives. They must not be offered to our community in a capricious and inconsistent manner.

The government has failed to recognize fully the linguistic and cultural diversity of Quebec society and the fundamental importance of language to service-delivery for English-speaking Quebecers.

The Government of Quebec should ensure that public and para-public services are available in English and French so as to ensure equal access to all citizens.

Access to Documentation

Access to public documentation is essential if Quebecers are to be informed about the services that their tax dollars are providing. Our community, in many cases, has been denied access in English to documentation produced by local and provincial bodies.

Public information should be published in both French and English. This would ensure that French-speaking and English-speaking Quebecers would have equal access to public documentation.

The government should not refuse to publish information compendiums such as the "Guide des Aînés" in English merely for financial or other reasons. This only serves to isolate our communities, particularly those who are most in need of such services.

Alliance Quebec believes the government should live up to its responsibilities to serve all Quebecers and to ensure that documentation is available to English-speaking Quebecers.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The Charter of the French Language prevents municipal governments from providing services and documentation and from posting public signs in a language other than French unless the majority of their citizens speaks a language other than French. A number of municipal governments have adopted resolutions indicating their desire to benefit from the provisions of article 113(f) of The Charter, thereby entitling them to bilingual services. The Government has refused such recognition.

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Governments have a special responsibility to be sensitive to the needs of all their citizens, and municipal governments, which are closest to the population, must be able to respond to those needs.

Alliance Quebec believes that the legal impediments to the provision of services and documentation and to the posting of public signs by municipalities must be removed. Municipal governments seeking to benefit from the provisions of article 113(f) of the Charter of the French Language should be allowed to do so.

SIGNS

The Superior Court rendered a decision in December of 1984 supporting the Alliance's argument that Bill 101's prohibition of the use of languages other than French on public commercial signs is a violation of the right to freedom of expression guaranteed in the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Section 58 of Bill 101 should be amended so as to allow the posting of public signs and posters and commercial advertising in other languages in addition to French.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Legislative Guarantees of Services

Alliance Quebec has identified an important need to establish legislative guarantees for English-language health and social services throughout the province. Services are currently available in English only in certain regions and in certain centres. There are no legislative guarantees or even policies or administrative guidelines ensuring that services be made available throughout the range of health and social services.

The Government of Quebec should establish legislative guarantees which will ensure that in each region there will be a mechanism for providing services to the English-speaking population. Each regional council should be required to formulate clear guidelines as to how to provide such services.

The fundamental principle of legislative guarantees is not negotiable. Once the policy has been set in place the administrative implementation of this principle could be left to the creative energies of each local community.

Legislative Guarantees for English-Language Institutions

It is vital that the Quebec government maintain the network of English-language health and social service institutions which serve our community. These institutions have traditionally served the English-speaking community and are now considered public institutions with "113(f) status" under Bill 101. This status accords them the right to provide services in English and establishes the legal obligation to ensure that services are available in French.

Current government planning has either ignored or disregarded the central role the institutions play for the English-speaking community. The institutions affected are primarily located on the island of Montreal but also include institutions such as Butters in the Eastern Townships and St. Bridget's Home in Quebec City. These institutions represent the focus of community efforts and volunteer support. They are a means through which the English-speaking community cares for itself, and a means through which a community experience is established and shared.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services now considers that the mandate of institutions is to serve all clientèle within a specified geographic region. Under the government's plan, the institutions are to be denied the right to serve anyone outside their respective regions. This ignores the institutional and community relationships that are essential for effective social service delivery to the English-speaking community. On the one hand, Bill 101 acknowledges the specific contribution of English-language institutions to the development of Quebec and grants them special recognition. On the other hand, the social affairs planners

have proposed a reorganization which in large measure would dismantle our institutions as we know them.

Representation on Decision-Making Bodies

The English-speaking community should be fairly represented on all decision-making bodies within the health and social services structures. This would entail representation on the boards of directors, the various commissions, the "conseils consultatifs", etc., throughout the entire network, including CLSCs, CSSs, Centres d'accueils, hospitals, and regional councils.

CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

The distinctiveness of Quebec society can only be fully understood in the context of Canada's linguistic duality. Recognition of the distinctiveness of Quebec society is, to some extent, a recognition that, within our federal system of government, Quebec is the only province whose political institutions and provincial government are run by a majority of French-speaking persons. However, in the light of Canada's linguistic duality, the distinctiveness of Quebec also includes the existence within its borders of Canada's only English-speaking minority community. Quebec's distinctiveness, in short, includes but is more than simply the fact of political control by a French-speaking majority. It is rather a focal point of Canada's linguistic duality, the home of the largest number of French-speaking Canadians and of Canada's only English-speaking minority. It is in this light that Quebec's government should approach the constitutional negotiations.

