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The
Monthly Report

April, 1985

Vol. 2, No. 12

MOBILIZATION FOR LEGISLATIVE GUARANTEES

Over 300 organizations throughout Quebec (including more than 60 municipalities) have passed the Alliance Québec-sponsored resolution calling on the government to provide legislative guarantees to ensure access for the English-speaking community to health and social services in English, as well as to guarantee the continued existence of the network of English-language social service institutions.

The groups supporting the resolution include municipalities, school boards, hospitals, social service institutions, school committees, professional associations, CEGEPs and community organizations, as well as the Quebec Liberal Party, which adopted a resolution that included these principles at a policy convention in Montreal on March 2.

At a March 8 news conference, which preceded the Health and Social Services Network seminar that weekend, Alliance Quebec President Eric Maldoff unveiled the list of groups supporting the resolution as evidence of the widespread and massive support in Quebec for such guarantees.

Mr. Maldoff announced that copies of the resolutions supporting legislative guarantees had been forwarded to Social Affairs Minister Guy Chevrette and Premier René Lévesque, along with a request for a meeting with the Minister and a recommendation that Premier Lévesque immediately undertake a bipartisan initiative to amend the "Act Respecting Health and Social Services", accordingly.

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Alliance Quebec has already met once with the Minister (on January 16), to discuss the English-speaking community's concerns about access to social services and to ask for legislative guarantees. Mr. Chevrette's statements of support notwithstanding, no concrete proposals have been made nor steps taken, by the Minister or his department or agencies, to ensure access to service in English and recognize the mandates of our institutions.

ALLIANCE QUEBEC ON THE NATIONAL SCENE

New Brunswick:

Alliance Quebec has been both active and visible on the national stage during the month of March.

On March 6, an Alliance Quebec delegation, including President Eric Maldoff, Vice-President Michael Goldbloom, Executive Director Vaughan Dowie and Director of Programmes Doug McCall, went to New Brunswick to present a brief to the Provincial Advisory Committee on Official Languages.

The Advisory Committee is holding hearings to encourage public input on the recommendations contained in the Poirier-Bastarache Report for further implementation of the Official Languages policy of the province.

At a news conference in Fredericton, President Eric Maldoff said Alliance Quebec applauds New Brunswick's record in advancing progressive language reform. At the same time, Mr. Maldoff stressed that continued linguistic harmony in the province is of the highest importance to all provinces and communities in Canada and called on New Brunswickers to undertake continued language reform in a climate of reasoned debate.

While in New Brunswick, the Alliance Quebec delegation met with Advisory Committee Co-chairs Irène Guerette and Judge Lloyd Smith, Municipal Affairs Minister Yvon Poitras, Minister of Reform Jean-Maurice Simard, Société des Acadiens de Nouveau-Brunswick (SANB) President Omer Brun, Deputy Minister Winfield Hackett in Premier Hatfield's office and the interim leader of the Liberal Party, Shirley Dysart.

Ottawa:

On March 19, Vice-President Michael Goldbloom, Executive Director Vaughan Dowie and Research Director Royal Orr testified on behalf of Alliance Quebec before the Standing Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on Official Languages Policy and Programs.

Alliance Quebec had been invited to testify as part of a series of information sessions on the state of official languages in Canada. Also appearing on the same day before the committee was the Fédération des francophones hors Québec.

In a well received presentation, Mr. Goldbloom told the committee the core of rights and services essential to the well-being of an official language minority community must be expanded to include such critically important areas as health and social services and public broadcasting, in addition to previously identified priorities such as civil service participation and education.

ACTIVITIES IN CHAPTERS AND ASSOCIATIONS

The Cote St-Luc/Hampstead/Snowdon West Chapter will publish the second issue of its newsletter The Horizon in mid-April.

Draft letters to MNAs as part of the health and social services public campaign will be mailed out to Chapter members along with notices of the upcoming AGM, to be held April 29.

