

**AQ holds press conference to announce AQ initiatives to ensure ensure that immigrant children in French schools, who are two (2) or more years behind their peers, are provided with an opportunity to receive a proper education**

**April 16, 2001** – The *Charter of the French Language* (“CFL”) provides that children having serious learning disabilities demonstrated by a generalized academic delay of two (2) or more years may receive instruction in English at the request of the parents.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Education and the Commission Scolaire de Montréal (“CSDM”), there are thousands of children under the jurisdiction of the CSDM who are two (2) or more years behind their peers.

“Children whose first language is not French and whose first or second language is English would obviously benefit from a transfer to an English school, but the CSDM has systematically failed to inform parents of their right to make an application as provided by law. All that we are asking for is that the CSDM respect its obligations under the law and the rights of children under its jurisdiction,” asserted AQ President Anthony Housefather.

Alliance Quebec has retained lawyer Brent Tyler and will hold a **press conference** to outline AQ’s initiative to correct this injustice:

**On Wednesday, April 18, 2001 at 11:00 am  
At Alliance Quebec’s office  
1980 Sherbrooke St. West, Suite 830**