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The Monthly Report

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AQ LAUNCHES SECOND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

March is membership month at Alliance Quebec. This second annual campaign will have each chapter designing and implementing its campaign in its own particular style. Some chapters will go door-door-door seeking new members while others will have booths at shopping centres or other public places. The goal is to double membership in the Alliance.

Executive Committee member Marylee Kelley is co-ordinating the campaign. She and members of the Community Development staff have visited all chapters to find out what kind of support the Alliance's provincial office can give and to animate discussion around campaign strategy. Newspaper advertisements will appear twice in the local press during the campaign.

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THE ALLIANCE READY TO INTERVENE
IN SUPPORT OF FRANCO-MANITOBANS

Alliance Quebec deplores the Feb. 27th decision by the Manitoba government to end the legislative session thus allowing its constitutional resolution on French-language rights to die on the order paper. In a statement issued this week, Alliance Quebec joined the Société Franco-Manitobaine in calling upon the federal government to proceed with a reference case to the Supreme Court of Canada at the earliest opportunity, in order to determine the scope of French-language rights guaranteed under the Manitoba Act.

AQ is prepared to intervene in such a case in full support of the Franco-Manitobans, and has called upon both the federal and Québec governments to adopt a similar position.

"We are firmly committed to the principle that English-speaking and French-speaking people can live and work together with dignity and mutual respect", AQ said in its statement. "We are dedicated to ensuring that Canada is a country in which all Canadians feel welcome, at home and secure. The obstructive and self-serving tactics adopted by the opponents of the Manitoba Constitutional proposal must not be allowed to compromise the character and future of the Canadian constitutional order. This blot on our record of fair, honest and negotiated solutions must be removed at the earliest opportunity. The Federal Government must, therefore, act in the immediate future to have the Supreme Court decide this issue."

COURT CASE ON THE "CANADA CLAUSE"

Alliance Quebec was one of the parties present on Feb. 21 during the Supreme Court hearings on the constitutionality of Bill 101 regarding admission to English Quebec schools. Julius Grey, a lawyer acting on behalf of seven families, made his presentation, as did representatives of the federal government and the Quebec Association of Protestant School Boards. They argued that the Canada Clause should supercede the Bill 101 provisions. It is hoped the Supreme Court will rule on the case before the end of this school year.

NEWS BULLETIN

We have all known with regret for some time now that Geoffrey Chambers would be leaving his position as Executive Director of the Alliance. Who would be replacing him has been the question. The answer came at the last Board of Directors meeting when Vaughan Dowie, Community Development Programme Director, was chosen as the new Executive Director. We are all pleased with the news! More on this in the next edition of the Monthly Report.

FAREWELL TO RITA KARAKAS

After two years at Alliance Quebec, the Health and Social Services Programme will not seem the same without Rita Karakas in charge. Her co-workers will miss her dynamic presence and the Alliance will miss her special talents that have meant major achievements in the Health and Social Services Programme area. The formal recognition of much of her behind-the-scenes work came in the form of Bill 57 which gave institutions greater latitude to use English. The policy formulated by Alliance Quebec on institutional rather than individual bilingualism was accepted by the government in this law which eased some of the restrictions of Bill 101.

Rita has worked hard to bring Quebec's English health and social service institutions closer together and has lobbied for greater representation by English-speaking Quebecers on government boards and agencies. Last - but by far not least - she has travelled the province to help English Quebecers understand and, thus, participate more fully in the health and social service system which has evolved into a highly complex structure. The government has not adequately explained the system to the population - particularly in English. Rita has held several highly successful workshops to inform people - in fact, the last one was this past weekend.

The Alliance Quebec Board of Directors and staff join to wish Rita as much success in her new position as she has had with us. She will be greatly missed. Rita's new position is Assistant Executive Director of United Way/Centraide at the national office in Ottawa.

Alliance Quebec is pleased to welcome Russell Williams as the new Health and Social Services Programme Director. He brings with him extensive experience in community work, most recently with the Montreal YMCA as Director of the Office of Community Justice Initiatives. He has also been Director of the YMCA Operation Tandem crime prevention program in four police districts of Montreal, a John Abbott College professor, supervisor of a community-based crime prevention network in Hampstead, and Director of the West Island Juvenile Diversion Project.