Marylee Kelley, Health and Social Services Provincial Committee Chairperson and Marlene Baran, Chapter Animator, spoke recently to a group at Maimonides Hospital in Cote St-Luc about the local and provincial activities of Alliance Quebec.

Sheila Finestone, Liberal M.P. for Mount Royal, and a former Alliance Quebec provincial board member, was guest speaker at the most recent Chapter board meeting. She spoke about her experiences at Alliance Quebec, as well as with the provincial and federal levels of the Liberal Party.

East Island Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee is planning a public meeting for April 16th, 1:00 p.m. at St. Brendan's. Speakers will discuss the health service system and Homecare services provided through local CLSCs. Discussion of upcoming user elections and support for the health and social services resolution will also be sought.

The Chapter newsletter The East Islander has been distributed to all members, as well as churches in the chapter area. This issue included a profile of the Canadian-Italian Businessmen's Association, an interview with Mr. Clarence Bayne, Executive Producer of the Black Theatre Workshop, and an historical look at the City of St. Léonard.

The Saguenay Chapter held a pot luck supper on St-Patrick's day at the Ste-Thérèse Hall in Arvida. The evening was a great success and was well attended by all age groups.

The Chapter would like to extend special congratulations to Mrs. Ethel Aspin, the "doyenne" of the Saguenay Chapter, on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Mrs. Aspin is the original Alliance Quebec member in the area, having taken out membership provincially before the Chapter was founded.

The South Shore Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee has had a busy month. Thirty-three resolutions supporting legislative guarantees have been signed and the committee is following up on others. Committee Chairperson Patricia Corbin spoke to members of the United Church women's groups in St. Lambert and will attend a meeting of the Community Learning Exchange in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu to talk about local health services. A recent public meeting sponsored by the Chapter at the CLSC Longueuil was a great success and has prompted requests for similar events at CLSCs in other communities. Participants were given an overview of services available at the CLSC as well as a tour of the facilities.

Margaret McKeown and the Education Committee have been keeping parents up to date on Bill 3. In response to the many requests received by the Chapter, the committee is preparing a document outlining the main points of the Bill and describing how it will affect parents and school committees.

Business and Employment Committee Chairperson, Fred Weisman, met recently with South Shore Regional Guidance Counsellors to discuss Career Nights and employment opportunities for students. The committee will be working on a directory of local employers who are willing to act as speakers and/or provide students with work experience or summer jobs.

At the West Island Chapter board meeting on March 12, guest speaker Jeff Polenz, Education Programme Assistant at Alliance Quebec, gave a very interesting and comprehensive update on Bill 3.

Gary Lyon, Membership Chairperson, has been transferred to Hong Kong where he, his wife Susan and their children will be spending the next three years. Under his leadership the committee tackled many different ventures to increase our membership. His optimism, his enthusiasm and his hard work were a real inspiration to all.

Members of the Health and Social Services Committee, as well as other Chapter members, participated in a recent news conference held by the D.S.C. Lakeshore and Ville Marie Social Service Centre concerning the new pre-CLSC Lac St. Louis, which will serve the communities of Pointe Claire, Beaconsfield, Kirkland, Baie D'Urfé, Ste. Anne de Bellevue and Senneville.

The "Local History History Contest" has attracted twenty-three participants from schools of the Lakeshore and the Baldwin Cartier School Commissions.

The Upper Laurentians Chapter will hold a "Spring Waves" Social, to follow the AGM on April 23. It will feature music, dancing, refreshments and good company.

As part of the public campaign for legislative guarantees, the Chapter has distributed letters to MNAs through the schools, its membership and social clubs. The Upper and Lower Laurentians Chapters and the Laval/North Shore Chapter are planning a meeting in May to share information and planning on the CRSSS Laurentide Lanaudiere.

In other news, J.H. Jacobsen School in Ste. Agathe has applied for a grant to repeat its bilingual summer camp project and Chapter representatives made a presentation recently to the Morin Heights School Committee.

The Lower Laurentians Chapter will hold its AGM on May 1st, at the Orange Hall in Lachute.

