

Alliance Quebec Supports Superior Court Ruling on Computer Software Case

Montreal, Quebec, June 21, 2000--Alliance Quebec is pleased by the Quebec Superior Court ruling clarifying that employees have the right to choose the language of software they prefer to work in. AQ has fully supported this case since April 1998, when the *Office de la Langue Française* told companies that their employees were not allowed to use English software, because equivalent French-language software was available on the market.

Justice Pierre Dalphond ruled yesterday that Quebec's language law does not allow the OLF to ban the use of English (or another language) software in business as long as employees are given the option of using French software, if available.

"We are delighted with the ruling since it reaffirms our position that, to the greatest extent possible, employees should be free to work in the language of their choice," said Alliance Quebec president and lawyer Anthony Housefather yesterday. "We very much want employers to make French language software available to those employees who would prefer it but at the same time want to ensure that those employees who want to work with English programs are free to do so. It is our belief that the more comfortable people are that they can work in their own language, the more that people will choose to remain in Quebec and contribute to our economic growth."

Alliance Quebec extends its congratulations to the plaintiffs and to their lawyer Julius Grey.