The government of Quebec has recently suggested that only sections 3 to 5 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms should apply to Quebec — partly on the grounds that Quebec's Charter of Rights and Freedoms is a superior instrument. There is no doubt that in a number of respects the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms is one of the most progressive human rights codes in the world, and we, as Quebecers, are justifiably proud of its presence and its force in our society.

Yet that is no argument for the exclusion of the Canadian Charter. The two instruments are not mutually exclusive; they are, in fact, complementary.

The issue is not whether we have faith in the Government of Quebec. The issue is not whether our community places its confidence in the National Assembly or in the House of Commons. The issue is that linguistic duality is one of the fundamental aspects of Canada. We believe that as long as we remain a nation, the country's Constitution must continue to enshrine the basic principles which must be respected in order to protect that duality.

If the history of Canada has taught the linguistic minorities in this country one thing — whether it be French-speaking people in Manitoba, Ontario or New Brunswick, or English-speaking people in Quebec — it is that we cannot trust our rights to the safekeeping of any single legislature, be it the House of Commons or the legislature of any province. The protection for minority language rights must reside in the most secure home available in a democratic society — in the Constitution where those rights are beyond the reach of any single majority.

We cannot, therefore, accept the approach which would say that the situation of French-speaking Canadians in other provinces is so fragile that they must be protected in the Canadian Constitution, while the rights of English-speaking Quebecers should be defined and protected only in Quebec.

Quebec's English-speaking community recognizes that the Government of Quebec has a special responsibility to ensure the protection of the French language. But Canada's linguistic duality is a fundamental aspect of our country, and the protection of our minority linguistic communities is a constitutional responsibility. Rather than seeking to diminish minority language rights, Quebec should be seeking to strengthen them for the benefit of the English-speaking people of Quebec as well as for the French-speaking people of the other provinces.

Community development at work on the coast

QFA holds Gaspé livestock auction

by Hugh Maynard and Steve Gruber

The mention of the word "Gaspé" brings memories of Percé Rock, fishing for mackerel from the jetty at Cap Chat and eyeing the bidding for feeder steers in New Richmond.

Eyeing the what...? Yes, the 500 lb. weaned calves in the auction ring. Remembering visions of the Percé Rock at sunrise is truly noteworthy, but why should a livestock auction be so unusual as to make note of it in the holiday scrapbook?

The answer is community development at its best. A little explanation, perhaps.

Regional Economy

The Gaspé peninsula of Quebec is like so many other regions of this country — rugged terrain, forested, far removed from the urban centres of commercial activity. Its economy revolves around the resource industries of fishing, forestry, and some mining in the interior. Tourism adds a little extra to the local pocketbooks for the summer season.

The mountainous interior meets the sea on its northern shore with 300 ft. cliffs, allowing only small towns to exist around coves. The southern shore from Matepédia to Gaspé is a little more generous, allowing a sloping shelf of land to exist between the hills and the ocean.

This narrow strip supports the only agriculture in the area, and even at that, decent land is little and far between. There are only 591 registered farmers in the entire Gaspé, out of a province-wide total of 43,406 (1.4%); only about 60 dairy farmers out of 18,000 ply their trade in the region.

In and Out

Despite the marginal nature of the Gaspé's agriculture — limited and often poor land, a short growing season and a small local market — it does make its contribution to the local economy.

Many Gaspésians are part-time farmers, working in the pulp and paper mills by day, for example, and doing farm chores and crop work at night and on weekends. Their farms provide that little bit extra in good times and something to fall back on in the tough ones.

The biggest problem of farming in a peripheral area is supplies and marketing. Much has to be trucked in from large centers since there isn't enough demand to keep many dealers and suppliers of machinery, tools, and feed located in the area.

The same applies to selling the produce. Local demand takes up a portion of it, but most has to be sent to the larger population centres where demand is highest.

The majority of agriculture is beef farming — cow-calf operations to be exact. The land is well suited to this type of farming, beef cows grazing on pasture and feed requirements being only hay and a little grain.

When the pasture runs out, the herd is rounded up and sorted out. All calves not suitable to be kept as replacements are weaned and shipped off for sale, ending up stocking feedlots to become A-1 meat the following year.

Marketing

For the region, there's lots of beef, but relative to other more prominently agricultural regions, it is still small

potatoes. The most common form of marketing livestock is by auction and most other regions of Quebec have sufficient volume to warrant one or more permanent auction barns with sales at least monthly, if not weekly.

