

press releases

Language measures "petty, vindictive and hurtful" . . . Alliance Quebec

Montreal, Nov. 14, 1996 -- The measures introduced by Cultural Affairs Minister Louise Beaudoin to limit the public and official use of English are petty, vindictive and hurtful, Alliance Quebec President Michael Hamelin said Thursday.

"By refusing to accept that English is a common language in Quebec as well as French, Madame Beaudoin is insulting more than 800,000 citizens of this province," Hamelin said.

"By insisting that English should be hidden from public view, by refusing to accept bilingual reality, she not only ignores the views of the majority of voters, she imposes hypocrisy on democracy."

Last week, Premier Lucien Bouchard chaired a summit conference dealing with how to improve the Quebec economy where it was made clear that investments and jobs are affected by the way Quebec deals with language. The minister should realize that heightened language tensions hurt the poorest people in this divided province, Hamelin said.

"Instead of wasting time trying to keep anglophones and allophones from speaking on the telephone in English with Hydro Quebec, she should be trying to get people back to work in Quebec's two common languages," he added.

For further information, contact Rob Bull, Communications Director of Alliance Quebec, at 875-2771.