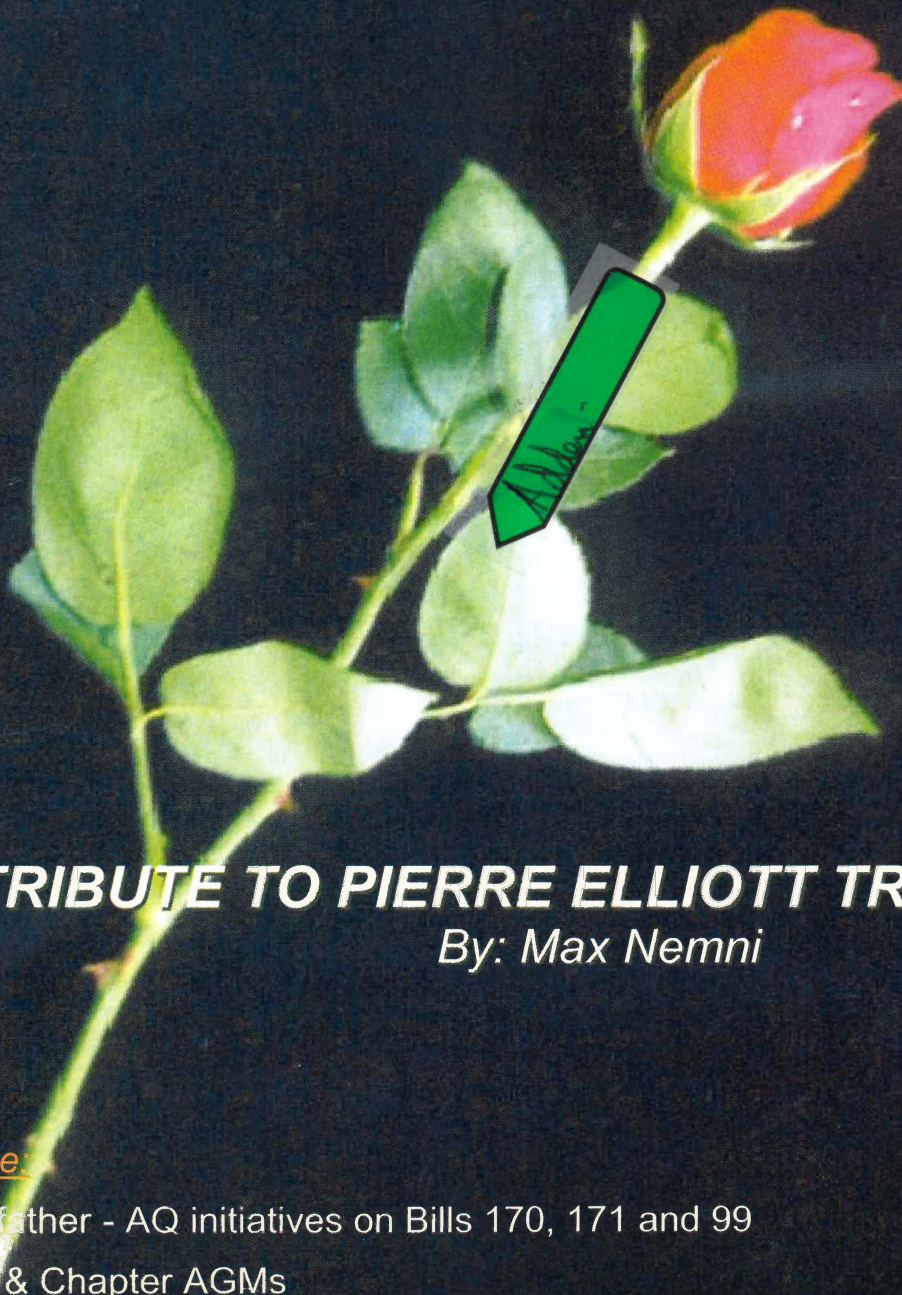


Alliance Quebec

News Magazine

The Forum for Quebec's English-speaking communities



A TRIBUTE TO PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU

By: Max Nemni

Also in this issue:

Anthony Housefather - AQ initiatives on Bills 170, 171 and 99

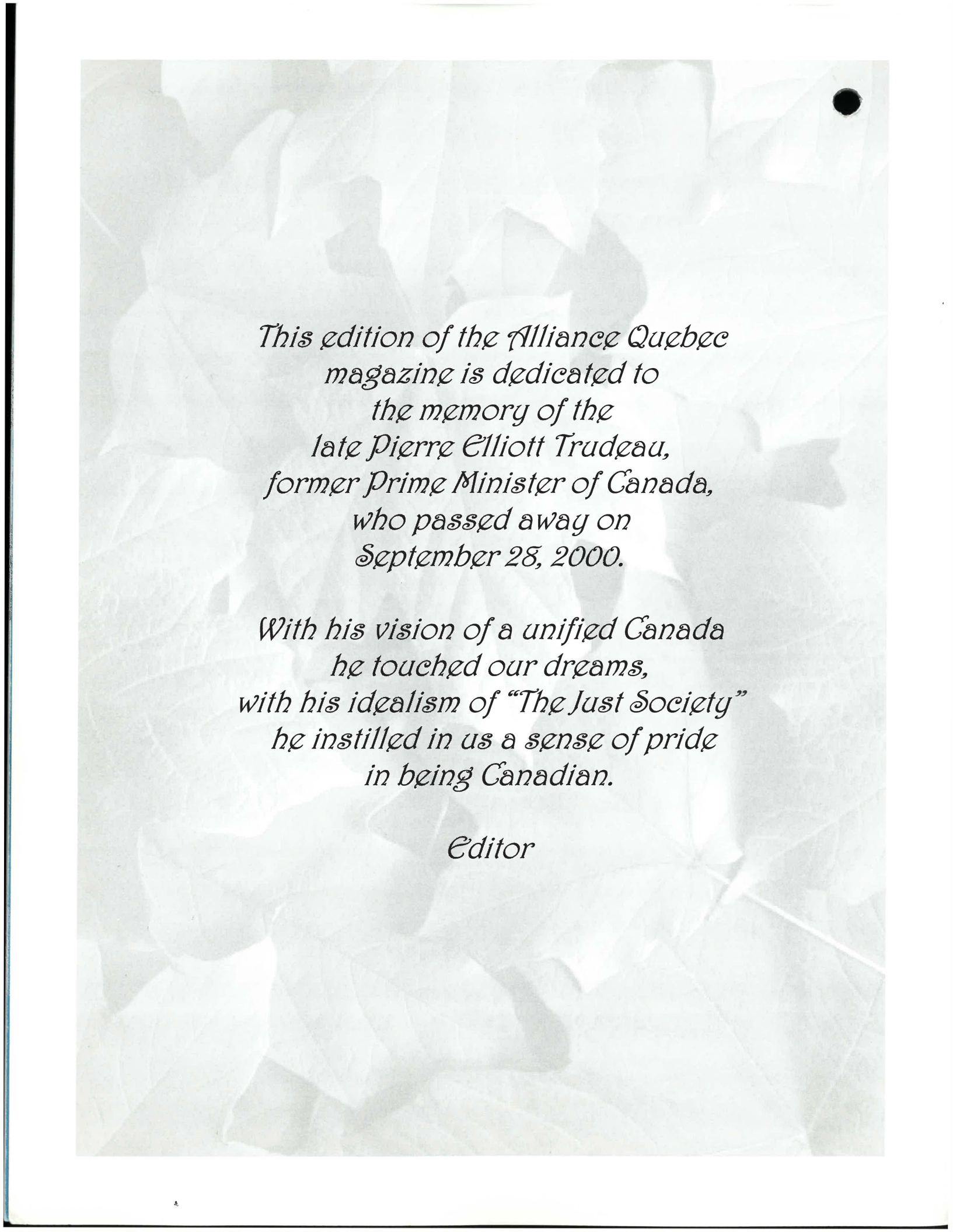
AQ Convention & Chapter AGMs

Brent Tyler - Reporting from the Front

Chapter News

**alliance
quebec**

Spring 2001
Vol. 3, Issue 1



*This edition of the Alliance Quebec
magazine is dedicated to
the memory of the
late Pierre Elliott Trudeau,
former Prime Minister of Canada,
who passed away on
September 28, 2000.*

*With his vision of a unified Canada
he touched our dreams,
with his idealism of "The Just Society"
he instilled in us a sense of pride
in being Canadian.*

Editor

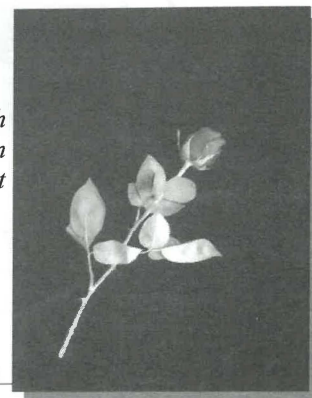
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Winter 2001

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Concept and photograph
courtesy Bill Butcher in
remembrance of Pierre Elliott
Trudeau.

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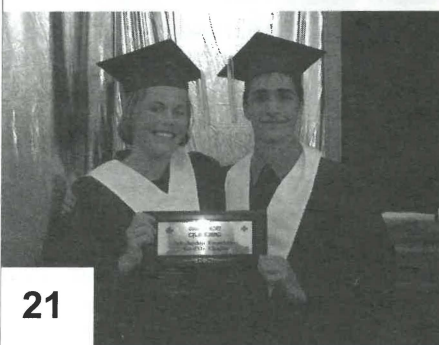
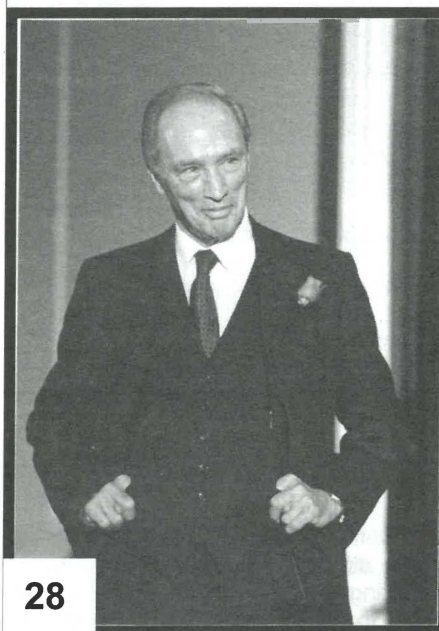
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CONVENTION **14**

letters

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter, with a photograph, that I sent three months ago to the Provincial Director of Moore's Men's clothing store on St. Catherine Street in Montreal. In the letter I expressed my appreciation for the store's use of equal-sized French and English advertising signs in their front windows.

If other individuals and groups would use this example and send out letters expressing their recognition and appreciation to those stores and businesses whom they see using bilingual and/or

separate, French and English signs, it would do a lot of good to encourage their (store's and business's) continuance with such signs. Then other stores and businesses would also be influenced as well, when they see their competitors and neighbouring businesses, more and more, using these signs, and how they attract more new customers and clients.

Best regards,

Gordon Snell
Peterborough, Ontario

Editor's Note: I am very pleased to include a letter from Gordon Snell to Moore's. It is with the cooperation of businesses such as this that our rights will be respected.

September 22, 2000

Mr. ROGER ASSOUD
Provincial Director
MOORES
1007 St. Catherine Street West
Montreal, Quebec H3B 1H9

Dear Mr. Assoud:

This letter is to say "Thank You" for something your St. Catherine Street store did for its liquidation sale two months ago, back in July. I am referring to your store's use of equal sized French and English advertising signs in the front windows during Moore's season-end clearance sale.

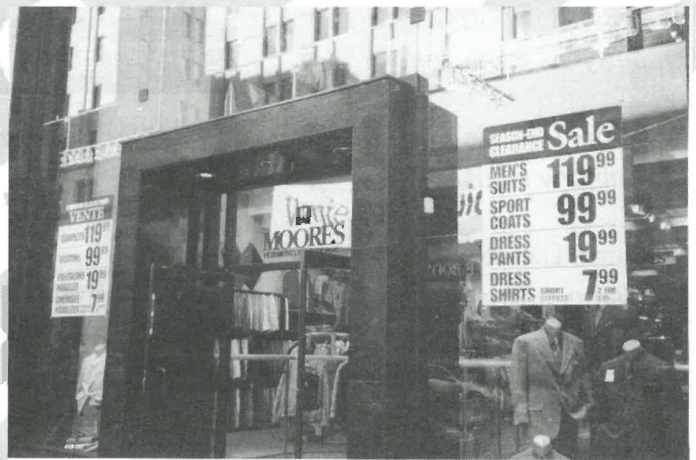
When I first saw it, I was so impressed and appreciative, that I came back the next day, took pictures of the signs and did some shopping in your store that day.

As a Canadian, and an English-speaking Quebecer, I do what I can to help support, preserve, and enhance the English-language communities in Quebec. For this reason, I try to shop in Montreal stores only where or when they use bilingual (French and English) or English signs.

I do hope that your summer sale attracted more new English-speaking customers who had seen your store's effort to recognize them and show them equal respect with your front window signs. I also hope that your store will continue to repeat that kind of advertising in the near future.

Once again, thank you.