PREPARING FOR CONVENTION '84

Alliance Quebec's 1984 Convention will be held June 1-3 at McGill University. Greater emphasis will be placed this year on the business portion of the meeting, while the planned workshops will focus on broad issues facing the English-speaking community. A smaller scale event Saturday night will replace last year's day-long cultural festival.

The Convention Committee, co-chaired by Marylee Kelley and Michael Prupas, has been working for more than a month and soon will meet AQ member groups to discuss details of planning the convention.

CONSULTATION SOON ON AQ POLICY

The Policy Committee, chaired by Michael Sheldon, AQ Board Member, is in the final stages of reviewing the Policy Document to be presented at the Convention. At this stage it appears that a limited number of amendments will be made to the current policy. Chapters, associations and organizational member groups will have their opportunity to present amendments in early April when the draft Policy Document is circulated.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Changes to Bill 40 are expected to be announced in March. We expect changes in: the powers given to school boards; the provision of religious education at the school level; the school board election process; and the reorganization of the Education Ministry to provide better services to the English-speaking community. We are hopeful that the Minister will respond positively to the proposals put forward in the Alliance's presentation. The Group of 14 has agreed to meet immediately after publication of the amendments to consider a joint public statement on behalf of the English-speaking community.

The interpretation and implication of recent changes to Bill 101 have been discussed at several information meetings. Programme Directors Tom Mulcair and Doug McCall are meeting with the directors-general of school boards, universities, Cegeps, the Quebec Association of Protestant School Boards, and the various associations representing employees to develop a coordinated approach in interpreting the changes.

Plans have been finalized for a major conference April 14 at D'Arcy McGee High School in Hull on parent participation. Parent Committees from schools across the province will be invited to send representatives to discuss the creation of an English-speaking parents network. Support has been received from the Education Ministry. AQ Board members Gaby Ostro and Marguerite Laflamme are working with a committee of parents to organize the conference.

On Feb. 8 the Education Committees from all the regional organizations of the Alliance held a program network meeting. The agenda included an update on Bill 40 and consultation on proposed amendments to the education policies of AQ, as well as working sessions on French second language and local history. Regular meetings of the network will continue on issues such as educational services in rural areas, youth attitudes and the other Education Programmes of AQ.

Activities continue to be expanded in the Education Programme as the work groups, provincial and regional education committees begin to attack the issues identified at the January education workshop:

French Second Language: At a working session with Gail Hawley-McDonald (Outaouais Alliance) acting as resource person, information was exchanged on summer day camps for French second language instruction. The following chapters and associations are considering sponsoring such camps: CVFSPA, AQ-South Shore, Outaouais Alliance, CASA, and AQ-Montreal Centre.

Local history: Interest in local history projects is running high as members of the Work Group on Local History meet with AQ regional organizations. Kevin O'Donnell made a presentation to the South West Chapter, Graeme Decarie to the St. Maurice Valley Chapter and Marianna O'Gallagher to the Saguenay-Lac St. Jean Chapter. Various governmental and community groups have expressed an interest in co-operating with us.

Rural education services: This work group is finalizing its questionnaire which will document the educational needs of rural communities. Meetings will be held with regional associations and chapters, as well as educational organizations to validate the questionnaire before it is circulated.

Admission to English schools: This work group will respond to the urgent need for explaining the new rules on admission to English schools (resulting from Bill 57) through meetings with education officials, the production of a brochure, and a series of meetings with representatives of national companies.

Two new issues affecting the university and adult education sectors will add to the activities this month. AQ is working with various groups to oppose government plans to increase fees for foreign university students. In adult education, the long-awaited government response to the Jean Commission was made public Feb. 28. As well, AQ will co-operate with organizations in the adult education sector to ensure that the English-speaking community's interests are respected, as the government finally has responded to the Jean Commission report. The implications of the adult education proposals are as important as Bill 40.

