

## **School Elections Of Major Importance To The English-Speaking Communities**

**MONTREAL, MAY 19, 1998** - The Quebec School Boards Association (QSBA) and Alliance Quebec (AQ) launched an information campaign this afternoon on the first-ever linguistic school board elections, to be held across Quebec on Sunday, June 14, 1998.

Both Ron Edwards, president of QSBA, and Constance Middleton-Hope, president of Alliance Quebec, called on all eligible voters who identify with the English-language school system to register on the appropriate voters' list. Only parents who have a child registered in an English school for the 1998-99 school year are registered automatically on the voters list of the English school board in their area.

All other electors are placed on the French voters' list unless they indicate that their wish to be on the English list. They must do so by completing a form now being delivered to all Quebec homes.

"The June 14th elections offer a unique opportunity for English-speaking Quebecers to demonstrate that the control and management of our school system is important to them," Mr. Edwards noted.

The QSBA, which represents the province's nine English school boards, is working with Alliance Quebec and a number of English-speaking community-based associations to inform people about these important elections. They distributed an information kit today, which will be made available to any individual who requests it.

"Educators and community leaders from across Quebec fought very hard for linguistic school boards," Alliance Quebec President Contance Middleton-Hope said. "Well, now we've got them. Let's get involved, elect the best commissioners we can and make our school system stronger."

Voters will be able to file requests to correct errors or omissions regarding their registration through revision offices which will be open on May 21, 22, 23, 28 and 29 with the finalized voters list coming into effect on June 4, 1998.

The QSBA and Alliance Quebec urge all eligible voters to exercise their rights and to take an active interest in these important elections.