Sincerely,
G. Snell



**We want to
hear from you!!**

Let us know what you think about the
Alliance Quebec Magazine

Forward comments to:
Bill Butcher, Editor

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The forum of Quebec's
English-speaking community

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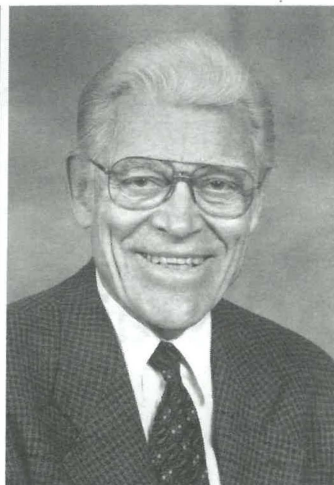
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Jan Vrana

The New Alliance Quebec is a publication of Alliance Quebec. The Alliance is committed to the preservation and enhancement of the English-speaking communities and their institutions within Quebec. In support of this mission, Alliance values the respect for Quebec's French-speaking majority, the recognition that the province's English-speaking communities are in full partnership with Quebec, the acceptance of an open multicultural society and a commitment to a bilingual united Canada.

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Bill Butcher is Editor of the Alliance Quebec News Magazine

Editorial Comment

Bringing Things Into Focus

By: *Bill Butcher*

With winter upon us and my love of the outdoors pulling at me, particularly the opportunity to cross-country ski, I must confess I had a hard time accepting the generous offer of the Provincial Board to return as Editor for another two editions of the Alliance Quebec magazine. But with so much happening since last we published, I'm glad I accepted the challenge.

From the passing of one of Canada's most illustrious Prime Ministers, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the Quebec government's municipal mergers legislation, the Solski twins' case, the departure of a great English rights activists, Maurice King, the ongoing litigation against the Director General of Elections, the Estates General on the French language, the departure of Lucien Bouchard from the political scene and the advent of the hard liners led by Bernard Landry, - we have a full and informative edition.

The struggle ahead will not be easier, indeed, with the hard

liners in charge it will more likely be much more difficult. We must stand together as never before.

Finally I'm taking this opportunity to express my gratitude to all who submitted to this vibrant edition and particularly to my partner in life, Lucie Lafrance, who typed the articles and helped prepare this edition in so many selfless ways.

Also, I want to remind everyone that our next edition will be honouring the 20th anniversary of the founding of Alliance Quebec. Anyone with ideas, photographs, etc. from those earlier years, kindly get in touch with me at (514) 932-3292 or (514) 696-5973.

Editor

The opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not reflect necessarily those of the organization Alliance Quebec, the Executive, the members of the Board of Directors or the staff.

All Aboard the AQ Train

By: Jerry W. Slovacek

At last year's Annual Convention we adopted the theme "The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance". It is my profound belief that we will only have as many rights as we are prepared to fight for, and we must forever stand on guard for those rights.

The recipe to attain positive goals in the organization has not changed. We must continue to grow membership wise. We must continue to activate our chapters with Town Hall events and other related activities that will involve all members and the community. We must continue to educate ourselves on all aspects of the problems facing the English-

speaking community of our province.

I believe that we, in Alliance Quebec, realize that partisan politics must be put aside for the greater good of the organization. Let us together continue to strive to build this organization. All aboard the AQ train!



Jerry W. Slovacek is Chairman of the Board of Alliance Quebec

See membership information below.

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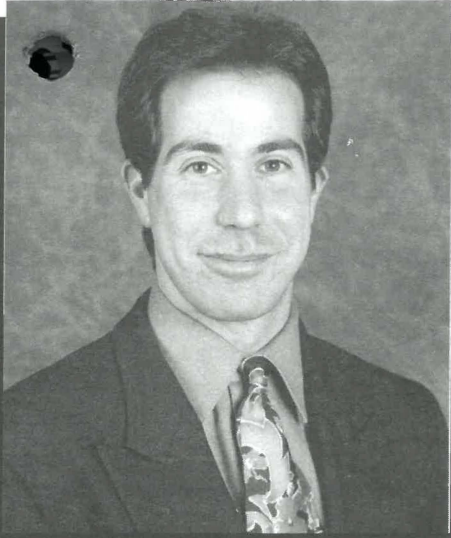
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URL: http://www.aq.qc.ca

*It's our future
and we thank
you for making
a difference.*

Thank you for your support.

Message from the President



Anthony Housefather is President of Alliance Quebec

Photograph Courtesy: Richard Mayoff Photography

Just prior to the Christmas holidays, the Parti Québécois government adopted three laws that fly in the face of Canadian constitutional principles. The first was **Bill 99 - An**

Act respecting

the exercise of the fundamental rights and prerogatives of the Quebec people and the Quebec State. This law stands in flagrant contradiction to the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada in the reference case on Quebec secession. As you will no doubt remember, that landmark judgment made it very clear that Quebec had no right in Canadian or international law to secede from Canada. The Court held that negotiations for secession could only be triggered by a clear question being posed in a referendum yielding a clear majority in favor of secession. Only then would the federal government have a duty to negotiate with everything then being on the table, including Quebec's borders. The federal government's Clarity Act was then introduced following the lines of the Supreme Court decision.

The Quebec National Assembly has now adopted a law stating that Quebec alone will decide its future based on rules adopted by the Quebec National Assembly. Nowhere does Bill 99 recognize a duty to ask a clear question or secure a convincing majority. Nowhere does Bill 99 recognize the fact that Quebec can not secede from the Canadian federation without a constitutional amendment that would require the unanimous consent of the

Parliament of Canada and all provincial legislatures. Nowhere does Bill 99 recognize that Quebec would have to negotiate such a constitutional amendment in good faith with everything on the table. Instead, Bill 99 maintains the premise that the Quebec National Assembly can do what it wants, when it wants, without respecting the Canadian constitution or the Supreme Court judgment. As you will remember, Alliance Quebec fervently opposed Bill 99 at Parliamentary Hearings when the law was first introduced. At this point we have requested that the Attorney General for Canada refer the constitutionality of Bill 99 to the Supreme Court. Should the Attorney General fail to act, Alliance Quebec has announced that we will participate in a court challenge to the law in order to protect the constitutional rights of federalists within Quebec.

A few days later, the Bouchard Government invoked closure and rammed Bills 170 and 171 through the National Assembly.

The government refused to listen to the opposition (granting them 12 minutes to speak on Bill 170) and refused to listen to the voice of the people of the affected municipalities. In Montreal West,

Hampstead, Westmount and Baie d'Urfe over 97% of the population rejected forced mergers. In Anjou, the rejection rate was 94%. Other cities held consultations with similar results. Rallies were held throughout the province drawing tens of thousands of people. Alliance Quebec participated in the rallies and held successful consultation meetings both in the Montreal region and the West Island Region attended by MNAs, MPs and local mayors and councillors. Unfortunately, the government was intent on pushing forward with these laws that could have a devastating impact on the province's English-speaking communities.

"Alliance Quebec itself will likely challenge Bill 171 in court to ensure that no government can reduce our community to only those who spoke English as a mother tongue."

Cont'd on next page

Message

Cont'd from previous page

The law would see the creation of mega-cities in the Montreal, Quebec City and Outaouais. This would mean that the 15 municipalities with bilingual status in the Montreal area would be merged into a "French city". Although boroughs would retain bilingual status, they would be reduced to meaningless shells with few powers. Areas like tax services and the municipal court would be run by the mega-city and there would be no more bilingual services automatically provided. Employees would be employees of the mega-city and therefore the bilingual boroughs will not be able to control that employees that will work in their area speak English. The number of councillors from bilingual areas will be significantly reduced. The bilingual borough of Hampstead, Cote Saint Luc and Montreal West currently has 18 councillors and three mayors. In the mega-city, it will have 2 of 71 Montreal councillors, meaning that representation at the elected level from the English-speaking community will be significantly reduced. Why did the government proceed with this? To bail out the city of Montreal and other large cities? To get rid of the threat of partition by eliminating cities that passed unity resolutions? To get rid of bilingual services and the cities that provide them? Probably all of the above. Indeed, on the same day that it passed Bill 170 the PQ government pushed through Bill 171 which changes the criteria for bilingual status from 50% non-francophone to 50% mother tongue English. In doing so, they effectively stopped districts like NDG from gaining bilingual status in the mega-city and made very clear their wish to limit bilingual services as much as possible.

The municipalities will be challenging Bill 170 in court with our fervent support. Alliance Quebec itself will likely challenge Bill 171 in court to ensure that no government can reduce our community to only those who speak English as their mother tongue. Under this definition many community notables such as William Johnson or Tommy Schnurmacher would not qualify and this is totally unacceptable since next the government will try to introduce this concept when it comes to services in other institutions such as hospitals.

We are also working feverishly at lobbying government at all levels on issues such as employment equity, education and health care and have presented briefs and written op-ed pieces on these subjects.

I want to congratulate the Chapters and our membership on all their hard work.



President

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Glenn J. Nashen

Executive Director's Report

The past months at Provincial Head Office have been charged with much activity related to Alliance Quebec's opposition to forced municipal mergers (especially where bilingual municipalities are concerned), preparation of a special \$300,000 outreach project that was approved by the Department of Canadian Heritage, and an effort to secure funding for the next fiscal year.

AQ will submit its 2000-2001 Funding Application directly to the Minister. AQ cannot risk a repeat of the unfortunate decision whereby the Quebec Community Groups Network recommended a 30% cut to AQ's funding for the current fiscal year. This has resulted in a tumultuous administrative exercise that has greatly affected the communities we serve which includes 80% of Quebec's English-speaking community or some 800,000 people. In order to correct this flawed allocation process we have appealed directly to the Minister who has agreed to appoint Mr. Guy St-Julien, M.P. for Abitibi - James Bay - Nunavik and Prof. Irwin Cotler, M.P. for Mount Royal to review the process by which AQ is funded.

Despite this, AQ continues to forge positive and beneficial relationships with the various Regional Associations and sector groups represented at the QCGN. The President and I attended the AGM of the Coaster's Association and the quarterly meeting of the QCGN on the Lower North Shore at St. Paul's River, last October. We look forward to even greater bilateral relations through discussion with all Regional Associations, Sector Groups and government representatives.

The special Outreach Project is now being put into action. AQ has recently filled contract positions for Community Organizers, coordinators of Health & Social Services, Community Action and Membership & Fundraising. This will enable us to better serve the needs of membership and the community-at-large in all chapters. The H&SS Coordinator, Lorraine Torpy, brings a wealth of experience in the fields of health and social services and the volunteer sector. The Community Action Coordinator, Peter Johnson, a former journalist, has extensive research and writing skills which will prove invaluable to the Committees he serves and, by extension, the community. The Membership & Fundraising Coordinator, Jodi Baron, has years of experience and will be instrumental in helping our organization diversify its sources of revenue and substantially increase its membership.

We were also pleased to welcome, Sean Dineen as Community Organizer for the Montreal Region Chapter and the East Island Chapter, Katherine Korakakis as Community Organizer for the West Island Chapter and the Provincial Youth Commission and Eileen Mullin as Community Organizer for the St. Maurice Chapter. These dynamic individuals have extensive experience working with community and volunteer-based organizations.

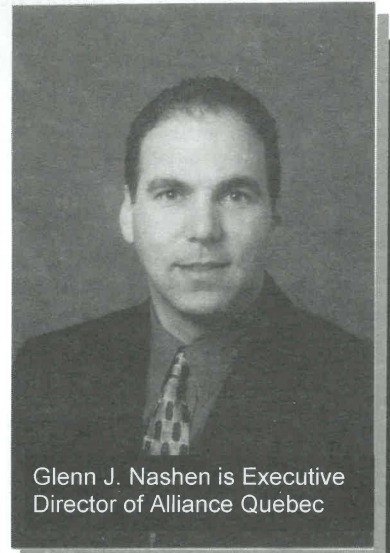
They will undoubtedly enable us to better serve the needs of our membership and the community-at-large in all chapters. We hope with the support of the Minister we will be able to maintain these vital positions into the future.

Finally, a word about our volunteers: the unsung heroes of our communities. So many people are the beneficiaries of our volunteers' labour and determination. The very fabric of our community is enriched and strengthened thanks to these individuals who give tirelessly and ask for very little, if anything, in return. To those involved in AQ chapters, on committees and boards, recruiting members or raising funds, thank you on behalf of those whom you have helped, supported and encouraged. Our communities, province and indeed Canada, is a better place to live because of your interest, dedication and tireless efforts.

On behalf of all the staff at Alliance Quebec, we thank you, the volunteers and members in all 12 chapters for your ongoing participation and support and wish you the very best for 2001.



Executive Director



Glenn J. Nashen is Executive Director of Alliance Quebec

Alliance Quebec Initiati

Alliance Quebec has been very busy since its Convention in May. The following are highlights of some of the organization's accomplishments and ongoing projects:

February 23, 2001 – Alliance Quebec Vice-President, Stephen Schenke, calls the brief to be presented by the Bloc Québécois' youth wing before the Estates General on the French language "out in left field." Gilles Duceppe, leader of the BQ, disassociated the party from the brief which maintains that Quebec's language problem is essentially a problem of immigration. "It shows the bitter dichotomy the separatist movement has to resolve," said Schenke. "The more they try to promote their movement using this kind of language, the worse it is for their movement. It is just not true that immigrants are part of the problem (as the document states). French is not threatened in Lac-St-Jean."

February 23, 2001 – Lawyer Michael Bergman publicly states Alliance Quebec will continue its legal efforts to obtain access to all the ballots, which were cast during the referendum.

January 24, 2001 – Alliance Quebec expresses shock over remarks made by deputy premier, Bernard Landry, in response to the federal government's offer of \$18 million to fund the Quebec City zoo's renovations. The federal government had requested that the Canadian flag be displayed and two bilingual signs be posted at the zoo. "The PQ government is once again denying Quebecers their share of federal funding," said Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather. "Most Quebecers would be only too pleased to have the Canadian flag and bilingual signs at the zoo in order to receive this funding."