EMPLOYMENT/BUSINESS PROGRAMME

The court battle launched recently to test the signs provision of Bill 101 is the result of many AQ chapters helping to identify merchants who want to keep their bilingual signs despite government pressure. The five merchants involved are located in several chapters of the Alliance. Legal assistance is being provided to all five by the Alliance. Two businessmen have been charged by the Quebec Justice Department: Kenneth McKenna, of McKenna Flowers in the Côte des Neiges area, and Oscar Goldstein, of Nettoyeur et Tailleur Masson on the East Island. They, along with three others, have put forward a motion for a declaratory judgement. This motion asks the Superior Court of Québec to rule on the validity of the Bill 101 signs provision. They want to know whether or not the provision contravenes either the Canadian or the Quebec charters of rights and freedoms. The other merchants are Morton Brownstein, of Brown's Shoes in Pointe Claire, Agostino Frangella, of National Cheese in Ville LaSalle, and Valerie Ford of Les Lainages du Petit Mouton, in Pte. Claire.

The pilot project in TMR/Outremont/Côte des Neiges/Snowdon East on youth employment is in full swing. The chapter's Employment/Business Chairman, Peter Hechtman, and an active group of volunteers have been working hard to help young people acquire the job-related French skills they'll be needing to work in Quebec. The result of their efforts will determine the timing of similar endeavours on a province-wide basis.

Two visits have been made to different parts of the province by Programme Director Tom Mulcair to present the Employment Opportunities Development Package to youths. He travelled to Hull recently with John Parisella, the Quebec representative for the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, and Barry Gaipman, a professional guidance counsellor, to talk with students at Heritage Campus, Cégep de l'Outaouais. He also visited the St. Leonard Youth Centre with John Parisella, Alan Law, a personnel manager, Margaret Fydell, a computer systems expert and Pat Camacho, East Island Chapter Chairperson.

In other news, Hugh Mitchell, Chairman of the Provincial Employment/Business Committee; Duncan MacDonald, of the West Island Chapter; Hal Grossner, Chairman of TMR/Outremont/Côte des Neiges/Snowdon East; and Tom Mulcair met with a group from the Centre for Research Action on Race Relations to discuss minority representation on the MUC Police Force. The Employment/Business Programme will co-operate with the Centre to increase public awareness and organize activities on this issue.

The Programme has noted that the Office de la langue française has been refusing to acknowledge the changes made to Bill 101. Instead, in some cases, it appears to be intent on implementing the old law as if Bill 57 had never been passed. The Programme is working with different institutions of the English-speaking community on this matter and will keep a close eye on future moves by the OLF.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Seventy-five people attended the Health and Social Services workshop held Feb. 24 and 25 at PSBCM headquarters. The major themes were the reorganization of social services and the development of the CLSC network. Guest speakers were André Cimon, Responsable des services de Première Ligne from the Regional Health and Social Service Council for Metropolitan Montreal; Saul Panosky, representative from the Fédération des CLSC du Québec and Director-General of CLSC St. Louis-du-Parc; and Marc Sénéchal, Vice-président of Association des Centres des Services Sociaux du Québec and Director-General of the Outaouais Social Service Centre.

Five workshops were also held in which participants simulated the development of a new CLSC. Emphasis during the workshop was also placed on chapter projects and activities, including presentations by Wayne Robbins on the NDG Chapter's survey on Health and Social Services and by Pat Camacho, East Island Chapter Chairperson, Joan Richards (CASA) and Rita Karakas on an "information and documentation" kit available to the chapters in the coming year. The kit was prepared by the latter three persons and Gail Hawley MacDonald of the Outaouais Alliance.

In chapter news, the TMR/Outremont/Côte des Neiges/Snowdon East Chapter held a successful public meeting Feb. 7 with AQ Vice-President Michael Goldbloom and Programme Director Rita Karakas speaking on health and social services. NDG/Montreal West is finishing its analyses of the questionnaire which was circulated recently. East Island is planning an information meeting on health and social services - particularly to the elderly - on Mar. 13 at St. George's United Church, 3030 Baldwin at 1:30 p.m. Guest speakers are Rita Karakas and Thérèse Darche from the Regional Council. Rita Karakas and Russ Williams, the new Programme Director, were on the South Shore Cable TV channel recently with Sonia Aranow and Dennis Languay, discussing the social service network in a series of programs.

