

Forced transfer of either the Francesca Cabrini or Emily Carr schools or both, goes against the Quebec government's policy

Montreal, August 14, 2000 - Alliance Quebec reacted with outrage at the order by the Quebec Court of Appeal to hand over the Francesca Cabrini or Emily Carr School from the English Montreal School Board to the Conseil Scholaire de Montreal. Alliance Quebec had previously pledged strong support for the parents of students attending the Francesca Cabrini and Emily Carr schools in their genuine struggle to save their community schools for the education of their children.

“Their plea in the interest of their children and respect for their right to participate meaningfully in the educational process is indeed in keeping with the policy of the Quebec government to ensure sustenance of community schools,” said Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather “Every child has the right to be brought up and educated in his or her cultural environment.”

The forced transfer of either the Francesca Cabrini or Emily Carr schools or both, goes against the Quebec government's policy which clearly states, “it is the policy of the government to ... help students develop a feeling of belonging to the community.” (Quebec Schools on Course: Educational Policy, Government of Quebec, p. 9)

“Given that there are 16 surplus school buildings from which to choose from, one would think that the French school board would have ample property to choose from without having to take away our viable institutions,” concluded Alliance Quebec Executive member Darryl Levine.

Alliance Quebec had urged the Education Minister to allow the democratic process of consultation and structural reorganization to occur before intervening with any legislation that would unilaterally determine the fate of English-language institutions and set a precedence which will undermine the democratic process.