January 22, 2001 – In an Opinion Editorial published in the Gazette, Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather, expresses concern over reports that health professionals refuse to communicate in the language of the patient, despite being capable of doing so. Housefather states that it is clear that from the perspective of physicians' ethical duties and obligations, the real needs of the patient should take priority over the cultural, linguistic or

political preferences of a physician. Alliance Quebec encourages individuals who have not been properly served in English in a health care facility to avail themselves of the complaint mechanisms at their disposal and to contact the *College des Médecins* and Alliance Quebec for assistance.

December 15, 2000 – In a press release issued Friday, December 15th, Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather, announces he is pleased to learn that Quebec Superior Court Judge Danielle Grenier struck down part of Quebec's language law ruling that there is a fundamental incompatibility between the federal Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Quebec's Charter of the French Language.

December 7, 2000 – Alliance Quebec announces its opposition to language laws which prohibit the sale of children's toys based on the language that these toys speak. This is in response to a news item in the Ottawa Citizen reporting that Quebec's Charter of the French Language (Bill 101) prohibits the sale of unilingual English-speaking toys. The report indicates that the Ooglies English-speaking doll is not allowed to be sold in Quebec toy stores, nor could it be transferred from other stores in Canada to Quebec, because the doll only speaks in English.

December 3, 2000 – Representatives of Alliance Quebec present briefs on Bill 170 before the Quebec Liberal Party's public hearings which are held in various locations of the city. During their presentations, members of Alliance Quebec express concern that forced municipal mergers will lead to the reduction of service in English for people living in towns and cities with bilingual status. A copy of the entire brief can be found on Alliance Quebec's website at www.aq.qc.ca.

November 29, 2000 – Alliance Quebec is pleased with the results of this week's federal election. "It is clear that more Quebecers voted against the Bloc Québécois in reaction to Bill 170 and the government's plan to go ahead with forced mergers against local elected officials and residents," said AQ President Anthony Housefather.

November 18, 2000 – In an Opinion Editorial published in the National Post, Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather, calls on English- and French-speaking people across the island of Montreal, South Shore, Outaouais and Quebec City areas to unite in opposition of municipal mergers.

November 15 & 16, 2000 - AQ hosts public information meetings on forced mergers, November 15 in Hampstead and November 16 in Pointe Claire.

November 8, 2000 - Members of the Laval/ North Shore Chapter of Alliance Quebec present a brief to the Estates General on the Status and Future of the French Language in Quebec. A copy of the entire brief can be found on Alliance Quebec's website at www.aq.qc.ca

November 7, 2000 - Alliance Quebec calls for a mobilization against the proposed Montreal megacity, stating the potential loss of legal protection for English services is a good reason to fight forced mergers. AQ urges cities to adopt resolutions to protect their bilingual status, and President, Anthony Housefather encourages residents to participate in referendums and demonstrations on the issue, and support the formation of anti-merger groups.

AQ announces they have facilitated the set up of a website dedicated to opposing the plan: www.notomergers.com, which compliments the Sillery-based site: www.nonauxfusions.com.

October 13, 2000 - Alliance Quebec announces the appointment of Nicole Allen as Regional Economic Development Officer. Nicole brings with her previous experience working in community and economic development, environmental management, and various areas of volunteerism to this challenging position that serves the needs of the English-speaking communities of the Montreal region, West Island, East Island, Laval/North Shore, South Shore, La Mauricie, Saguenay/Lac St. Jean, Val d'Or, Rouyn – Noranda, Lower Laurentians and Upper Laurentians.

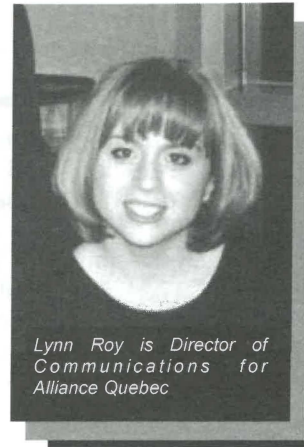
October 11, 2000 - Alliance Quebec calls on the Quebec government to ensure that the

Montreal Metropolitan Community, the proposed island-wide City of Montreal and the proposed City of Champlain on the South Shore, outlined in the Bernard Report, will guarantee bilingual status for all districts that would be eligible as autonomous municipalities and will grandfather that status, for any city which had it before, into the new district.

October 10, 2000 - Representatives from Alliance Quebec present a brief titled *Communication and Efficiency: Language and Health Care* before the Clair Commission. One of the recommendations is that the government grant bilingual status to healthcare institutions that serve a population where more than 10% of their clientele is non-French-speaking. A copy of the entire brief can be found on Alliance Quebec's website at www.aq.qc.ca.

October 5, 2000 – Alliance Quebec urges Louise Beaudoin to reconsider her position that language legislation should precede the Estates General. The Language Minister's comments that the only thing that can save French is sovereignty and her intent to introduce new language legislation which would require employers prove that knowledge of a language other than French is required before filling a position for which bilingualism is required, is extremely disheartening and does not lend much credit to the upcoming Estates General on language, says Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather.

September 6, 2000 - Alliance Quebec expresses dismay at Quebec Finance Minister Bernard Landry's decision to snub \$500 million (\$100 million each year over the next five years) slated for municipal infrastructure. It was reported Landry might refuse the money because of the federal government's conditions, which includes co-management and bilingual signage. Alliance Quebec reiterates its full support for bilingual signage throughout Canada, in order to show proper respect to both of Canada's official language communities.



Lynn Roy is Director of Communications for Alliance Quebec

Initiatives

Cont'd from previous page



August 29, 2000 - Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather, and Executive Committee member, Darryl Levine, present a Brief on Draft Law Number 143 - Equity in the Civil Service before the Cultural Commission of the Quebec National Assembly. The brief illustrates the under-representation of Quebec's English-speaking community in the Quebec Civil Service.

August 15, 2000 - Louise Beaudoin's assertion that French-speaking children must master their mother tongue before being introduced to a second or third language is questionable to say the least, says Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather. Alliance Quebec calls on the Language Minister to examine research on French Immersion in Canada or "second language programs in other countries" and provide French-speaking children in Quebec with the same learning opportunities as their English-speaking counterparts.

August 14, 2000 - Alliance Quebec congratulates the Quebec Liberal Party Youth Wing for its recommendation to start teaching English as a second language in Grade 1 instead of Grade 4.

August 14, 2000 - Alliance Quebec reacts with outrage at the order by the Quebec Court of Appeal to hand over the Francesca Cabrini or Emily Carr School from the English Montreal School Board to the *Commission Scolaire de Montreal*. Alliance Quebec had previously pledged strong support for the parents of students attending the Francesca Cabrini and Emily Carr schools in their genuine struggle to save their community schools for the education of their children.

August 2, 2000 - Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather and lawyer Michael N. Bergman hold a press conference to outline the status of legal proceedings in which Alliance Quebec demanded access to all documents relating to the Quebec referendum in October of 1995. Samples of ballots, which were rejected during the 1995 referendum, are displayed during the press conference.

July 17, 2000 - Alliance Quebec writes to Ontario Premier Mike Harris asking him to reconsider Ontario government policy as it relates to the Montfort Hospital. "The Montfort Hospital is an important symbol to Francophones in Eastern Ontario," states Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather. "We support the French-speaking community in their desire to retain the hospital as is."

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.

May 26 - 28, 2000 - Alliance Quebec holds its 19th Annual Convention/Annual General Meeting. Anthony Housefather is elected president for a two-year term.



THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF YOUR CHOICE... LET'S HEAR IT!

If you are English-speaking or French-speaking and live in a minority situation, you have language rights. Remember that the Commissioner of Official Languages is there to defend them.

Do not hesitate to ask for the assistance of the Office of the Commissioner if you have difficulty in being served in English or in French by federal institutions anywhere in Canada where the Official Languages Act and regulations prescribe such service.

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES



COMMISSARIAT
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Community Development

By: Mary Anne Thomson

As a province-wide volunteer-based community organization, Alliance Quebec is committed to Community Development. Our objective is to ensure that every sector of Quebec's English-speaking communities is a vital and appreciated part of the "raison d'être" of Alliance Quebec. It is through Provincial initiatives as well as through the direct work of our Chapters that our goals are achieved.

The work of Community Development is carried out through the Community Development Department team of Community Organizers, the Director of Community Development and the many valuable and resourceful volunteers who donate their time and energy. Through co-ordinated team efforts of organization building, communication and training, the promotion of local action and empowerment of the communities we serve is achieved. At this time the Department is in a period of rapid growth as it prepares itself to hire and train Community Organizers to support the many Chapters who have gone so long without this valuable assistance. I would like to take this opportunity to commend these many Chapters who, in spite of not having the support of a Community Organizer, still forged forward, this past year, and actively outreached into their regions to address and respond to the needs of their particular communities.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that the heart and strength of Alliance Quebec is contained at the grassroots level, within its eleven (11) Chapters plus the Provincial Youth Commission. Through the dedication and commitment of our many valuable volunteers, and staff members, we are able to develop and implement initiatives that advance the organization's policies and principles both at the local and provincial levels.

To that end, I would like to recognize and salute:

Laval Chapter for: their superior preparation and presentation of their brief to the Estates General on the French Language. This Chapter is an active participant in the on-going electoral fraud case launched by Alliance Quebec after the 1995 Quebec referendum. This Chapter is dedicated to promoting working relationships with other local

organizations for the betterment of the English-speaking community in their region.

Rouyn-Noranda Chapter for: working intently on

building and supporting relationships with many local community organizations, including local school boards and CLSCs. Over the past year, they have successfully organized numerous activities for their community. As well, this Chapter submitted four project proposals to Canadian Heritage.

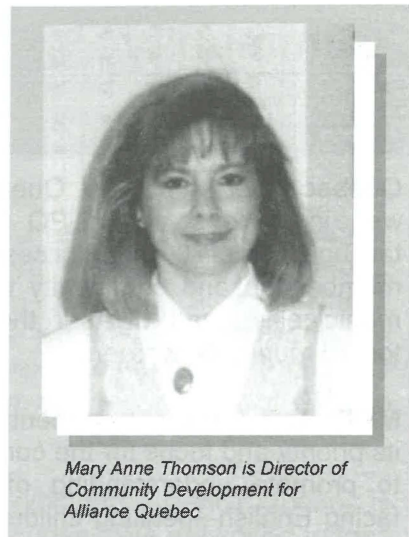
Val d'Or Chapter for: continuing to be involved in the development of the Community Access Centre by having two of its members participating on the Committee. This Chapter has been successful in the organizing of several community-based events. This Chapter submitted two project proposals to Canadian Heritage.

South Shore Chapter for: their very successful Bowser & Blue event. This Chapter has been, and will continue to be, a participant in a collaborative effort with more than 50 community organizations located on the South Shore. This Chapter submitted one project proposal to Canadian Heritage.

Saguenay Chapter for: its determination to meet the many challenges it faces and continuing to address the needs of its community.

Upper Laurentians and Lower Laurentians Chapters: Both these Chapters have determined membership as a focus. As well, these Chapters continue to support their local community organizations and associations. They participate on many Provincial Committees as well as sit on the Executive Committees of other community organizations.

West Island for: being an active participant in the on-going electoral fraud case launched by Alliance



Mary Anne Thomson is Director of Community Development for Alliance Quebec

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Community

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Quebec after the 1995 Quebec referendum. As well, in response to the PQ Government's recent tabling of Bill 170, they successfully mobilized their membership and community to support their local municipalities and MNAs in their efforts to stop the forced municipal mergers.

MRC: This Chapter has identified Education to be its priority and focus for the current year. In an effort to promote understanding of the current issues facing English-speaking children, parents, teachers and school boards, volunteers in this Chapter are attending local school board meetings on a regular basis. This Chapter has been actively outreaching to other community organizations. As with the West Island Chapter, the MRC successfully mobilized its membership to support local municipalities and MNAs in their efforts to stop forced municipal mergers. To that end, on behalf on the English-speaking community in the Montreal region, the Chapter successfully prepared briefs and presented them at the organized public hearings on this issue. As well, this Chapter is an active participant in the on-going electoral fraud case launched by Alliance Quebec after the 1995 Quebec referendum.

East Island: The focus for this Chapter is a Canadian History Project, which will continue on into the coming year.

St. Maurice for: its determination in maintaining their Chapter relationships with other local groups and organizations.

Provincial Youth Commission: The Provincial Youth Commission has reached out to the universities and CEGEPs and has been given official status by the Student's Society of McGill University as a McGill University club. The PYC is ever committed to encouraging our youth to see they have a bright and successful future in Quebec.

Over the next few months, the Community Development Department will be extremely busy as it prepares to support our Chapters in the arrangement and organization of the Chapter AGMs. As well, the Department has been industriously preparing for Alliance Quebec's upcoming 20th Annual General Convention to be held in May.

Official Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Governing Council

Please be advised that the 2001 Annual General Meeting of the Governing Council of Alliance Quebec:

AQ Convention

will be held:
May 25, & May 26, 2001
Workshops: **Sunday morning, May 27th, 2001**

at the
Airport Hilton Hotel in Dorval
12505 Cote de Liesse, Dorval, QC

**The Annual General Meeting of the Governing Council
will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25, 2001.**

For information call (514) 932-3292 ext. 300

Annual General Meetings 2001

Chapter	Date	Time
East Island	TBD	
Laval	April 23	7pm
Lower Laurentians	TBD	
Montreal Region	April 29	1pm
Provincial Youth Commission	March 25	
Rouyn-Noranda	TBD	
Saguenay	April 4	7pm
South Shore	April 26	7pm
St. Maurice	TBD	
Upper Laurentians	April 21	2pm
Val d'Or	April 8	1pm
West Island	April 22	1pm

**For details please call Alliance Quebec at
(514) 932-3292 Ext 300 or 1-800-363-3870.**

Please note:

In order to vote, run for a position on the Board of Directors or as a delegate, new members must be members in good standing 30 days prior to the Chapter Annual General Meeting.