RESEARCH PROGRAMME

A variety of activities are currently underway in all three of the Research Programme's principal areas of responsibility: Research and publications; Programme services; and infrastructure development. In the first area, an in-house report is being prepared on the macro-economic impact of Quebec language policies. The report will feature a comparative study of the economies of Ontario and Quebec and will analyze such economic and demographic indicators as migration, capital expenditures, consumer spending, unemployment, business departures, etc. In addition, eleven articles on several issues have been drafted for publication in newspapers such as Le Devoir, La Presse, The Gazette, The Globe & Mail.

In the area of programme services, two research projects are underway. The first is an analysis of the 1981 Census tract and Census subdivision data by linguistic and geographic variables for the Community Development Programme. The second is an examination of the federal/provincial second language funding process for use by the Education Programme. A third research project for the Health and Social Services Programme is under consideration.

The development of a sound infrastructure has been a priority during the initial start-up of the Research Programme. Hence, efforts have been devoted to the acquisition of library materials, such as 1981 Census data and the reorganization and indexing of library holdings. A statistics index which would provide a quick reference source for basic statistical data is being developed as is a "Quik Search" response system which would allow the Research Programme to respond quickly for requests for information. Increasingly, the Research Programme is having to devote more time to responding to requests for data and information from a wide variety of sources. Completion of the library indexing, statistics index and "Quik Search" system will enable the Programme to respond more quickly and effectively to requests for data and information.

ACTIVITIES IN CHAPTERS AND ASSOCIATIONS

CVESPA has been busy reorganizing its structure in the past few months. It now has two part-time staffers and a new slate of directors. Maurice King of Rockburn, formerly Vice-President, is the new President and Director, replacing Dr. Paul Tabakman; Bruce Hains of Valleyfield is the new Vice-President. The membership campaign will be the priority activity during March. Other planned events are a Spring Festival at apple blossom time and the Annual General Meeting on May 26th.

The TMR/Côte des Neiges/Outremont/Snowdon East Chapter, the AQ youth network and the Commerce Graduate Student Association of Concordia is organizing a public meeting at 4 p.m. Wed., Mar. 7 in the Faculty Club of Concordia University on the seventh floor of the Hall Building. The subject will be Quebec's language law and its effects on business and employment. The speaker will be Employment/Business Programme Director Tom Mulcair.

A Youth Recruitment Seminar was held by the West Island Chapter at John Abbott College Feb. 14-16 with participation by chapter and student volunteers. The aim of the Seminar was to explain the goals and achievements of the provincial and local organization. A booth was set up with the co-operation of the student activities department. Geoffrey Chambers, Executive Director of Alliance Quebec, spoke to students on challenges facing English-speaking youths in Quebec.

Health and Social Service Committee members visited several local institutions including the Edwin Crawford Residence in Pointe Claire, the Centre d'Accueil Denis Benjamin Viger in Ile-Bizard and the CLSC Pierrefonds.

A membership list has been computerized and cards will go out with the first newsletter which will be published in early March to coincide with the membership campaign.

The next Board meeting will be held in Lachine March 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Le Marquette, 663-2nd Ave. The speaker will be Tom Mulcair, Employment/Business Programme Director.

Outaouais Alliance held a press conference March 1 to release the results of its survey done last summer in Aylmer and Hull, which examined the attitudes, opinions and feelings of the English-speaking residents of West Quebec.

On March 18 Outaouais Alliance will host a brunch for English-speaking community leaders and business people of West Quebec at the Palais des Congrès in Hull. Members of the Board will explain the organization, thus increasing its visibility in the community.

A St. Patrick's Day Dance will be held March 24 in Buckingham, sponsored and organized by Outaouais Alliance - another way of reaching out into the community. Everyone's invited - \$6.50 per person. Call 1-819-777-0177 for tickets. It's worth the trip just to hear Cal. Cummings and his Jug O'Punch Band.

Also underway are plans for the Wrights of Spring Festival April 28, at Philemon Wright School in Hull. It begins at 8:30 a.m. with a community breakfast and ends with a dance that evening. Again - everyone is invited.

