

## **Alliance Quebec Representatives Brief MPs on Continuing Challenges Faced by the English-speaking Community**

**Montreal, Friday, April 6, 2001** – Representatives of Alliance Quebec met this week with more than 40 Members of Parliament, to lobby them on issues of particular concern to English-speaking Quebecers.

During the meetings, which were held on Tuesday, April 3, 2001, the Alliance Quebec representatives briefed the MPs on the continuing challenges faced by the English-speaking community – in particular, the Quebec government’s proposed merger legislation (Bill 170) and the proposed legislation that would make it more difficult for municipalities to achieve bilingual status (Bill 171). Alliance representatives explained that these two bills represent one of the greatest threats to English-language institutions since Bill 101 was introduced in the late 1970s.

Alliance Quebec also discussed possible legal interventions by the federal government in the upcoming court challenges to Bill 170 and Bill 171, and the under-representation of English-speaking Quebecers in the federal public service in Quebec.

“We were extremely pleased to have an opportunity to meet with so many MPs in order to sensitize them to our key issues,” said Anthony Housefather, president of Alliance Quebec. “The MPs seemed very interested in what we had to say and visibly concerned about our challenges.”

“Clearly, we are very enthusiastic about working with all political parties to promote Canadian unity within Quebec and to defend and enhance our province’s English-speaking communities and institutions.”

Alliance Quebec representatives met with MPs from the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, and the Canadian Alliance Party.

Alliance Quebec is a non-profit community based organization committed to the preservation and enhancement of the English-speaking communities and institutions within Quebec.