All AGMs had not been scheduled at time of print.

Some of the AGMs listed above may have already taken place while the magazine was at print.

A Message from the Provincial Youth Commission

"But Alliance Quebec is so right wing!"

By: Chris Dye, Chairman of the Provincial Youth Commission

This is how someone responded when I told him I was part of Alliance Quebec. I was rather surprised at this. I had never associated myself with the right wing of anything. In fact, I was attending a meeting of left-wing environmentalists when I got into this conversation. So, I started thinking: why would someone think of Alliance Quebec as supporting a "wing", right or otherwise?

I suppose that I got such a response because many people think of A.Q. as an organization that supports individual rights. A.Q. certainly does support freedom of expression and free choice of institutions. To the extent that governments interfere with those rights, A.Q. would probably tend to support less government involvement. From that perspective, I could see how someone might think of A.Q. as supporting "right-wing" ideas.

The Youth Commission is defined by age, not geography.

But one must also pay attention to the context of A.Q. Alliance Quebec is an abbreviated form of "the Alliance of English-Speaking Communities of Quebec". Alliance Quebec serves communities. Communities work together to promote their interests. Of course, A.Q. uses the rights enshrined in the respective Canadian and Quebec Charters of Rights and Freedoms, because they are tools to promote the community's interests. But they are only tools. Rights don't exist in the air. They are used by people to benefit the whole community. So people who consider themselves "left wing", or as interested in the community as in the individual, should feel at home in A.Q. as well.

But what does this have to do with the Youth Commission, you ask? The Youth Commission is defined by age, not geography. What binds together the four hundred thousand English-speaking people under thirty years old living across Quebec? We do share characteristics that make young people a community with our own interests. We are more mobile: we have less to

lose if we move. We tend to be more bilingual. We are more comfortable with new technology. We tend to have a shorter political memory. (Chances are that we weren't born when the first PQ government was elected, and don't remember the 1980 referendum or the creation of A.Q. in 1982.)

To paraphrase Walt Whitman, Alliance Quebec is large; it contains multitudes. We may need to take different approaches to attract different segments of our English-speaking community to A.Q. For instance, the Youth Commission is going to be holding social activities for its members, using the Internet to communicate, and exploring issues in a way tailored to our age group. We at the Youth Commission appeal to you, whatever age you are, to help us in this goal. We appreciate every helping hand. Please feel free to contact me at chris.dye@mcgill.ca or (514) 762-0255.

STATISTICS CANADA AND THE
CULTURAL COMMUNITIES...
WORKING TOGETHER



Tuesday, May 15, 2001 is Census Day in Canada !

Every five years, Statistics Canada conducts a national Census of Population. The next Census Day is Tuesday, May 15, 2001.

The national census provides a unique source of information about Canada and its population. The results of the census are used in planning services important to your community including:

- English and French as second-language programs;
- heritage language classes;
- health care;
- education;
- transportation;
- day care;
- employment and training programs; and
- housing.



Yvonne Coupal is a member of the Laval/North Shore Chapter of Alliance Quebec

The following is a highly abbreviated summary of the presentation given by Yvonne Coupal and Harold Forester to the Estates General in Laval on November 9. The complete brief can

be seen on the AQ website, at www.aq.qc.ca then click on "News".

We encourage all other chapters to take similar initiatives. Don't wait for the provincial AQ to do everything.

The Status and the Future of the English-language in the Laval/North Shore Region

The French language in Quebec is currently in a very strong position and no additional laws or regulations are required to protect it. On the contrary, the status and the future of the English-speaking community is threatened, and the commission is urged to take our recommendations into consideration.

Economic Concerns

The Charter of the French Language produced positive results for the French-speaking community, but was detrimental to the growth and development of the English-speaking community. Many English-speaking youth are so discouraged by limited opportunities and their perception of being unwanted, that they leave the province after completing their education. English and French youth both need opportunities to learn second languages proficiently as a job skill.

Economic Implications of The Charter of the French Language

The laws and regulations have imposed costs and inefficiencies in businesses, which has discouraged or minimized new investments and job creation in Quebec. Companies that have attempted to expand their operations in Quebec have been hampered by their inability to attract job seekers from outside the province due, in part at least, to language restrictions. Poor economic performance, partly as a result of language

The Laval North Shore Chapter of Alliance Quebec **Brief to the Estates General**

By: Yvonne Coupal

restrictions, has necessitated the imposition of higher taxes on Quebecers, which fuels a spiralling effect to further discourage investments. The net result of Quebec's language laws has resulted in a lacklustre economic performance, compared to other North American jurisdictions and a lower standard of living for Quebecers. Any changes that add new restrictions to businesses will only discourage economic investment or expansion.

The Needs and Concerns of the Minority Language Communities

The English-speaking community rejects the concept that Quebec is a unilingual state. We contend that English is also an official language in Quebec.

Since the mid 1970's English-speaking schools shrunk by 2/3. Rules that forbid English-speaking immigrants from attending English schools are

The Charter of the French Language produced positive results for the French-speaking community, but was detrimental to the growth and development of the English-speaking community.

particularly detrimental to our community's development and do not contribute to the status and the future of the French Language. Quebec is currently exempted

from the Canadian Charter of Rights that affirms the right of English- and French-speaking minorities to send their children to the schools of their choice. We request that all English-speaking students be allowed access to English schools.

Two Communities - Working and Living Together

Quebec's English- and French-speaking communities get along with each other better than those in most other regions of the world. In business meetings, the language used often switches between French and English. We have similar economic standards of living, and can show

al on the French Language

and Harold Forester

the world that two culturally diverse communities can get along despite their differences.

We must ensure equality of opportunity for both language groups and assure that rules and laws do not give any economic advantage to one group over another. We recommend that the Commission consider the needs and concerns of the English-speaking community, particularly with respect to access to English-language education, access to English-language health and social services and providing equitable employment opportunity.

Recommendations

Do not add or modify any new language laws or regulations, or change any enforcement provision that would have an effect of increasing the severity of the Charter of the French Language.

The needs and concerns of the English-speaking community should be identified and addressed in any legislation that will have an impact on employment equity and youth development. The government should follow through with the previously announced intention to hire more English-speaking candidates for positions in the Quebec Civil Service and other government agencies, to address the serious lack of representation of English-speaking Quebecers in the civil service.

Lower the threshold for a municipality or institution to be accorded bilingual status from 50% to 10%, as is done in Ontario. Municipalities or institutions with less than 10% English-speaking residents or users should be accorded bilingual status automatically if a resolution expressing their desire to be recognized as a bilingual institution is adopted by its Council.

Allow parents the right to choose to send their children to either French or English language schools, without requiring any English language eligibility certificate. Until this change is adopted, the government should immediately accept, as an interim measure, the recommendation of the Chambers Report on Education to allow all English-speaking children to attend English schools by accepting Paragraph 23 (1) (a) of the Canadian

Charter of Rights to apply in Quebec.

Recommend curriculum reform to ensure the achievements and contributions of the English-speaking community, and other societies in Quebec, are properly reflected in the teachings of history and geography.

Ensure that all government documentation intended for public distribution is made available in both English and French.

Recommend the Quebec government cease to sponsor or contribute any financial subsidy that supports any cultural or commercial activity that bans the use of any language other than French in their documentation or signage.

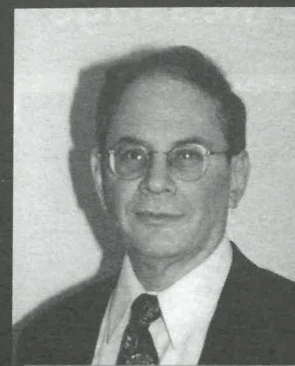
Eliminate rules that require all companies to deal with the Quebec government exclusively in French, as this makes it more difficult for small companies to obtain government contracts.

Ensure that all Quebec government documents that require a signature are available in both English and French.

Retain the requirement for French to be obligatory on all commercial signs, but any other languages used must be equal to or less predominant. This provision should apply to all signs without exception.

Remove all prohibitions on the use of non-French signs on roads, particularly where they pertain to safety issues.

Finally, one of the most important recommendations is to encourage the government to substitute positive methodologies to encourage the public to appreciate the ability to function in French. This will achieve more in the long run.



Harold Forester is a member of the Laval/North Shore Chapter of Alliance Quebec

Note: Alliance Quebec will be submitting its brief on March 2, 2001.

A Report from the Rouyn-Noranda Chapter

Submitted by: *The Board of Directors of the Rouyn-Noranda Chapter*

With the turning of the calendar many of us feel a need to make some changes in our lives. But within a couple of weeks this feeling always fades away. We sit back and think "if it isn't broken, don't fix it" or "let someone else do it". Well this has never been the case in Rouyn-Noranda and it definitely won't be the case in 2001!!!!

The Rouyn-Noranda Chapter is as busy as ever. We have undertaken some local projects and we have put in grant proposals for four different projects ranging from Health and Social Services to Tourism in our area.

As this is the International Year of the Volunteer; and as we are aware, Alliance Quebec could not survive without its volunteers; we will be planning most of our 2001 events with this theme in mind. Its a great occasion to thank all the wonderful people who do and who have done so much for Alliance Quebec during its 15-plus years of existence in Rouyn-Noranda.

The International Year of the Volunteer is also an excellent chance for our organization to reach out and build ties with other organizations. Having volunteers as a common goal; it is surprising how easily doors open! Our Community Organizer has already started this process

and we are sure she will continue throughout the year.

Prior to the holidays, we sold tickets and held a Christmas Draw with the hope of making enough profits from this endeavor to allow us to subscribe to a magazine service. Well, once again, our efforts were not in vain. We will be providing 18 English Magazines per month to the local Hospital where, at the present time, it is almost impossible to find English reading material in any of the waiting rooms. We plan on having a sticker with our chapter's name placed on the back of each magazine guaranteeing some publicity and public awareness of Alliance Quebec.

Again this year the City of Rouyn-Noranda will be hosting its Annual Winter Carnival. Our chapter is planning a few activities around this occasion and, will without doubt, partake in the many events and activities offered.

In 2001 the city will also be celebrating its 75th Birthday and we are at the present time trying to guarantee the involvement of the Anglophone population in both the planning of events and in the recognition of having helped developed our home town. This should be an interesting endeavor for our chapter!

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A Report from the Val d'Or Chapter

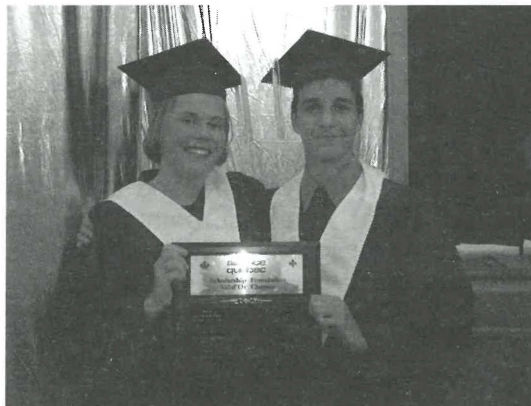
Submitted by: *The Board of Directors of the Val d'Or Chapter*

The Alliance Quebec Val d'Or Abitibi Chapter Scholarship started in 1997. The funds that are now in trust originated through a grant in 1993 from Raymond Savoie, then Minister of Revenue for the Quebec Government. Further funds were raised through the fund-raising efforts of our chapter's members and volunteers within the community.

Now, each year one female and one male graduating student from Golden Valley School are presented with a \$1,000 scholarship. This year's scholarships were awarded to: **MYLENE GERVAIS & MARTIN PILON**

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH! Thank you to the volunteer committee that took on the difficult process of selecting the winners.

Each year the department of Human Resources Development Canada offers summer student project grants. Again, our Alliance Quebec Chapter was able to offer employment to students. Our project was to finish the book filing system in the Golden Valley School library and to set up a computer classification system. Marilyn Picotte and Martin Pilon, from this year's graduating class worked hard and did a fine job!



Mylene Gervais (pictured left) & Martin Pilon

During the gloriously warm month of October, we had a visit from Collette Corbeil of the Quebec Association of Adult Learning (QAAL). Her organization is involved in a special project that is geared towards getting to know more about community groups and resources in small mainland areas where small pockets of English-speaking people live. They want to learn how they can lend their support to enhance the efforts of local organizations. We showed her our community and voiced our concerns about the lack of English post secondary education and upgrading. The QAAL has also embarked on a project to provide simultaneous translation services for the deaf via high speed internet. This project had us looking for our deaf community who tend to be rather isolated. If anyone could be of assistance with this project, please contact our chapter office at (819) 874-6731.

Our chapter held a successful brunch on January 22, 2000 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Val d'Or. A big thank you goes to the Ladies Auxillary of the legion for

preparing the delicious meal. It was wonderful! Thank you also to all the members who donated to the Silent Auction. Your contributions helped the chapter fundraise significantly. We look forward to seeing you all again at our next brunch!

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FOR DETAILS CONTACT:
BRUCE HULLEY (514-631-1456)
ERNEST SEMPLE (514-684-4591)

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Email: improplus@qc.aira.com



Access to English Language Health and Social Services: **It is Our Right and Our Responsibility**

The following Opinion Editorial was published in the Gazette, January 22, 2001.