The Townshippers' Association recently released a study, "Economic Opportunities for English Townshippers". Commissioned by the association and written by sociologist Gary Caldwell, it has provided useful information about the economic situation which the English-speaking community is experiencing. Plans are underway for follow-up action to the study.

The Association is pleased to welcome three new staff members. In Health and Social Services, Cynthia Belisle is working at the Cowansville office, while Lorie Curtis is at the Sherbrooke office. Kevan Durrell, also at the Sherbrooke office, is the new Job Opportunities Co-ordinator, replacing Ann Louise Carson who is now Co-ordinator of Communications and Membership Services.

The Upper Laurentians' third newsletter was mailed to members in late February. The Directors' meeting was held on Feb. 13 with the objectives and date for the membership campaign being discussed. Marylee Kelley, Alliance Quebec Executive Committee member and West Island Chairperson; Vaughan Dowie, Community Development Programme Director; and Fran Riley, Education Programme Assistant, contributed greatly to the meeting. The previous Directors' meeting was held at the home of Director Bill Weary in Morin Heights. More small local meetings are planned.

The Laval/North Shore Chapter has started its travelling board meetings, the first of which was held Feb. 6 in Chomedey. By rotating meetings in different areas the Chapter will keep abreast of the various needs of the community as well as encourage more participation in the Alliance.

Under the leadership of Sue Quarles, the Employment and Business Committee met to establish chapter priorities for the coming year. The issue of signs in the Laval area is being investigated. Harold Forester, Vice-Chairperson and a representative of the Employment and Business Committee, agreed to photograph a unilingual French sign on an English school. A resolution has been drafted by the committee demonstrating dissatisfaction with the present sign. On Feb. 29, the Employment and Business Committee attended the Quality of Work Life meeting in Laval to express concern and encourage the city to erect a bilingual sign.

The "foreign languages" sign in the Blainville Library which classified English books has been removed. The chapter considers this action by the library an important step towards recognizing the rights of the English-speaking residents in the chapter and the sensitivity of Blainville Library authorities to residents' needs.

The Health and Social Services Committee, under the leadership of Frances Rappaport, is continuing to meet representatives of CLSCs and other groups in the Laval/North Shore Area. A recent visit to CLSC Norman Bethune demonstrated that there is a willingness to pay attention to the needs of English-speaking residents. The committee realizes the necessity of establishing contact with CLSCs. Tentative plans are being formulated for a Health and Social Services Information meeting to be held soon.

The Education Committee sent telegrams to local MNAs to voice concern that time should be allotted to the Laurenval Co-ordinating Committee to present its brief on Bill 40. Regretfully, no response as yet has been received.

A.Q. St. Laurent's Employment and Business Committee under the Chairmanship of Lewis Williams has been organizing career days in conjunction with the guidance counselors of local high schools. The first of three separate career days was held at Father McDonald Comprehensive High School on Feb. 8 when approximately 30 career fields were represented. The chapter also had a booth to raise their profile in the community.

The next career day will be held at Malcolm Campbell High School on Feb. 24 with the St. Laurent Chapter providing information to students on basic job application skills. The third day will take place at Sir Winston Churchill High School during April.

On Jan. 31 Jean Brooks, Chairperson of the chapter's Health and Social Services Committee, convened a meeting of the committee. Since then, various municipal agencies and institutions have been visited to raise the chapter's profile and evaluate the availability and quality of services in English. A delegation from this committee met with

the Département de Santé Communautaire at Sacré-Coeur Hospital on Feb. 16 to discuss the planned CLSCs and the possibility of A.Q. St. Laurent representation on future planning committees.

At the chapter's February board meeting, the planning of the '84 membership campaign was initiated with a visit from Vaughan Dowie, Community Development Programme Director and Babo Leibovitch, Programme Assistant. The objectives and various strategies needed to implement the campaign were discussed. One of the principal means of reaching out for more members will be the chapter's first newsletter which will be mailed by mid-March. Each member will be asked to sign up at least one new member. Another major objective of the campaign will be the development of more contacts in the Cartierville, Saraguay and New Bordeaux areas of the region. The chapter hopes this will result in an increase of membership and participation from those communities.