Until 1981, the Gaspé had none and the farmers were left with the lesser of two evils — trucking the cattle hundreds of miles to the nearest auction in Quebec City, or selling to a drover who would call by the farm with his cattle truck.

Farmers' Association, a first step was taken by forming a local branch of the organization.

Quebec Farmers' Association (QFA)

The QFA is a voluntary, provincial organization of English-speaking farmers, a founding member organization of Alliance Quebec, and has branches in 10 regions of the province.

These branches, besides being the foundation of the provincial organization, support projects and community

September 1982 saw the first auction take place after months of preparatory work and by the end of the day some 200 animals were sold for a value of \$76,000. This was repeated in October and November with sales of \$79,000 and \$88,000, respectively.

Success

Nearly a quarter million dollars of sales in its first year was more success than the QFA branch had ever dreamed of, especially considering that the prices paid by the buyers were top market prices, and so the farmers were getting paid what they would receive in Quebec City but with no transport and no weight loss.

Success speaks for itself and it was not long before many of the French-speaking farmers started to bring their cattle to the auction and some of the farmers became involved as volunteers.

The QFA auction, now in its fourth year, is firmly established as the local auction, having repeated its 1982 success in 1983 and 1984, with sales of nearly half-a-million in the latter. Nineteen eighty-five will see a total of five auctions and with one still to go, sales are already over \$400,000.

Every year the volunteers have added some more pens, made some building improvements, and brought the organization up to par with that of the large livestock auctions in the Montreal region. The bookkeeper, gatekeepers, and other helpers can now be paid, even though it's a modest sum. The auction has been incorporated and shares sell for \$100 each.

Inspiring

Back to the beginning and the question of why a livestock auction rates the same memory as fishing on the shores of a wild and romantic landscape?

To sit amongst the crowd as cattle are sold, or talk to the QFA members when the day is over, is an inspiration. It's their auction in every sense of the word, and it's an outstanding example of a community helping itself by cooperative effort.

The project has improved the returns for farmers, created employment, and provided a reason for one part of the community to keep going.

It has helped bring together two communities, which, although they lived well enough side by side, generally went their own separate ways.

It has provided a focus for the future. There's something to work towards, something to be planned, something to be done, a service to be provided.

The QFA Gaspé auction has all the elements of a successful community development project, and is an example of working together. There were the dark moments initially. Comments such as "we can't do it," and "it'll never work," were heard but the needs of the community, combined with the drive to persevere, came through in the end.

Community development is never easy, but it sure can be worth it.

Hugh Maynard is the Managing Editor of the monthly newspaper, the Quebec Farmers' Advocate, Quebec's only English-language agricultural newspaper, started in 1980 by the Quebec Farmers' Association.

Steve Gruber is the Executive Secretary of the Quebec Farmers' Association.

“The QFA Gaspé auction has all the elements of a successful community development project and is an example of working together”



Steve Gruber

QFA President Warren Grapes (left) is shown here talking with Chaleur QFA members: (left to right) Beverly McNair, Wiley Munro (president Chaleur QFA), and Eric Fallow (QFA director), at the New Richmond Fairground at this October's auction.

If the cattle went to Quebec City, the farmer had to pay by the mile for his transport and the animals lost weight on the journey, thereby bringing less than top dollar. The drover knew this and would at best only offer no more than a farmer could expect to get in the auction (after the cattle had lost weight from the drive), and sometimes less. Faced with the drover's offer of cash on the spot versus the risk of sending the animals to Quebec, there wasn't much of an option.

Cooperation

Thoroughly fed up with this situation, the local English-speaking farmers of the New Richmond/Shigiwake region decided in 1980 to act on a suggestion from a community animator of the local school board and cooperatively research some alternatives. After local exploratory meetings were held with representatives from the Quebec

events as they feel necessary to help their community members. In the Gaspé, there was a problem and a desperate need for a solution.

After looking at several alternatives during the winter of 1981, including opening an abattoir, the Chaleur QFA (as the branch is now known), decided on establishing their own auction and approached the New Richmond Agricultural Society for use of their facilities at the New Richmond Fairgrounds.

With \$4000 worth of donated materials and volunteer labour, the QFA branch adapted an existing barn into an auction ring and built holding and sorting pens for the cattle.

They bought weigh scales and organized volunteers to man all the stations from gatekeeper to bookkeeper. They negotiated the most critical part of the whole operation and got the big buyers to show up.