Reports that health professionals refuse, even when capable, to communicate in the language of the patient is something to be treated seriously by our society. Alliance Quebec has recently received an increasing number of complaints from different regions of the province that health care workers are not making an adequate effort to treat patients in English. This is especially worrisome when you consider the Missisquoi Institute's preliminary report on the omnibus survey of the attitudes and experiences of the English-speaking communities, which found that access to English-language health and social services, was rated as the issue of primary importance for Quebec's English-speaking communities. It is also worth noting that concern about access to English-language health and social services has created a situation whereby 72% of the members of the English-speaking community who responded to the Institute's survey noted other family members would be used as a resource in case of illness. Only 12% noted they would use public health/social service institutions.

Whether it be patient communication with health professionals, or CLSC workers, signage in hospitals, or simply the production of health promotion pamphlets it makes sense to help the patient in a language they most understand. In the past couple of years, members of linguistic minority communities have struggled and turned to the courts to ensure access to essential health and social services for members of their communities. We have seen the implementation of access plans for the English-speaking minority instituted after a court challenge by Alliance Quebec and considerable government resistance, we have seen the Quebec Superior Court uphold the right of the Montreal Chinese Hospital to require that nurses have knowledge of a Chinese language so as to better serve members of their community and we have seen the Ontario Divisional court rule that the Ontario Government could not close the Montfort Hospital.

While we have seen some movement to ensure access to English-language health and social services in Quebec, there is still much work to be done. For

example, Quebec's Charter of the French language states that Quebec workers have the right to work in French. This being the case, it is easy to argue that the legal position of a physician, who refuses to treat someone in English in a non-designated institution, is supported by the Charter of the French language. However, even if such physician was legally right, the Charter of the French Language on this issue is ethically wrong. While medical ethicists would clearly favour treating the patient to the best of ones ability, the fact remains that this is sometimes not the case and cause for great concern to English-speaking Quebecers. Thankfully in Quebec and despite government language policy, it is clear the physician must abide by the code of ethics of his or her professional body, as stipulated by the *College des Medecins*, which states:

(Selected clauses from the current Code of Ethics of Physicians in Quebec Medical Act <R.S.O., c, M-9>, Professional Code <R.S.-D., c. C-26, s.87):

2.01.01 The violation of any section of this Chapter is an act derogatory to the honour and dignity of the profession.

2.02.01 The physician's paramount duty, in the performance of his medical functions is to protect the health and well-being of the persons he takes care of, both individually and collectively.

2.03.01 The physician must practice his profession in a manner which respects the life, dignity and liberty of each individual.

2.03.05A physician may not refuse to treat a patient solely for reasons related to the nature of the patient's illness or because of moral reasons, political convictions or language, he may, however, send the Patient to another physician if he deems it to be in the patient's medical interest.

Cont'd on page 24



In an effort to better serve the English-speaking community, Alliance Quebec is in the process of conducting a survey to examine the concerns and needs of the English-speaking community with respect to access to English language health and social services as outlined in the access plans.

Please fill out the following questionnaire and return it care of the Health and Social Services Consultant, Alliance Quebec, 1980 Sherbrooke St. West, Suite 830, Montreal, Quebec H3H 1E8 by May 1, 2001 or return by fax at (514) 932-3917.

QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is anonymous. Please feel free to skip any questions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Do you live in a: City/Town ☐ Village ☐ Name of the City/Town or Village _____

Age: 0-25 ☐ 26-35 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55 ☐ 56-65 ☐ 66 + ☐

Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐

Languages Spoken (please answer each category):

	very well	well	poor	not at all
English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
French	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

What type of services have you used within the health and social services network in your area in the last year?

☐ CLSC ☐ Hospital ☐ Private Clinic ☐ Rehabilitation/Convalescent Centre
☐ Psychiatric Services ☐ Infosanté

Were you able to receive services in English at the:

CLSC	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Private Clinic	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Rehabilitation/Convalescent Centre	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Psychiatric Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
Infosanté	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

What type of services have you used within the health and social services network outside your area in the last year?

- ☐ CLSC ☐ Hospital ☐ Private Clinic ☐ Rehabilitation/Convalescent Centre
- ☐ Psychiatric Services ☐ Infosanté

Were you able to receive services in English at the:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| CLSC | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| Private Clinic | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| Rehabilitation/Convalescent Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| Psychiatric Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| Infosanté | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |

In your region is there:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| An English-speaking doctor | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| English-language psychiatric services | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| English language services at your local rehabilitation/convalescent centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| English-language services via Infosanté | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| English-language homecare services | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

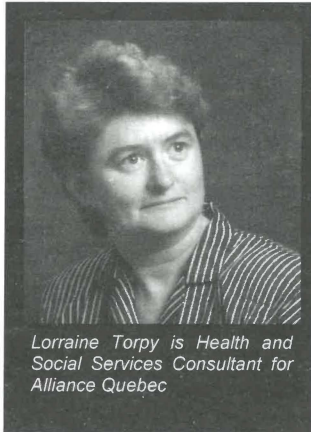
Have you ever requested a service in English and not received it? Please explain:

Do you have any additional comments:

Thank you for your input.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Health care...



Lorraine Torpy is Health and Social Services Consultant for Alliance Quebec

not for me... I'm healthy

By: Lorraine Torpy

Health care issues for the English-speaking population of Quebec have been a thorn in the side of the English-speaking community for decades. As a community we have been told that we only have access to certain

services, in certain institutions and in certain areas, but is this satisfactory to you and your family?

To ensure that the services will not erode anymore, we, as individuals, must be proactive and vigilant when it comes to health services for ourselves. Contact your local institutions and enquire as to what services are available in English and if you have specific needs request that your institution implement the program. Participate on user committees, use the complaints process but don't jeopardize your health by being inactive and silent.

Check with your local chapter for more information on the institutions and organizations in your area offering services in English.

Also, check your newspaper or your chapter office for details on an information evening about the new McGill University Health Centre to be held on March 28th, 2001

Alliance Quebec's Provincial Health and Social Services Committee invites you to attend an information session on the McGill University Health Centre.

**"Everything you wanted
to know about the
McGill University Health
Centre (MUHC) but
were afraid to ask "**

**Wednesday, March 28, 2001
7:00 pm**

**Westmount High School
4350 St. Catherine St. West**

For information, call Lorraine Torpy
at (514) 932-3292 Ext. 308.

Health

Cont'd from page 22

2.03.04A physician must ignore any interference which does not respect his professional independence.

It is clear that from the perspective of physicians' ethical duties and obligations, the real needs of the patients should take priority over the cultural, linguistic or political preferences of a physician. Sadly, in Quebec this is contradicted by a provision of the Charter of the French Language.

Alliance Quebec made its position clear in its brief to the Clair Commission: the right of a patient to receive health care services in his or her language must supersede the right of a worker to work in French. This being the case, it is our contention that the section on language of work in the Charter of the French language is unethical and must be modified. In this regard, we fully support the College's ethical stance for patients of any language and are happy to report that a complaint has been made to the College of Physicians. We would encourage individuals who have not been properly served in English in a health care facility to avail themselves of the complaint mechanisms at their disposal and to contact the *College des Medecins* and Alliance Quebec for assistance.

Community & Political Action Report

By: Peter Johnson

Talk
ACTION = NOTHING

Alliance Quebec's two action committees (political and community) are gearing up for a very busy period where both will live up to their name: Action.

The Political Action Committee (PAC), under the co-chairmanship of Steven Pinkus and Ed Manis, has undertaken several commitments for the coming months, including preparing a legal challenge to Bill 171 which unfairly stifles our communities' right to grow, and are working hard to ensure that action will equal results.

The PAC has chosen strategic targets where our energies and efforts can be focused with a strong chance of success, targeting key pieces of provincial legislation that are a serious threat to our communities' basic rights and well-being.

The PAC has undertaken other key initiatives, including drafting a brief for public hearings into electoral reform and opening avenues of dialogue with all levels of government to ensure our concerns are heard.

The Community Action Committee, under the co-chairmanship of Georgina Saba and Josie Ricciotti has identified several initiatives for the coming months, designed to respond to basic community needs as well as increase the visibility and "vigah" of English in the province of Quebec.

The CAC will undertake a comprehensive review of language policy for customer relations of Quebec's crown corporations and major corporations that deal largely with the public and demand that improvements be made where necessary.

The CAC will also move forward with a communications program designed to inform merchants of their language rights and promote the full visibility of English in commercial enterprise.

In all, it is a very active period for both these committees and there is some very important and complex work ahead of us. With the support and input from our members and the community as a whole, we have an unprecedented opportunity to realize some real and meaningful change in the political landscape of the province and this country.

Cheers,

Peter Johnson

Peter Johnson is Political and Community Action Committees Coordinator for Alliance Quebec

Fundraising and Membership

By: Jodi Baron

As the AQ magazine is going to print, it's been just over two weeks since I joined the Alliance Quebec family as Fundraising and Membership Coordinator. This has given me ample time to learn and observe some of the diverse facets of Alliance Quebec.

We are all aware that funding is an extremely significant area of concern to AQ, for this is what permits us to continue to defend English-speaking rights in Quebec. Whether the matter is Health and Social Services, Education, Employment Equity, Municipal Mergers, Electoral Fraud or any of the ever-increasing issues we continue to face, we cannot achieve our mandate without adequate funding.

To that degree, we are most grateful for the financial support that we receive from the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Sheila Copps, and from the corporate and private sectors, but we cannot rely solely upon this. Financial constraints affect our ability to accomplish our objectives therefore, it is imperative that we expand our funding base. By doing so, we stand to deliver our message to more people than ever before.

I will use this as my segue into another area of challenge AQ is facing – expanding our membership base. Membership is ever increasing, but **we have not reached enough of our population**, yet. It is incumbent upon each and every one of us to convey the AQ message to the public as well as to educate them on how we all, as English-speaking Quebecers, stand to benefit by becoming members of Alliance Quebec.

During the past two weeks, I have had the opportunity to meet with some tremendously committed volunteers who have braved fierce and snowy conditions to attend strategic planning meetings. Fundraising and Membership can become naturally intertwined and I am interested in and would be pleased to hear your recommendations and comments. **I strongly urge you, our membership, to help us achieve our goals!**

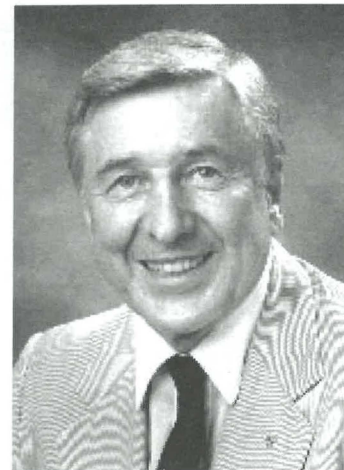
Please feel free to be in touch with me at (514) 932-3292 ext. 326 or you can reach me by E-mail to jbaron@aq.qc.ca. I welcome hearing from you!

Jodi Baron

Jodi Baron is Coordinator of Fundraising and Membership for Alliance Quebec

A Significant Victory for English Rights

By William Johnson



William Johnson is a syndicated columnist and former President of Alliance Quebec

Take heart. It's a long road to freedom, respect and equality in our Quebec. But they can be won through the courts, if only we have the courage, the conviction and the generosity to ask the courts to restore our rights

Our community won important victories last year. The greatest came on Dec. 14, when Superior Court Justice Danielle Grenier struck down Section 73(2) of the Charter of the French Language, and ruled that the Solski twins, Mateusz and Karol, are eligible to attend English school.

The judge found that the Charter of the French Language violates the Constitution of Canada when it insists that a child must have studied in English for "the major part" of his or her primary or secondary education in order to be eligible under the terms of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which states:

Section 23(2): Citizens of Canada of whom any child has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in English or French in Canada, have the right to have all of their children receive primary and secondary school instruction in the same language.

Madame Justice Grenier focused on the words, *is receiving*, to strike down the requirement of "the major part" of education in English as a condition for eligibility:

The use of the present tense, "is receiving", in Section 23(2) implies the intention of the framers of the Constitution to confer the right to receive instruction in English to the child who is receiving instruction in English at the time when the child's parents make the application, regardless of the child's previous studies.

The Solski twins are in a private, non-subsidized English school. With Brent Tyler as their lawyer, and after they had been refused access to English school by the usual suspects, the Solskis went to court to claim the Constitution gave their children the right to receive their instruction in English because they've been attending a non-subsidized English private school for a year or more.

Section 23(2) [of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms] sets no previous time limit. It contains no minimal requirement. By adding the condition of "the major part" to Section 73 of the Charter of the French Language, the Quebec legislator changed the category of persons established by Section 23(2) of the [Canadian] Charter.

Not only the Solski children, but any other child in the same situation, that is, who is receiving instruction in English at the time of the application for a certificate, is now presumably eligible for English schooling.

The Quebec Government has appealed the ruling. This issue is likely to go all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. But, in the end, the Canadian Charter will prevail.