The Montreal South-West Chapter executive met with Vaughan Dowie, Community Development Programme Director and Marylee Kelley, Executive Committee member and Chairperson of the West-Island Chapter, as well as Co-Chairperson of the Convention '84 Committee, to discuss the March Membership Campaign. The main thrust of the Chapter's plan will be an outreach effort by present members as well as public information booths in as many places as possible.

With the assistance of chapter Animator, Maria Mazzuca, and members Sheri MacLeod and David Zizzi, the chapter was successful at the Selby Campus of Dawson College on "Survival Day". Literature on Alliance Quebec was handed out and several students joined. The chapter hopes to repeat this success at its forthcoming AQ week at Selby which has been arranged by Maria. Guest speakers will be John Parisella, Quebec Representative for the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, and Graeme Decarie, Concordia University History Professor, as well as Maurice Podbrey, Artistic Director, Centaur Theatre.

The Feb. public meeting was held in Pointe St. Charles and attendance reached approximately 70 people. Michael Goldbloom, Vice-President of Alliance Quebec, was the guest speaker. Kevin O'Donnell of Montreal Center Chapter presented a narrated slide show of the building of Victoria Bridge. Everyone enjoyed the film and interest has been expressed in having more of this type of public meeting. Information tables on the various areas of activity of the Chapter were set up around the hall. Several people completed membership information forms that had been passed around, giving a more comprehensive index of interests and areas. Several new members joined the chapter.

The chapter's next public meeting will be held at the Nuns' Island Community Center on March 15 with guest speaker Rita Karakas. The chapter's play, "The Adult Puzzle", presented at the December meeting, will be repeated.

Members of the Board attended an information meeting at the Ville Marie Social Services Center on Jan. 31. The planned restructuring of these services in the South-West area is a major concern to the community.

Other issues and action plans which need to be reviewed by the chapter are the unilingual French ads in local papers by Federal Government departments and the receipt of unilingual French store coupon packages from Ontario and other areas outside Quebec.

Chapter Chairman Bill Owens will hold meetings with each committee in the forthcoming months to make sure they have established priorities and specific goals. The first meeting with the Health and Social Services Committee was held on Feb. 13.

The East Island Chapter has acquired an office at 6280 Sherbrooke St. East, Apt. 1B. The chapter is planning to put a sign in the window to be more visible. Everyone is welcome to drop in and say hello.

The chapter has been busy organizing several activities and events this month. The Career Night-E.O.D.P. presentation organized by the Education Committee for the St. Léonard Youth Centre had a good turn out. Informative presentations were given to the young people who attended. Although the ages ranged from 13 to 17 years, the material seemed to be of interest to all, and the chapter was pleased to see that these students were looking forward to a career in Québec.

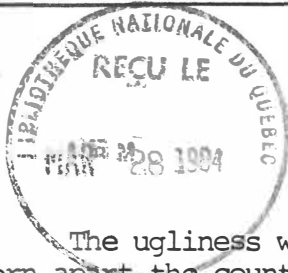
The Membership Committee has established an exciting plan of action for the membership drive. A pyramid structure will be used and different sectors of the Chapter targetted: Geographic regions, i.e. Mtl. Nord, Rosemount, etc.; Social Sectors, i.e. churches and recreation groups, and the different cultural communities. The campaign message is that although the Alliance has been successful in the last year now is not the time to become complacent.

Planning is also taking place for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). April 24 has been chosen and a hall is being sought. A Nominations Committee will be named at the next board meeting on March 7. A committee to discuss the Policy Document is beginning to organize. It will have some suggested changes ready for the AGM.

The Health and Social Services Committee continues to visit CLSCs and DSCs in the Rosemount area. A public meeting will be held on March 13 to discuss "Services for the Elderly." The meeting will take place at St. George's United Church, 3030 Baldwin at 1:30 p.m. The two guest speakers will be Rita Karakas, and a representative from the Regional Council.

The South Shore Chapter has been working hard in committees recently. The Education Committee is planning to set up an immersion day camp this summer and will be submitting an article on access to English schools to the local newspapers. The Health and Social Services Committee has planned two regional public meetings to which representatives from CRSS Monteregie, DSC Charles LeMoynes, CLSC Champlain and CSS Richelieu have been invited. These meetings will take place as follows: March 26 in Greenfield Park; April 30 in Beloeil. The membership drive will go into full swing the first week in March with the publication of the Chapter newsletter.

