

**AQ congratulates the Quebec Liberal Party Youth Wing for its
recommendation to start teaching English as a second language in Grade 1
instead of Grade 4**

Montreal, August 14, 2000 - Alliance Quebec has congratulated the Quebec Liberal Party Youth Wing for its recommendation to start teaching English as a second language in Grade 1 instead of Grade 4. The provincial English-language lobby also welcomed comments by Liberal leader Jean Charest for endorsing the proposal.

"We are pleased with the proposal," said Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather. "Any improvements to the education system that will ultimately lead to better preparation for young adults to enter the workforce is a smart move. English-speaking youngsters start learning French from Day One so shouldn't French-speaking children have the same rights and advantages," Housefather added.

Alliance Quebec Executive Member Darryl Levine commented that learning as many languages as possible early is an advantage that Quebecers should embrace. "Learning a third or fourth language would be a very important consideration for any parent to make," Levine said. "We live and work in one global village. The more people we can effectively communicate with the better off we'll be," said Levine.