The judge quoted a 1982 Supreme Court judgment that could be significant for English rights in this province:

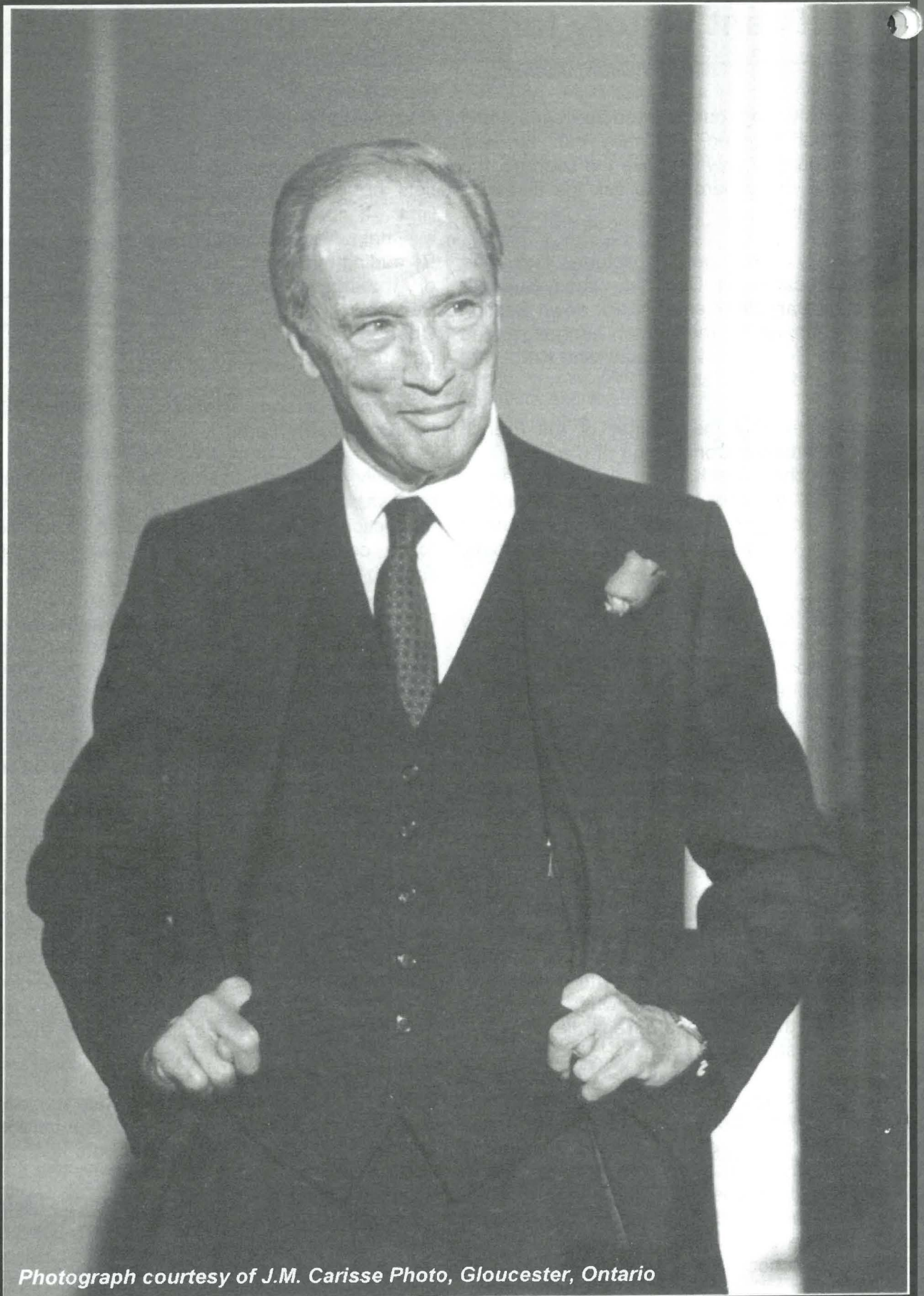
The general objective of Section 23 is clear: it aims at maintaining the two official languages of Canada as well as the cultures which they represent, and at favouring the enhancement of each of these languages.

We must go all the way up to the Supreme Court on a range of rights issues, including English education, equal-sized English on signs, the right to work in English. This will take money.

Brent Tyler has been carrying our community's rights on his back for years, but the burden has become crushing. We must contribute financially, if we believe in justice and freedom.

Send your cheques to:

Brent Tyler in trust
c/o the Rights Defence Fund,
83 St. Paul St. West, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1Z1.



Photograph courtesy of J.M. Carisse Photo, Gloucester, Ontario

Trudeau: A Towering Statesman

By: Max Nemni

In 1999, more than 15 years after he walked away from public life, Pierre Elliott Trudeau ranked third as the most admired Canadian. Last January, 43% of Canadians selected him as the prime minister of the century. Should we be surprised? Not in the least. Through five election campaigns, numerous constitutional deals, a separatist referendum, world-wide economic difficulties, the first and only battle against a truly Canadian brand of political terrorism, and countless controversies and debates, Canadians watched a man of courage and conviction, a man of high principles possessing an exceptional capacity for expressing his thoughts, lead their country. They recognized him as a true statesman.

Already in his intellectual days at *Cité libre*, he had expressed with uncanny lucidity the political task that lay ahead for the Canadian federation. He foresaw its possible pitfalls and its potential: "The die is cast in Canada: there are two main ethnic and linguistic groups; each is too strong and too deeply rooted in the past, too firmly bound to a mother-culture, to be able to engulf the other. But if the two will collaborate at the hub of a truly pluralistic state, Canada could become the envied seat of a form of federalism that belongs to tomorrow's world."

While always a foe of "the ridiculous and reactionary idea of national sovereignty," he also believed that the nation, was "the guardian of certain very positive qualities: a cultural heritage, a community awareness, historical continuity, a set of mores." As his policy of multiculturalism would later illustrate, he favoured measures which would enhance and enrich the cultural heritage of all Canadian communities. What worried him, and what he fought against all his life, was the idea that the frontiers of an ethnic group and those of the state should coincide. This is precisely what he witnessed in Quebec with the 1962 *Masters in Our Own House* election of Jean Lesage, ushering in the Quiet Revolution. Two years later he wrote that English-Canadian nationalism and the new Quebec nationalism were "on a collision course." A constitutional policy attempting to accommodate these nationalisms would be

unwise and unworkable. Reason, federalism, and law were the indispensable foundations of the Canada of tomorrow. On this note he went to Ottawa.

By entrenching official bilingualism, Trudeau aimed at putting the two historic language communities on an equal footing, politically and constitutionally. The policy was never meant, as many of his critics contend, to make every Canadian bilingual. The objective was indeed ambitious, but it was do-able, and history has proved that, to a great extent, Trudeau's policies have indeed been realized, so much so that a political career in Ottawa, especially in the higher echelons, can hardly be envisaged today without a sound knowledge of both languages. The recognition of both official languages as equal in judicial and political terms, and the entrenchment of language rights within the Constitution, have greatly contributed to the creation of a distinct Canadian political nationality.

Multiculturalism was another pragmatic response to the reality of Canada. Already, when Trudeau came to power, over a third of the Canadian population was neither of English nor French origin. The constitutional reform of 1982 acknowledges this reality by specifying that the Charter must be interpreted "in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians." This has undoubtedly helped foster the very strong patriotism of an increasingly multiethnic Canadian population.

The jewel in Trudeau's policies was the constitutional reform of 1982, and especially the Charter of Rights. Contrary to common belief, Trudeau was not originally in favour of constitutional reforms which he believed could only heighten divisions. However, as far back as one can go, he was very much in favour of a Bill of Rights. He wrote in 1963: "I am increasingly coming to believe that Canadian federalism will reach full maturity only if we entrench in our Constitution a declaration of human rights and freedoms."

Cont'd on next page

Those who see in Trudeau's commitment to a Charter of Rights a means of centralizing power in the hands of the federal government completely misunderstand his political philosophy and his policies. The Charter gives primacy to individuals over their governments, *all* their governments. Moreover, contrary to common belief, the Charter does not in any way touch upon the allocation of powers between the two levels of government. In fact, the only reallocation of powers realized in 1982 was in favour of the provinces, all of whom gained a greater control over natural resources.

Friends and foes alike would agree that the constitutional reform of 1982 has radically transformed Canada's political institutions. Thousands of articles and books have been written on the Charter and the controversies are not about to cease. But let me point out some virtues of the 1982 reform. First, the patriation of the Constitution meant that Canadians alone would control their basic laws. Second, the Charter has empowered the people over their governments. And while the Courts occupy a bigger place in Canada's institutions today, citizens can now take their governments to task. Third, the Charter has entrenched the equal official status of both languages and the rights of both linguistic groups to education in their language. The French language is far more secure now in Canada than it has ever been and the public service is fully accessible to both linguistic groups. Fourth, the principle of equalization between rich and poor provinces was entrenched and thus solidarity and sharing were given an institutional grounding.

Contrary to those who claim that we have to live with the "status quo" because Trudeau did not accede to the demands of Quebec nationalists, in fact, under his leadership Canadian federalism has been deeply renewed, far more than at any other time since Confederation. Some may like these changes others may hate them. One thing is certain: steadfastly Trudeau moved towards his objective and he reached it. Today's Canada is Trudeau's Canada. No wonder that for so many Canadians, Trudeau is the towering figure of the 20th century. He has secured a lasting place in the hearts and minds of Canadians.

Max Nemni is a professor of political science at Laval University. He and his wife Monique are the present directors of Cité libre, the journal founded in June 1950 by Pierre Trudeau, Gérard Pelletier, and other Quebec intellectuals. (514) 738-1718 max.nemni@pol.ulaval.ca

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Democracy in North America

By: Michael N. Bergman

The recent U.S. Presidential Election, the 1995 Quebec Referendum and the 1998 Quebec Provincial Election have disturbing similarities. They all raise unanswered questions about the nature and direction of modern democracy.

These events jeopardize two fundamental principles commonly thought to be cornerstones of democracy, the right to have every vote count and the right to be governed by the winner of the majority of votes.

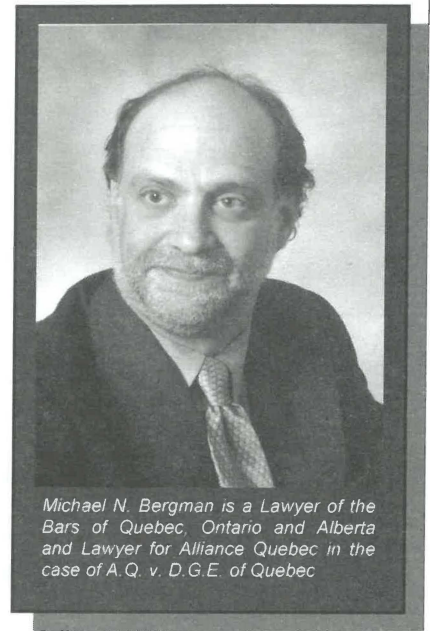
The tortured 2000 U.S. Presidential Election has seen the clear winner of the national vote, Vice-President Al Gore, declared the loser. His 350,000 vote majority nationwide counted for nothing. In 1998, Jean Charest and the Quebec Liberal Party won a majority of the Quebec popular vote, yet not only did the Parti Quebecois win the election, but also obtained a substantial majority of the seats in the National Assembly. President Elect George W. Bush is said to possess a mandate with little or no legitimacy. The same can be said of the Parti Quebecois following the 1998 Quebec Election. Yet both the Parti Quebecois and George W. Bush constitute the government and have all of the constitutional and legal authority to act as they choose, subject to the checks and balances and political vagaries of the issues that they address. In modern democracy, the will of the majority duly expressed in an election may, on account of antique institutions, count for nothing.

Our parliamentary system of government can, even in the year 2000, produce a government that did not win the popular vote. The U.S. Electoral College has done the same thing. These institutions were created and developed centuries ago to respond to concerns which no longer apply. In parliamentary theory and legal practice, the party possessing a majority of individually elected seats forms the government. In practice, people expect that the party that obtains the most votes should win. In the U.S. system, a group of unheralded electors, chosen by each State, selects the President. The expectation of the American population is that they are effectively voting for the President directly.

In the 2000 U.S. Presidential Election, the ballots in Florida were either incomprehensible, the famous butterfly ballot or there were under-votes, over-votes, uninterpreted votes and

misinterpreted votes which likely caused Vice-President Gore to appear to lose the state. In the 1995 Quebec Referendum, Quebecers had to vote "yes" or "no" to a confused and for many incomprehensible referendum question. In key federalist ridings, an unacceptably high rate of rejected and spoiled ballots resulted in many votes not being counted. We know from the samples of actual rejected ballots obtained this past summer through the ongoing litigation that Alliance Quebec is pursuing against the Director General of Elections, that no person of common sense could have misinterpreted or rejected these ballots. At least the Florida Authorities had to interpret the arcane distinctions between dimples, hanging chads and indentations. In the 1995 Quebec Referendum, tens of thousands of ballots were rejected and not counted because of bizarre and irrational interpretations of votes by Deputy Returning Officers appointed by the Parti Quebecois. In our democracy, at least in Quebec and Florida, every legitimate vote does not necessarily count.

Quebecers and Canadians generally should learn a lesson of the Quebec experience in both the 1995 Referendum and the 1998 Quebec Election, as well as the 2000 U.S. Presidential Election. Our democracy is in need of urgent reform. The democratic principles that every vote counts and the majority wins are not sustained in every case. This produces crises and distortions both in votes to determine the creation of a new country and the break-up of an old one, and the selection of the leader of the most powerful nation on the earth.



Michael N. Bergman is a Lawyer of the Bars of Quebec, Ontario and Alberta and Lawyer for Alliance Quebec in the case of A.Q. v. D.G.E. of Quebec



Lawyer Brent Tyler

So little time. So much hypocrisy.

By: Brent Tyler

The year 2000 was an eventful year for yours truly. William Johnson has written about the *Solski* case. I would like to comment on the *The Lyon and The Wallrus*.

Readers will recall that Gwen Simpson alias *The Lyon* and Wally Hoffmann alias *The Wallrus* were prosecuted for having a sign with English and French letters of equal size outside their antique and picture-framing store in the Eastern Townships. The sign provisions in the *Charter (sic) of the French Language* require that French be markedly predominant over all other languages.