Education Committee Chairperson Jim Warbanks attended an information meeting on Bill 3, sponsored by the 3L section of the Fédération des Comités des parents de la province du Québec (FCCPQ).

The NDG/Montreal West Chapter's Annual General Meeting will be held on the 24th of April at Rosedale United Church at 7:30 p.m.

The March issue of the Chapter newsletter is in the mail. The NDG/Montreal West Chapter has been without a newsletter for some time. The Communications Committee is determined to put the newsletter out on a regular basis and to strive for improvement in appearance, style and content issue by issue.

The Chapter continues to do follow-up on the health and social services public campaign. The next few weeks will be devoted exclusively to preparing for the Annual General Meeting.

The TMR/Outremont/CDN/Snowdon East Chapter's Annual General Meeting will be held on the 30th of April at Northmont High School at 7:30 p.m.

The Chapter is continuing its outreach program to the cultural communities by sending letters requesting speaking engagements to 32 organizations within our chapter boundaries. Chapter Chairperson Peter Hechtman spoke to the Barbados Society on the 19th of March. Approximately 75 people were in attendance. The question and answer period was quite lively and informative.

The Chapter continues to follow-up on the health and social services public campaign. Chapter Health and Social Services Committee member Maria Wichers has been appointed President of the Snowdon CLSC Advisory Committee and Donna Salvati has been appointed as a Father Dowd representative on the CLSC/Cote-des-Neiges Board. Chapter Health and Social Services Committee Chairperson, Lily Katofsky, has been elected to the Cote St. Luc Hampstead CLSC board.

St. Patty's day was a big day for the Townshippers' Association as it marked the beginning of a fundraising and membership drive, appropriately called "The Giving of the Green". Many volunteers throughout the Townships are currently busy at work on the campaign.

At the end of February, the Townshippers' Association coordinated a very successful series of meetings with members of the community entitled "Employment Opportunities in the Federal Government". Representatives of the Public Service Commission and the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission presented very informative material at these meetings which were held in Sherbrooke, Cowansville and Richmond.

South West Chapter Membership Chairperson, Carl Albrechtson and his committee have completed their membership renewal campaign. It was a successful effort, with over 90% of the membership renewed. A new member campaign has begun, using the Lovell's street listing. One board member, Avard McLeod, has made 60 phone calls and has already signed up 50 new members. Information letters have been sent to all the new members.

The chapter's AGM will be held at Ville Marie Social Services center, 5835 Verdun Avenue, Verdun, on April 23rd at 7:30 p.m.

The St. Maurice Chapter's Education Committee held an information meeting on March 12 on Bill 3. Joan Pavelko, General Secretary of PACT, was guest speaker. The meeting brought together all members of the school committees of the two English schools in Trois Rivières for the purpose of better understanding the impact of Bill 3 on the region.

The Education Committee has also held two meetings to begin the Rural Education project. As a follow-up, a survey form was distributed to the principals of English schools in Trois Rivières, Shawinigan, and La Tuque. The principals in Trois Rivières were then invited to discuss their input with the committee members.

The Health and Social Services Committee has printed information cards giving the names of English churches and schools in the city of Trois Rivières, which the members plan to make available in real estate offices, hotels, motels, town hall, tourist locations, etc.

The committee has also established a system to provide direct contact between our committee chairperson and hospitals in our region. Whenever a patient expresses an interest in either pastoral services in English or an English visitor during a stay in hospital, Mrs. Rohrback is phoned and the appropriate arrangements are made.

The last membership meeting for this operating year took place on Tuesday, March 26. Guest speaker Ms. Barbara Utech, Executive Producer of Quebec AM on CBC radio, spoke about the effect of the recent cutbacks and the probable result of the expected further reductions in staff and services.

The St. Maurice Chapter Annual General Meeting will be held on April 23, 1985.

The Education Committee of the Cote-Nord Chapter is currently studying the feasibility of adding an English-language section to the CEGEP de Sept-Iles. At the present time, the Secondary V graduates from the area must travel to Quebec City, Montreal or Lennoxville to continue their education.