LOCAL HISTORY

«Olden Days» in Quebec City



The Voice of English Quebec in Quebec City spent the summer months video-recording the souvenirs, memories, flashbacks, bits of nostalgia and reminiscences of some of Quebec City's oldest living English-speaking residents.

This local history project, funded by Canada Manpower and Immigration, and carried out by members of the Heritage and Culture Committee, headed by Sister Marianna O'Gallagher, is entitled, "Memoirs of English-Speaking Quebecers".

The project has consisted in interviewing senior citizens, 70 to 90 years old, born and raised in the Quebec City area, about their impressions of life in the area from 1900 to 1950.

Before taping began, a list of over 60 potential interviewees was drawn up with an eye to including the widest spectrum of the English communities making up the urban and surrounding country districts. Interviewees were identified through consultation with community resource people, and the media. A conscious effort was made to seek out representatives from different socio-economic, religious and ethnic groups. Of those interviewees listed, 24 were videotaped — equal numbers of men and women.

The unedited tapes are preserved by

V.E.Q. From these, three half-hour programmes are being prepared, one to illustrate life in the country and two to highlight various aspects of city life. They are designed to make the English-speaking community — school age and senior citizens — newly arrived or of long standing — aware of the contribution this segment of the population has made to Quebec City and region.

The three 30-minute videotaped programmes feature the following three themes:

1) *Rural English Quebec* — covering such topics as rural labour, changing agricultural methods, community activities, and modes of transportation,

2) *The English Quebecer in the Workplace* — touching on such local industries as textiles, clothing, leather goods and shoes, tobacco products, pulp and paper, construction, and port activities. This segment is focussed on the experiences of skilled and unskilled labourers, people in clerical and managerial positions, and union activists.

3) *The Social and Cultural Life of English-speaking Residents of Quebec City* — touching on various clubs, associations, religious and political organizations, social groups, special events, public gatherings, the arts, sports, the role of newspapers and more... communications, the world of fashion and society, and local fêtes. This segment is intended to reflect the diversity of the life and activities of the various socio-economic, religious and ethnic groups in the City.

Subjects covered in the series range from children's parties, to The Great Depression, to World War I, to tea dances, to travelling circuses.

The final edited videotapes will be available for distribution in January to local senior citizens' groups, schools and various community organizations and through the Alliance network of chapters and associations. Eventually, additional ways and means of distributing and broadcasting the final product through other networks (such as government ministries and the NFB) will be explored.



Tales of the South West

The South West Chapter of Alliance Quebec, inspired by the famous *Foxfire* project of the American Appalachians, has embarked on a novel history project of its own.

The original *Foxfire* project began as an experiment in a high school English class, where students were asked to interview their grandparents. The tales gathered from these interviews were recorded exactly as told and covered subjects from log cabin building to snake bite remedies. The success of these interviews resulted in a book and subsequent play recounting the best of the stories told. Since its release, *Foxfire* has prompted many groups, including the South West chapter, to research the history of their communities through oral history.

At a meeting in mid-September, the chapter began plans to put the project into motion. Preliminary steps involved drawing up lists of local high schools,

church groups and scouting organizations. Arrangements were then made to meet with interested teachers and community leaders to outline the goals of the project and procedures for carrying it out. Having enlisted the participation of these groups, a central information base was set up for the purpose of procuring and lending out tape-recorders and receiving and editing all material. Although the students have been asked to interview grandparents first, interviews are being conducted as well with other members of the community: retired workers of companies with long histories in the area such as Seagrams and Grovers; parish priests; school teachers; residents of senior citizens homes; former employees of local jails and funeral homes.

In addition to the obvious goal of tracing local history, the chapter also sees the project as a means of attracting youth membership. Having young people participate in a project like this is seen as a means of encouraging them to become involved in other chapter activities.

"On a community level, the project will aid in strengthening the understanding between young and old. In hearing about some of the exploits of their older counterparts, many of the students realize how narrow the generation gap really is," says the president of the South West chapter, Susan Becker.

Over the course of the planning session, discussion often strayed from the actual logistics of the project to recounting some choice stories of old "South West" Montreal. There were references to 'Rocky Beach', 'Flat Rock', 'Torquay Wharf', and also to various misadventures on 'Fire Night'. At one point, the conversation shifted to the subject of electoral practices, and one member volunteered this anecdote. "Oh yeah, dead people used to vote in the Point all the time and I once heard that the Bishop of Montreal went to vote and found that he'd already cast his ballot".

"The tales that were told in that one evening were enough to get the project rolling", said Ms. Becker.

