

AQ Demands Fifth Riding in West Island

Montreal, Monday, March 5, 2001 - In a brief to the *Commission de la représentation électorale*, Alliance Quebec called for a fifth riding for Montreal's West Island to correct long standing and flagrant inequities in the distribution of electoral ridings on the Island of Montreal.

As well, Alliance Quebec expressed deep concern about proposed changes to the electoral map in the lower Laurentians and in the riding of Vaudreuil which in AQ's view would severely minimize the impact of English voters in those ridings.

In its brief Alliance Quebec attacks the general fairness of the current electoral system and questions whether our electoral riding distribution is truly equitable when it allows a political party which did not even garner a plurality of votes to form a government with an 18-seat majority.

In its brief AQ points out that there is an average of 46,000 voters in ridings in Montreal's West End and an average of 39,000 voters per riding in the city's East end.

"When combined with irregularities that occurred for the most part in ridings with large English speaking populations during the 1995 referendum voting, it is not surprising that many English speaking Quebecers believe the system discriminates against them," said Steven Pinkus Co-Chair of Alliance Quebec's Political Action Committee.

Alliance Quebec will be making the following recommendations to the electoral reform committee when representatives from the organization present the brief on **Tuesday, March 6, 2001 at 1:00 pm at the Midtown Holiday Inn, 420 Sherbrooke St. W.:**

- Add a fifth riding for the West Island of Montreal
- Keep the four communities of Weir, Arundel, Barkmere and Huberdeau in the riding of Argenteuil
- Keep Hudson and St. Lazare together in the riding of Vaudreuil

A full copy of Alliance Quebec's Brief will be posted in the News section of Alliance Quebec's Website on Tuesday, March 6, 2001.