A delegation consisting of the Education Committee Chairperson Brenda Bond, Gary Briand of the Gaspé CEGEP (English section), William Floch of Alliance Quebec and Bob Stewart of the Queen Elizabeth High School Parents' Committee met with the Director-General of the CEGEP to begin discussion of the idea. The discussion focussed on Gary Briand's experience in the Gaspé where an English section to the CEGEP has been functioning effectively for 15 years. The Education Committee was encouraged by this first meeting and has decided to conduct further research and present a more formal proposal to the CEGEP.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMME

Programme Director Tom Mulcair was a guest speaker recently, along with John Parisella of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, at a public meeting held by the Cote St-Luc Chapter of Alliance Quebec. The topic of the meeting was, "Do You Know Your Rights: How does Federal and Provincial Language Legislation Affect You?".

Network Meeting

The Provincial Business, Employment and Legal Affairs Committee met in March and discussed possible methods of approaching merchants to inform them of the bilingual signs decision of last December 28.

It was also decided to combine the efforts of the Youth Employment Work Group with the Youth Sub-Committee of the Community Development Programme to produce a short document outlining job opportunities and the general economic climate. The document would be aimed at high school and CEGEP students with a view towards helping them plan for careers in Quebec.

Community Economic Development

The Programme Committee has decided to concentrate its efforts for this year's convention on the topic of Community Economic Development. Of particular interest to mainland chapters and associations, the involvement of Alliance Quebec in this area of activity is perceived to be of increasing importance.

A document outlining possible approaches to be explored in a thematic workshop will be prepared for discussion and comment by the Employment/Business Network in April.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Continuing Education Seminar Planned

Alliance Quebec representatives Paulina Grant, Anne Usher and Doug McCall met recently with Michèle Jean, Assistant Deputy-Minister of Manpower for the Quebec Government, to plan the agenda for a seminar to be held in early May. The Seminar will bring together several community organizations and representatives from three different Ministries to examine ways in which English-speaking Quebecers can participate more effectively in the massive overhaul of government structures and programmes on Job Training and Continuing Education.

Convention Session - A Window and Door to Jobs

Planning is underway in the Education Committee for one of the theme workshops that will highlight access to job training for English-speaking Quebecers.

French Second-Language

Transition Conference, May 10-11, 1985:

The programme of the Conference "Transition", is just about complete including the complement of key-note speakers and workshops. The conference will bring together parents, community leaders and teachers to discuss a number of issues related to French second-language training. Alan DeSousa, Alliance Quebec Board member, has been working with representatives of the Canadian Parents for French and the English-speaking Parents' Network. Conference co-ordinator Susan Becker can be reached at (514) 849-0056 for further information.

Bill 3 Update

Maps:

Alliance Quebec met with officials from the Ministry of Education along with nine other provincial organizations regarding consultation on the maps of the proposed territories of the new school boards. Although it did not meet our request for further time for consultation, the Ministry officials did arrange meetings in the Abitibi-Temiscamingue, Saguenay and Cote-Nord regions to consult the population directly. It would appear that the Minister will declare territories for new English-language school boards in the following regions: Outaouais (including the Rouyn Noranda, Val-d'Or area), Chateauguay Valley, South Shore, Cowansville, Townships, Greater Quebec (including the Trois Rivières and Saguenay areas), Seven Islands, Gaspé, Laval and the Laurentians.