Local History Contest

The English-speaking community of Quebec has a history of over two hundred years in this province. Our community has pioneered many areas of Quebec, such as the Townships, the Ottawa Valley and the Gaspé, and has settled in all parts of the province. We have made significant contributions and have a rich heritage in both rural and urban communities. At the same time, we are a multi-cultural community composed of many ethnic groups and varying traditions.

We want to give our various communities a special opportunity to share their heritage and culture. We want to help reflect the diversity of our community in the various regions of the province.

To achieve this, the Alliance's Local History Committee, through *The Quebecer*, is sponsoring a project to document the history of English-speaking Quebec, at the local level, through photographs (both old and new), maps and sketches.

This project, THE ALLIANCE QUEBEC LOCAL HISTORY CONTEST, is intended as a classroom project for grade school and high school students in English-language schools across the province.

Students will be encouraged, as a group, to choose a theme of interest focussing on the history of the English-speaking community in their area, and mount a display which

documents that history. The end result would be a series of montages, complemented by brief colourful descriptions of their content, organized along a specific theme.

The choice of themes is as far-reaching as the stories, anecdotes and developments marking the history of the English-speaking community of Quebec. The montages might depict some aspect of the history of a particular geographic area or ethnic group. They could focus on local traditions, cultural activities, economic expansion...in short, anything which serves to demonstrate an interesting aspect of the history of a community, a group, or a region.

The montages will be judged according to the following criteria: human interest value, visual appeal, historical value and originality of theme.

Trophies will be presented to award-winning school boards and schools at the Alliance Quebec annual convention in June 1986. All entries will be featured in a multi-media exhibit at Convention '86.

Samples of award-winning montages will be featured in a special section of the post-convention issue of *The Quebecer*.

The Local History Committee is contacting English-language school boards across the province to elicit their participation. Entry forms will be supplied to English-language schools across the province, via their school board, by the New Year.

alliance québec

Achievements

AQ was instrumental in the Superior Court judgement affirming the right of merchants to post bilingual signs in Quebec;

AQ was instrumental in the Superior Court ruling affirming the right of merchants to distribute bilingual catalogues, pamphlets and brochures;

AQ was instrumental in prompting the City of Montreal to adopt a policy ensuring that all municipal government documentation for public distribution be available in both French and English;

AQ was involved in the Canada Clause case in the Supreme Court of Canada which resulted in the guarantee of the right of parents, educated in English primary schools in Canada, to send their children to English schools in Quebec; by the same token, all children who have received primary or secondary schooling in English in Canada now have the right to attend English schools in Quebec;

AQ was instrumental in convincing the federal government to subsidize French training as a job skill for English-speaking people on unemployment insurance;

AQ lobbied for amendments in the language law which resulted in the abolition of French-language testing for Quebec high school graduates, employees hired, promoted or transferred in the parapublic sector, and professionals;

AQ was instrumental in bringing about amendments to Bill 101 which established that, while English-language institutions must be able to provide services in both French and English, this is not the responsibility of individual employees of such institutions;

AQ gained formal and legal recognition, in the Charter of the French Language, of the importance of the institutions serving the English-speaking community.

Challenges

AQ continues its lobbying efforts to ensure access to quality health care and social services in English, and to gain permanent legal recognition of English-language social service institutions;

AQ will challenge the appeal of the Quebec Government against the Superior Court's ruling allowing merchants to post bilingual signs;

AQ will continue to lobby for increased availability of government documentation and services in English.

AQ will continue its lobbying efforts to ensure fair representation of members of the English-speaking community in the federal, provincial and municipal civil services, agencies and commissions;

AQ will encourage enhanced investment and job creation at the local level for English-speaking communities;

AQ will continue to press for government initiatives in the areas of French Second-Language training, Adult Education and Job Retraining for members of the English-speaking community;

AQ will continue to work to ensure that members of the English-speaking community participate fully in the control and management of their schools;

AQ will work to resolve the problem of the so-called "illegals" enrolled in English-language schools;

AQ will lobby for the preservation and enhancement of regional broadcast programming serving the official minority language communities across Canada

AQ will continue to be the national advocate for linguistic justice in this country and will lobby for a common denominator of language rights for English and French-speaking citizens wherever they live in Canada.

I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ALLIANCE QUEBEC AND RECEIVE THE QUEBECER.

I ENCLOSE A CHEQUE FOR \$3.

NAME _____
(family name) (first name)

Mr.
Mrs.

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ TELEPHONE NO.: _____

I AM ALREADY A MEMBER OF ALLIANCE QUEBEC. PLEASE SEND THE QUEBECER TO MY NEW ADDRESS.

NAME _____

OLD ADDRESS _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____