In October 1999, Madame Justice Danielle Côté of the Court of Quebec declared the sign provisions to be invalid and ordered an acquittal. Her reasoning was as follows: 1) As the right to freedom of commercial expression includes the right to express oneself in the language of one's choice, the requirement of marked predominance constituted an infringement of that right under both the Canadian and Quebec *Charters of Rights*. 2) The infringement having been established, the government then had the burden to show that the infringement was "reasonable and demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society." 3) In the absence of any evidence filed by the government to justify the infringement, she had no choice but to declare the sign provisions to be unconstitutional.

In April 2000, Mr. Justice Paul-Marcel Bellavance of the Superior Court overturned the trial judgment and accepted the government's argument to the effect that the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada in 1988 in the Ford case operated to dispense the government from its burden to justify the infringement. He found Gwen and Wally guilty and imposed a fine of \$500 plus court costs.

Needless to say, we appealed and a hearing before the Court of Appeal is expected in the spring of 2001.

Now that the legal niceties are over, we can pose the fundamental questions: Are we prepared to live in a country which espouses the principles of freedom, equality and linguistic duality but allows citizens in one province to be prosecuted for using the country's two official languages equally in their commercial advertising?

As we proved at trial through the evidence of our expert, Professor Teresa Scassa, there is no other liberal democracy on the planet that requires that the official or national language be markedly predominant over all other languages. Why should Quebec in Canada be any different?

Why is it that the federal government is falling over itself to intervene in the Montfort Hospital case for the benefit of the French minority in Ontario and is nowhere to be seen when it comes to assisting the English-speaking community in Quebec? In particular, why hasn't the federal government intervened to help Gwen and Wally?

How is it that the federal government has represented to the United Nations on numerous occasions that the federal Court Challenges Program is part of Canada's implementation of its treaty obligations in the area of civil rights and yet, Gwen and Wally were denied any funding under the Program, at first because they supposedly had no chance of winning and later, because they do business through a corporation?

How long will it take before members of the English-speaking community in Quebec are finally recognized as constituting an official language minority under the *Constitution* and therefore entitled to favourable treatment at the hands of the Quebec government rather than language legislation that infringes their most basic *Charter* rights?

One day, the Supreme Court will be asked to clarify how the judgment in 1988 should be interpreted and to determine what influence it has today. Did it really bless marked predominance in the way that both the government and Mr. Justice Bellavance say that it did?

When does the hypocrisy end? Hopefully, with this case. Imagine a future where there are no tongue troopers, or at least, they have no measuring tape. Such a future will only be possible if the courts affirm that, at a minimum, the option to use Canada's two official languages equally in private enterprise is a freedom that is simply beyond the reach of any government to restrict. Without admitting that it is a permanent solution, require French, allow English and other languages of equal size, and let's move on.

Brent Tyler reporting from the front.

Editor's Note:

Maurice J. King is a former mayor of the city of Greenfield Park located on the South Shore of Montreal and author of "The First Step" - 1993 (analyzes the conflict between Quebec nationalism and Canadian values and tells the story of the appeal to the United Nations Human Rights Committee against the violations of freedom of expression by Quebec's French Language Charter).

Former President of the Chateaugay Valley English-Speaking Peoples Association (CVESPA). Mr. King stepped down last year. He is currently president of Southwest Quebec Research and Cultural Institution and publishes *Dialogue Magazine*. He has been a member of the Ottawa Parliamentary Press Gallery since 1997.

Mr. King wrote this article at the request of the editor of the A.Q. magazine.

Maurice King will be retiring to British Columbia with his family.

Editor

A Farewell Message

By: Maurice J. King

During the past twenty years I have had the privilege of working as an activist promoting the well being of the English-speaking community in Quebec. The route I chose to follow was one that challenged the peoples of Quebec to confront the political ideology that supported the denial of individual rights.

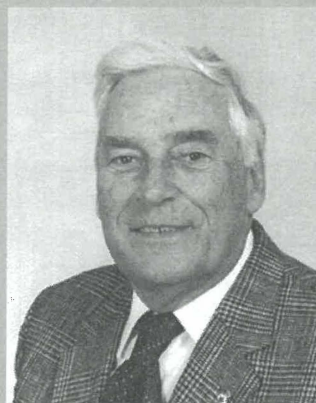
I support the view expressed by Clifford Lincoln "A right is a right is a right." There cannot be a society where basic human rights of individuals are measured out on a formula decided by the majority. Nor can we successfully meet the challenge of making the majority aware of the fundamental human rights abuses that they tolerate, by attempting to create a society based on appeasement and compliance with the denial of individual rights.

The province of Quebec can only become a society where the rights of individual citizens are respected when the people discard the concepts of provincial nationalism and the egocentricity of language.

The greatest weakness within the province by those who believe in individual rights is fear. Fear that if they expose the emperor riding about on his horse of Quebec nationalism as being clothed in racism and intolerance, that they will become the victims that are punished by the compliant media and the apathetic population.

Alliance Quebec stands at the crossroads. How will it meet the challenge of organizing a strong and active membership? Is the best way to achieve this objective to dissolve its operations into regional organizations? Or will it continue to attempt building a strong central organization? Whatever its decision we can only hope that it will not return to its old ways which many perceived (correctly or incorrectly) as less inclusive than might be desired.

Au revoir et bonne chance.



Maurice J. King is former president of CVESPA

In praise of all volunteers, who volunteer their time and effort on behalf of Alliance Quebec, and in particular to the many chapters who are the life blood of the organization, thank you.

"Great Spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds"

Prof. Albert Einstein.

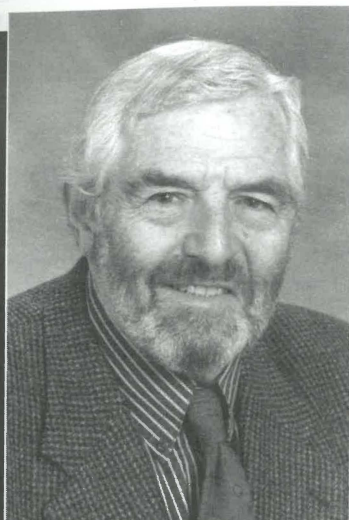
The above donated by Duncan C. Macdonald, Provincial Board Director and Director Montreal Region Chapter Alliance Quebec

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence... Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent... Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' has solved, and will solve the problems of the human race."

Anonymous

Political Correctness

By: Stan Grossman



Stan Grossman is Treasurer of Alliance Quebec

"Nationalism is the last refuge of scoundrels".

Reed Scowen, (oped, The Gazette 16 December 2000), discussing Bill 170: "Article 1 of the bill which states that *Montreal is a French-speaking city*" (although when the PQ emissaries seek outside

investment they boast of Montreal's bilingual character...*Péquistes speak with forked tongue*). He stated *the obvious* that there are many in Montreal who speak English and other languages.

At a visit at the Archeology Museum two years ago, the theme movie shown in the theatre, mainly aimed at visitors, stated that "Montreal is a French city". This chauvinistic presentation only mentions English contributions by some wealthy merchants to our city's development.

No mention is made of poets such as Irving Layton and Leonard Cohen. Artists such as Arthur Lismer and Cornelius Krieghoff are excluded. Medical greats like Norman Bethune, William Osler and Wilder Penfield are ignored. How about film industry notables as William Shatner, Christopher Plummer and Norma Shearer? Musicians such as the Brott Family and Oscar Peterson are never mentioned and neither is Brian Macdonald of international ballet note and nor is Terry McEwen, formerly president of the

San Francisco Opera. The list goes on and on.

Quebec nationalist revisionists operate to minimize non-French accomplishments and to exaggerate and falsify history to portray "les autres" as ogres. As an aside, how often have the authorities changed the names of streets (a reflection of non-French history and link to our roots) to French names? Is this not revisionism?

Many years ago at McGill University, a black young lady was crowned as Winter Carnival Queen (by popular vote). Extremists protested by declaring that "McGill is a white man's university"...ergo, non-whites should not have the right to fully participate nor enjoy any of the benefits or joys offered by the university and its place in society.

Similarly, those possessing a discriminatory orientation, by declaring a French city, are attempting to attain a Political Correctness and further marginalize the English-speaking community.

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Timothy L. Thomas is Executive Director, the Greater Quebec Movement

Language and English-speaking Quebec: Identifying the Problem

By: *Timothy L. Thomas*

An aim of successive language laws in Quebec has been to create a lingua franca for Quebec. Obviously there are advantages for a state to have only one public language. One can argue that citizens operating in one common language generally understand each other better and feel

closer overall as a community.

As a consequence of increased immigration, we appear to be witnessing, in both the tone and arguments of many groups arguing for a toughening of Quebec's language legislation, apprehensions with respect to the growing linguistic cleavages within the Montreal area. These apprehensions appear to be compounded by concerns that ethnic minorities in the Montreal area are increasingly using English as a public language.

Nowhere have these concerns been better symbolized than in the endless battles over commercial signage. Concern appears centered on the visibility of the French language and how its diminished visibility would undermine French as a public language.

Such concerns would be greatly diminished if there were a greater understanding of the motives behind the popular opposition in Montreal to Quebec's sign laws. Beyond the questions of oppression and the invasive feelings generated by a law that imposes the French language on daily public life, French itself is viewed as otherness. In short, much of the Anglophone malaise surrounding the imposition of French as a public language has much to do with an Anglophone's level of comfort in that language.

Therefore, it holds that if an Anglophone's command of the French language is a factor in the resistance of French as a lingua franca, then the Quebec state ought to look at solutions to make French more attractive. Much of that can be accomplished within the institutional structure of Quebec's English-speaking community.

An approach favouring tougher laws with tougher sanctions would be a serious mistake for Quebec society.

How bilingual are Quebec Anglophones?

During the 1980s and 1990s, it was commonplace to find members of Quebec's English speaking elite talking about the success of Anglophones in mastering French

as a second language. It was a reflex reaction. Should Francophones complain of the Anglophones' insufficient fluency in French or, worst yet, should they complain that their apparently insufficient effort to learn the French language was a sign of disrespect for the majority of Quebecers. Like clockwork, community spokespersons were always ready to point to statistics aimed at demonstrating the contrary. Realities were couched in vague arguments or in generalities. We were shown statistics demonstrating how bilingual Anglophones were without ever fleshing out what bilingual meant. We did it then, we do it now. It was, and still is, a community reflex.

We can witness as much when it comes to how our English media views language issues. If a poll is released reflecting Francophones' desire for better English instruction in their school system, it usually makes front-page news in our English papers. Should the same poll state an equivalent desire on the part of Anglophone parents for better French instruction in our English school system, that issue is given token lip service, and then ignored.

The Great Taboo

Our English school graduates' inability to operate in the French language is one of our community's greatest and least spoken of taboos. Rarely do we have our community face this issue and if some members do, they are all too often brandished as troublemakers and slapped with a stigma of being disloyal Anglophones and, unbelievably, disloyal Canadians.

Alliance Quebec is currently working hard to ensure that the Quebec civil service hires more Anglophones. I believe it must first address whether or not Anglophones educated in Quebec's English language school system can compete with Francophones for such jobs.

In the spring of 1998 and again in the fall of 2000, the Greater Quebec Movement conducted a poll among recent graduates from Quebec's English language school system. It asked respondents to state whether they felt they could compete with a Francophone for a job that involved French oral skills and, in a second scenario, French written skills. In each case, the results were rather poor. Roughly fifty percent claimed they could compete when it came to oral skills but over two thirds felt that they could not compete if the job involved French written skills.

Cont'd on next page

Manufacturing Immigrants

By: Jan Vrana

Quebec Citizenship Relations and Immigration Minister Robert Perrault held a forum to investigate a possible introduction of a Quebec "citizenship card" and how best to integrate new Quebecers into Quebec society. Let's explore what he is up against.

When I arrived over 26 years ago in Canada I thought that living in Montreal would give me a marvelous opportunity to learn French. I spent endless hours every day studying French and kept doing so for several years. To me, availability of the French language in addition to the English language in North America symbolized linguistic and cultural enrichment. Since I spoke practically no English upon arrival I also made sure that I learned English as well as I possibly could. Thanks to this effort I felt at ease everywhere in Canada.

The first slap in the face came with the arrival of Bill 101 restricting the use of the English language as well as access to English schools. But I thought it was possible to ignore this anomaly and I hung in there. When Bill 178, eliminating English signs from public view, and later Bill 86 were imposed, the honeymoon was over. I realized that Quebec, regardless of

who governs, is determined to stay in an isolationist phase for a long time. I suddenly realized that my family could be a victim of this nationalist plan to diminish children's proficiency in the English language. That was when I pulled my children from French schools and put them all into the English (French immersion) school system.

Since the imposition of Bill 101 Quebec's education system has been designed to ensure that a majority of people attending French schools will never learn English beyond a level of mediocrity. Quebec has decided that it will build its future on a large consenting unilingual underclass. The tools used to keep people in this linguistic isolation are formidable. The virtual elimination of all English signs from public view, and especially in stores, contributes to further minimizing available vocabulary even among English speakers, which usually goes unnoticed in a casual conversation. When immigrants see wealthier French speaking people sending their children to private English schools and others marrying English speakers to gain access to public English schools for their children, they know there is

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Language

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In my own case, as a result of language testing, I was deemed sufficiently bilingual by the federal public service to deserve a bonus for bilingualism (\$800 a year) for a three-and-a-half-year period. During this period, I served as a policy analyst (specializing in Quebec affairs) in the Privy Council Office and actually taught in French at the Royal Military College of Canada. Nonetheless, upon returning to Quebec I have been told that my French is inadequate to work in a predominantly French university while the English language universities have favoured hiring Francophones in my discipline (political science) to demonstrate their willingness to integrate into Quebec society. Ironically, I do not disagree with either of these collective institutional decisions, but they guarantee that I cannot work as a trained professional in my home province.