Heritage Campus - CEGEP de l'Outaouais

The English-speaking community of the Outaouais is experiencing difficulties in its attempts to secure its own CEGEP. The Minister for Higher Education, Yves Bérubé, has been quoted as saying that priority will be given to establishing a French-language CEGEP

in the Gatineau region. As well, the Conseil d'administration of the CEGEP de l'Outaouais has decided 1) to simply refer the issue to the Minister and 2) to establish a committee to determine the educational role of the Heritage Campus. These decisions were taken as result of a motion proposed by Charles Castonguay and adopted by the Conseil through the unusual method of a secret ballot.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMME

The Health and Social Services spring seminar, chaired by Marylee Kelley, began on Friday, March 8 with a news conference at which Alliance Quebec President Eric Maldoff presented the resolution on Legislative Guarantees (which had been endorsed at that point by 244 groups throughout the province). The head table included: Ville Marie Social Service Centre Director General, John Walker, Barbara Kemp of F.A.S./C.S.N. and Linda August of C.O.P.S.; Dr. John Simms of the Quebec Association of Protestant School Boards; Dr. Ed Coffey of the Quebec Medical Association Region 06A; Cy MacDonald, Mayor of Pierrefonds; Gail Campbell Tucker of the English-speaking Catholic Council; Kevin Saville, Executive Director of the Voice of English Quebec and Joseph Borgo, Director of Shawbridge Youth Centres as well as Alliance Quebec representatives Eric Maldoff, Marylee Kelley, Russell Williams. An impressive cross-section of the other groups supporting the resolution also attended.

On Saturday March 9, the network discussed further public campaign strategies in plenary. Workshops were divided on a regional basis. The Montreal group analyzed the Regional Council's "Plan Directeur - 3 à 5 ans" and made recommendations in workshops animated by Marylee Kelley and Russell Williams. Groups in the Region 06C examined and developed models of service delivery for Monteregie with animators Sonia Aronow and Dianne Allison. The Mainland group looked at issues and strategies for the various regions with animators Gayle Hawley Macdonald and Richard Walling.

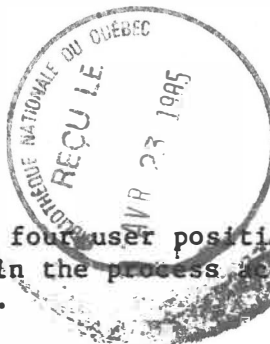
Other topics included an examination of CLSC user elections, presented by Jim Carter, Health and Social Services Provincial Committee member and a historical examination of social services in Montreal by Sam Allison. His presentation included a look at the social trends, national and international events influencing the formation and evolution of social service institutions over the last two hundred years. His lively presentation and interesting anecdotes were greatly appreciated by his listeners.

Network Meeting

Representatives of Chapter Health and Social Services Committees attended the second in a series of network meetings on March 19. Items on the agenda included a public campaign update, CLSC user elections, Chapter elections and presentation of a prototype speech prepared by Dianne Allison to be used by volunteers speaking to local community groups. The speech package included handouts and transparencies for use on an overhead projector. The next network meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16 at 7 p.m.

CLSC User Elections

Elections are upcoming on May 26 for the four user positions on the boards of all CLSCs in the province. Chapters will be involved in the process according to their resources and relationships with their local CLSCs.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Over 200 members of Montreal's cultural communities, and cultural community media representatives attended a special preview performance of Marivaux's "Successful Strategies" ("Heureux Stratagèmes", translated by Timberlake Wertenbaker) at the Centaur Theatre in Old Montreal on Tuesday, March 12.

They had been invited to the play by Alliance Quebec. The evening was organized by Maria Mazzuca, Alliance Quebec Community Liaison Animator and the Cultural Community Network Group.

Following the skillful performance of Marivaux's witty farce, the guests attended a reception hosted by Alliance Quebec President Eric Maldoff and the Artistic Director of the Centaur Theatre Company, Maurice Podbrey.

AQ IN BRIEF

Alliance Quebec welcomes Linton Garner to the staff as the new animator for the South West Chapter. Maria Mazzuca, the former animator, becomes the new Community Liaison Animator for Alliance Quebec. Congratulations to them both.

Also in Community Development, Alliance Quebec announces the departure of St. Laurent Chapter Animator Greg James who leaves us to devote time to his growing graphic arts production business. And special congratulations to NDG/Montreal West/TMR/Outremont/CDN/Snowdon East Animator Fred Anderson and Maureen Thomas on the birth of the newest addition to the animation staff, their son Damon, age 1 month as of this writing.