South Shore Cable T.V. (Inter-9) recently taped a series of half-hour shows featuring AQ Programme Directors and S. Shore Chapter people. The list is as follows: "Brossard School Closing" - Douglas McCall, Education Programme Director and Paul Jones, S. Shore Chapter Chairperson; "Access to English-Language Schools" - Douglas McCall and Ethel Gravelle; "Culture & Amateur Theatre" - Irma Rollins, S. Shore Chapter Communications Chairperson; "History of English Community" - Graham Weeks, former Associate Programme Director, Community Development; "Availability of Health and Social Services" - Dennis Languay; "Richelieu Social Service Centre" - Ms. Aranow of the Richelieu Social Service Centre; "Reorganization of Social Services" - Mr. Russell Williams, in-coming Health and Social Services Programme Director; "Signs & Government Services" - Mr. Tom Mulcair, Employment/Business Programme Director and Mr. David Mulhall, Programme Chairperson for S. Shore; and "The Victoria Bridge" - Mr. Sam Allison. A videotape of the entire series will be available at the Alliance offices on Crescent Street.

COMMENT IN THE FRENCH PRESS

The ugliness which exploded in Manitoba over the last few months has shocked and torn apart the country. What first appeared to be an honorable and just solution has turned into a national crisis. Editorialists have examined the grave implications of the inability of the Pawley government to proceed with its plans, the possible outcome of an intervention by federal leaders, and the indifference of the Quebec government.

Michel Roy in La Presse, Feb. 25 says that "the crisis which has unsettled Manitoba on the subject of language rights will inevitably unleash a Canadian crisis." He goes on to say that Premier Pawley's failure is due to the fact that "he grossly underestimated the ferocious resistance of the majority of his province to the principle of duality." Mr. Roy rejects the solution of a court decision, saying "all authentic and democratic solutions will be the result of a political will expressing the popular consensus. It is to this end that all politicians must work."

Le Devoir's Jean-Louis Roy in a Feb. 25 editorial entitled Failure, Hypocrisy, Indifference claims that had the Manitoba plan worked, "It would be a sign of the evolution of attitudes and a maturing of the idea of duality. This political agreement would have symbolised a long-awaited conception of our country, necessary for its survival." Mr. Roy harshly condemns the apathy of the Quebec government, suggesting that had the Quebec government interceded it would in all logic have given its support to the Manitoba Conservative Party. He concludes his editorial by condemning both Ottawa and Quebec: "It is bad enough that the minority is attacked on its own territory without adding the hypocrisy of one and the indifference of the other."

The most critical editorial of all appeared in the March issue of L'Actualité. Editor Jean Paré calls the fight against a few surviving francophones "obscene savagery". He goes on to say that although people often jeer at Newfoundland as being a quarter of a century behind the times that "the real 'newfies' are in Manitoba." Mr. Paré marvels at the "applied racism" which has existed in Manitoba over the past 100 years and which now manifests itself. The federal Conservative Party, and its leader Brian Mulroney are, according to Paré, perhaps the only solution to the "prairie fires which are fed by the winds of Ottawa and Quebec." Mr. Paré wrote, "It is up to them to enter into the caves of those dinosaurs who think that Pierre Trudeau is a communist and that French is a shameful illness with those who speak it incurable."

AQ IN BRIEF

The Alliance Research and Education Institute has a new Director, Allan Berezny. He is the former Annual Giving Officer of the Alma Mater Fund at McGill University's Development Office. AQ welcomes him as well as his secretary, Barbara Jekkel. Congratulations go to Joyce Farley, the new mother of Ryan, born Feb. 11.

Ima Rollins, Communications Chairperson for the S. Shore Chapter, invites chapters to get in touch with her if they are interested in assistance from the Quebec Drama Festival, of which she is a member. Help is available to plan community theatre projects or to hold workshops on drama subjects. This out-reach program of the Quebec Drama Festival has been receiving excellent response across the province. To get involved, call Ima at 465-7311 or 461-1972.