

Border labour situation a threat, Johnson warns Quebec

Montreal – June 11, 1999 – "The Quebec government has to adapt its labour legislation to the 1990's and eliminate restrictions it imposed on mobility of labour or watch productive citizens flee the province in favour of less restrictive jurisdictions."

That warning today from Alliance Quebec President William Johnson who joined forces with the Outaouais Alliance calling for a re-opening of the Ontario-Quebec border to free movement of labour to either market.

"As things stand," Johnson stated, "hundreds of trades people will leave the Outaouais Valley if they cannot work in Ontario."

"The reason they must cross the border for work is the destructive labour regulations and hiring system that Quebec established. If you are a tradesman or small contractor, the system in Quebec works against you. And now Ontario has retaliated to stop Quebecers from being hired in favour of Ontario residents. The Bouchard government should change the system before the people simply leave," concluded Johnson.

The issue sparked bitter name calling this spring between Premiers Mike Harris of Ontario and Lucien Bouchard of Quebec when Ontario initiated retaliatory right to work rules that favour Ontario residents.

Alliance Quebec joins the Outaouais Alliance in calling on the Quebec government to reconsider its policies and open the borders of Quebec to allow free movement of labour.