

Anglo groups condemn Beaudoin proposals

Proposals to restrict Quebec government services in the English language are silly and pointless, a coalition of anglo-Quebec community groups said Sunday.

At weekend meeting, a network of regional associations and Alliance Quebec examined the proposal by Cultural Affairs Minister Louise Beaudoin to limit the public and official use of English.

"There is no discernible reason for these actions," said Lynden Bechervaise, chair of the network and president of the Gaspé-based Committee for Anglophone Social Action. (CASA).

"I don't see why the government has to waste time and money worrying about the messages on its answering machines when it can't find the money to keep nurses in hospitals and children in schools."

The minister, in announcing these restrictive measures, suggested that English-speaking Quebecers could continue to ask for services in English. In that light organizations within the network will urge all Quebec taxpayers to insist on government services and documents in English as publicly as possible.

The community groups include Alliance Quebec, Outaouais Alliance, Townshippers' Association, CASA, The Coasters Association, Voice of English Quebec, the Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders and the Chateauguay Valley English-Speaking Peoples' Association.