If Anglophones are graduating without adequate preparation for Quebec's workplace, why is the community so slow in recognizing this problem, let alone addressing it? If Anglophones do not have enough of a comfort level to be able to work in French, should this not be a primary focus for those who wish to promote the use and respect of the French language?

The Diaspora

Oddly, Quebec's English school system is preparing graduates for the workforces of Ontario, Alberta and the United States rather than that of our local community. While English may be an important window on the world, our mastery of that language at the expense of Quebec's

public language has, for tens of thousands of English-speaking graduates, become a ticket to a train station, a bus terminal or an airport. Most scandalous for our community leaders is that all of this, the ruptured families, the brain drain, the disintegration of the community from the bottom up, seems absolutely normal.

To be sure, this Diaspora has not gone unnoticed by our community leaders. Several celebrate it as evidence of the importance of the English language in getting higher paying jobs and actually use this as a kind of a jib against Francophone nationalists. For them, the point seems to be that the English school system does not trap our children in Quebec and allows them to migrate to greener pastures.

Often, there are those who present the Diaspora as a protest against our local political situation. It is the fault of separatists or of language nationalists. And yet one wonders. Are they not really leaving because as Quebecers, these young adults who grew up and attended English schools grew up to be preconditioned to leave? They are unable to work as professionals in the Quebec public or para-public service, their private networks - those that would normally allow them to circumvent this problem - are elsewhere, and their own institutions are not supporting them.

If English-speaking Quebecers are determined to stop the Diaspora, they must secure a much greater space for themselves within Quebec's public and para-public sector. To accomplish this laudable objective, they must begin by scrutinizing the performance of their own institutions.

Surfing Past Reality TV

By: Andrea Shuster

Survivor, Big Brother, The Mole, The Real World, A Dating Story, and Temptation Island are only a handful of some of the new "reality TV" shows that have captured the hearts and minds of today's youth. Television networks and producers claim that the public wants to see real people in real situations on the small screen and have a window into the lives of the common man. These programs have successfully infiltrated popular culture and have completely mesmerized viewers worldwide. Although I admit that I am captivated by this new form of entertainment, I am reminded that the most riveting reality TV show has been around for years and I never opened my eyes to it until a few short years ago. It's called: the evening news.

When I was a child, there was no time (with the possible exception of bedtime) that I dreaded more than six o'clock. Six o'clock meant that the good sitcom reruns were over and that supper was not quite ready. Each night as the credits from "Three's Company" scrolled down the screen, I searched madly for something else to watch, but the choices were limited: there was channel six news or channel twelve news. Neither of those choices were remotely appealing to me, and so I ended up improving my French by watching "Passe-Partout" very regularly. When my family finally got cable I watched "The Polka Dot Door" for many years, even when it was no longer age appropriate. I was well into high school, still I chose Polkaroo over Bill Haugland during that unbearable time before dinner was on the table.

It's not that I found current events boring, although it probably was a factor. It was mostly that I wasn't interested; I was satisfied with going about my daily routines without taking off my blinders. I felt that I had enough of my own life problems to deal with that I couldn't bear to hear about all of the problems going on worldwide. I was content to live in my own personal sitcom where the worst tragedies that occurred were not getting the lead in the school play and the time the cute guy from geography class stood me up at the movies. I went to great lengths to shut out the daily reports about wars, court battles, bombings, murders, and other hardships as it horrified me to watch people turning against each other because of differences in race, religion, culture, and language.

Even if by some chance there was a piece of news that I developed a slight interest in, I didn't know where to find a media outlet that would explain the item from beginning to end at my level of understanding. It felt as though I was trying to follow the plot of a soap opera and get to know its characters in the middle of the show's season.

It wasn't until I had reached the middle of CEGEP when I finally tuned in to the world around me. I registered for a television news course in order to finally immerse myself in news. I subsequently became involved with my school's television studio where students produced a weekly half hour news program that dealt with school issues as well as Montreal events that affected the student body. Our little studio was a microcosm for the local media and our professor made sure to encourage us to watch Pulse and Newswatch in order to observe good reporting techniques. In the beginning, I only tuned in to try to catch the professional anchors flub their lines and to criticize the camerawork. It may have been for the wrong reasons, but it was then that I started to watch the evening news. I didn't watch on a regular basis, nor did I have the patience to watch for the full hour, but it was a noble start. As fate would have it, I couldn't have picked a better time for this awakening. Our news class did editorials and sent out students to report on such

historical events as the closing of the Montreal Forum, the introduction of the Tvoonie, and most importantly, the Unity Rally and Referendum of 1995.

Now, not so many years later, I am an active member of Alliance Quebec, I read The Gazette during breakfast and I look

"... the most riveting reality TV show has been around for years and I never opened my eyes to it until a few short years ago. It's called: the evening news."

forward to having dinner to the sounds of Leslie Roberts, Mitsumi Takahashi, or Dennis Trudeau. Every Wednesday I wait to hear The Suburban being slipped through the mail box and run to get it before the dog does. While spending the summer in the United States, I began to feel withdrawal and I spent endless hours on the Internet trying to find out the goings on in Montreal. I also asked relatives to send me news clippings about all of AQ efforts and I found that I finally knew enough about the language law struggles and political strife in Quebec to relay this information to my sheltered American friends. I now shush my parents if they're talking too loud during Pulse and last week I was even so bold as to turn off the figure skating show that my friend was watching in order to catch the day's top stories. This turn around amazes my entire family, yet no one is more shocked than I am. I am addicted to reality TV and I am proud of it. Parents, help your kids get addicted too; the future depends on it.

Andrea Shuster is on the AQ's Provincial Youth Commission Board of Directors and is Member-at-Large of the chapter's executive. She has a Bachelor of Education from McGill University and is currently pursuing graduate studies in administration for not for profit organizations.

Immigrants

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something fundamentally wrong going on in Quebec. Present or former immigrants I know dislike being assigned to a unilingual French caste especially when they know they have no chance of getting better jobs in the large part of the economy. If the linguistic standoff in Quebec were between French and Portuguese, for example, the situation would not be much different from many areas around the globe. However, English lacks the sharp ethnic and cultural characteristics and it became the language most accommodating to diversity. No wonder most immigrants want to be part of it. In this context French can assume a role of an easily available enriching language. The large number of trilingual immigrants in Quebec is a clear demonstration of viability of this concept.

It is now becoming obvious even among French speaking people that knowledge of English is necessary for advancement and the pressure on government to do something about it is increasing. The Quebec government wants to appear responsible, however, the latest idea of introducing English in the first grade in French schools (which, by the way, was so vehemently opposed by Claude Ryan in 1984, Minister of Education at the time) will solve little. It is only another tool used to trap yet one more generation of unsuspecting citizens in linguistic isolation before it again becomes obvious that people's English speaking skills are still hopelessly inadequate. This is another deliberate attempt to deceive the population into believing that government has a genuine interest in improving their language skills.

The drive to turn Montreal into a unilingual French now symbolizes linguistic and cultural poverty. Unlike France, Quebec does not have equally old and isolationist neighbours. Quebec is surrounded by a free and open society and that makes their project of cultural and linguistic waterproofing utterly unappealing. Quebec has become the only jurisdiction in North America that is trying to preserve one group's culture at the expense of the single most important global communication tool - English. But English in North America is more than just a necessary communication skill, it is a language that is not only associated with prosperity but also with freedom and mobility. In fact Jean Charest was only half right when he waved the Canadian Passport in his hand during the pro-Canada rally in 1995 as a symbol of freedom as opposed to isolation. He should have had a Webster's dictionary in the other hand - the second half of the passport to individual freedom.

Immigrants are not a homogeneous group so it is hard to speak for all of them. But they are all humans and tend to behave in a human way when exposed to a massive propaganda (by French and often even English media) of francization at the expense of mastery of English language. I am definitely not alone in refusing to accept the outdated and mythical concept of the two founding people in Canada as an excuse to sever the link between residents of Quebec and the rest of Canada and to educate people with the inadequate proficiency in English. While some immigrants, depending what is their background and language skills, still accept the atmosphere where English is not fully appreciated and is seen as a necessary evil most are not so easily fooled and resist the propaganda or leave as soon as they can.

Immigrants generally understand that they and especially their offspring will be eventually assimilated and most accept that as a practical thing but they are reluctant to assimilate into another small tribe. Being told that assimilation into a Quebec (meant French) society is a good thing and, at the same time, Joseph Facal calling assimilation of French people into larger English speaking society elsewhere "tragic," is often recognized as ridiculous. The latest proposal to settle new immigrants in regions where they would be conveniently isolated from Montreal's "corrosive" influence is another proof of a drive toward assimilation through isolation. But the last thing immigrants (read people) need is a mandatory cultural chastity belt. This begs a question whether the French speaking people, singled out by the identity of their parents, also need a cultural chastity belt. Are they going to view their present behavior in several decades as limiting as they now view their past acceptance of church domination?

Immigrants I speak to are tired of the nationalists' and their appeasers' brainwashing. The moment they cross the boundary of Quebec into another province or the United States they see

the reality; they suddenly realize that they are again foreigners no matter how much time they spent in Quebec, which is after all in North America - at least geographically. For some immigrants living in Quebec it can be quite demoralizing to realize that their own children, although born in North America, not being fluent in English, will become foreigners the moment they step outside Quebec. Under these circumstances

it is hard for immigrants to accept Bill 101 as, in the words of Stephane Dion, a great Canadian law. It often takes a while but eventually most immigrants understand that mastering English in North America is a very desirable necessity. Francization of Canada through official bilingualism policies can at best provide a false sense of security and an illusion of mobility for anyone not being at ease in English. Immigrants coming to Quebec are never told that in order to learn English they would have to triple the effort. By the time they realize it, it is often too late. But, immigrants I talk to, still strive for fluency in English in order to feel part of Canada and the rest of North America. Immigrants do not want to share the French Quebecers' conspicuous sense of insecurity when they venture beyond Quebec. Immigrants do not feel like flocking with French speaking Quebecers to specific vacation spots in Maine or Florida.

When the fastest means of communication and transportation were homing pigeons and horses, it was relatively easy to accept a condition where one would be confined to a small area and not feel bad about being a foreigner a few miles away. Today, when the speed of communication and transportation is beyond comparison the situation is quite different. Immigrants are very conscious of this. Most immigrants do not want to share nationalists' inability to enlarge their small circle of identity. Many immigrants will do anything to make sure that at least their children will not become foreigners on their own continent. Unfortunately, unlike many immigrants, the English elite had mysteriously accepted all the linguistic limitation and cleansing in the past making it easier for nationalists to engineer Quebec society as they pleased. But then, the English speakers would never become foreigners on their own continent, right?

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Alliance Quebec Celebrating 20 Years

The next edition of the magazine will be a very special edition commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the founding of Alliance Quebec.

We want to hear from you!

If you would like to submit articles or photographs that have a specific historical significance for Alliance Quebec and the English-speaking community, please call Bill Butcher, Editor of the Alliance Quebec News Magazine at (514) 932-3292 or (514) 696-5973.

Canadian Ski Marathon February 10 - 11, 2001

Congratulations to Bill Butcher !

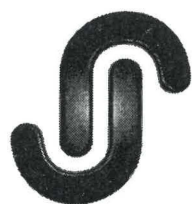
Winner of the Jackrabbit Courreur des Bois Bronze Award (skied five sections, 70 km. on second day).

Winner the Hugh Blachford Memorial Trophy as the oldest (70 years of age) successful male competitor in the Courreur des Bois Category.

Winner Silver Tips Award for having completed four sections or more of the ski marathon as an individual who is more than 65 years of age.

By: Lynn Roy
Director of Communications

Note: Bill is currently writing a book on exercising and the aging process.



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Some AQ Highlights 2000 - 2001



Bruce Hulley (left) and Josie Ricciotti (right) present Brent Tyler with a cheque, on behalf of the West Island Chapter, for the Rights Defence Fund



Alliance Quebec members join others to protest forced municipal mergers at a rally organized by the Union des municipalités de banlieue sur l'île de Montréal.



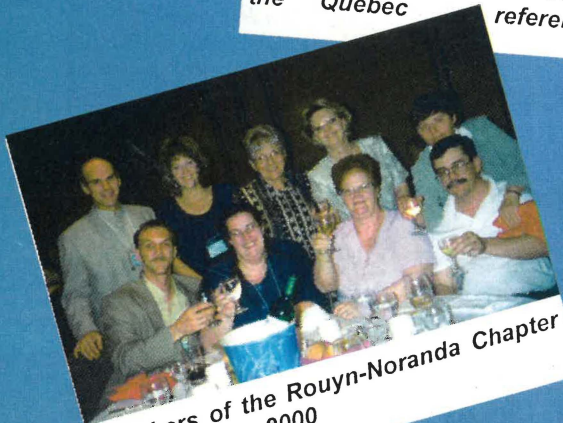
Duncan Macdonald, member of the Board of Directors of Alliance Quebec, poses in front of a sample of the ballots, on display at the Cavendish Mall, which were rejected during the 1995 referendum.



Lawyer Michael N. Bergman (left) and Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather hold a press conference to outline the status of legal proceedings in which Alliance Quebec demanded access to all documents relating to the Quebec referendum in 1995.



Members of Alliance Quebec lay a wreath at the cenotaph (Place du Canada, Montreal) on Remembrance Day, November 11th, in memory of all veterans who served our country.



Members of the Rouyn-Noranda Chapter at Convention 2000



Members of the Val d'Or Chapter at Convention 2000



Eva Clayman (center) and Duncan Macdonald (right) present Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather with a plaque of the six principles.