

the quebecer alliance québec

THE FORUM FOR QUEBEC'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY.

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It's time to get involved

Alliance Quebec is an alliance of Quebecers who believe in a positive future, where French-speaking and English-speaking Quebecers can live and work together in mutual respect and cultural security.

In this first issue of "The Quebecer", Alliance President, Eric Maldoff says "Quebec is now a more fragmented society than ever. More and more Quebecers are coming to understand that the only way out is for us to pull together and use our common advantages and assets...our cultural and linguistic diversity are advantages, strong assets on which to build our future."

Too often in the past, we have allowed ourselves to be divided to the detriment of our province. For too long emotionalism has dominated the public dialogue on the rights of English-speaking Quebecers and the future of Quebec society. We're all seeing the results of this emotionalism and the blind alley it has lead us into.

We reject the negative thesis of the present Government of Quebec that the two language groups cannot prosper side by side.

"While we recognize the need to protect and promote the French language in Quebec", says Eric Maldoff, "the English language and culture are no less legitimate parts of Quebec's society. Certain rights flow from that legitimacy...we are Quebecers as much as anybody else. Quebec belongs to us, too".

Today, one million people are

members of the English-speaking community of Quebec. It is a richly talented and culturally diverse community with traditions and beliefs deeply rooted within Quebec society. **Its future is now in question.**

What is Alliance Quebec?

After the Coalition of English-speaking Quebecers published its "Declaration" in December 1981, community leaders expressed the need for a single organization to serve our interests province-wide. Alliance Quebec is that organization.

At the founding convention in May 1982, 330 delegates elected 21 directors and a nine-member executive, representing every region of Quebec and many different ethnic backgrounds, to carry out the policies decided democratically by the convention.

Policies adopted at the convention (public sign, health and education, language tests, etc.) are being implemented with a view to uniting our community in common cause against laws and regulations which have undermined our institutions and divided Quebecers.

Who are its members?

Any one may join the Alliance. We seek to unite all Quebecers of goodwill who share our vision; who share with us the ideal of living together in mutual respect and dignity.

Our members come from all walks of life and many ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. Because the Alliance is politically non-partisan, it



FROM ALL OVER QUEBEC English-speaking residents gathered at the convention last May to vote on policy that would guide Alliance Quebec in the upcoming year. Delegates attended from member groups, representing the province from the Outaouais to the Gaspé and the Townships to the Laurentians. Convention President James Leavy, seen above at the podium, was in charge of the plenary session when voting on policy was held.

has attracted a broad base of active support from individuals and groups of widely different political opinions and allegiances.

Members of the Alliance have voting rights in their local chapters or, in some cases, in a group or association that is the recognized regional presence of the Alliance.

The Alliance seeks to promote public awareness of the contribution of our community in the formation and evolution of Quebec society. Our aim is not to confront the

aspirations of French-speaking Quebecers, but to respond to the needs of our community in the interest of all Quebecers.

Our schools, hospitals and social services are fundamental to our community. They need our protection and support.

To stop the current exodus from the province -- especially among our youth -- we must secure fair and equal access to employment; to ensure the vitality of our community, English-speaking people must have the right to schooling in their

language.

Quebec belongs to all of us; we need guarantees that English be treated as a legitimate language in Quebec. This includes the assurance of access to all government services and information in English.

As Quebecers, we must persuade our fellow citizens that recognizing our language and culture (the right to be visible and present across the province), in no way threatens their own dignity and security.

Alliance Quebec is working for a better Quebec for all Quebecers.

Defence of our institutions

December 31, 1983 looms as a major date in the history of English Quebec. By then, English language institutions must comply with the francization requirements of Bill 101.

What does this mean? The effect of these changes is aptly described in the report of Alliance Quebec's Office de la langue française Monitoring Committee released in December '82: "They will then be required to conduct their affairs as if they were French-speaking institutions. This can permanently change the nature of institutions that are at the foundation of our community and seriously affect the

lives and careers of large numbers of people".

In the present climate of the government's hard-line refusal to make even minor changes to Bill 101, a bright future for Quebec's English-language institutions can hardly be taken for granted.

The government has repeatedly said that the English community is entitled to its institutions. Fine words, but in practice the actions of the Commission de surveillance have shown the government's true intent.

The issue is not about dying in a language. The Alliance believes that Quebecers should be able to receive

services in French in all health institutions. But this means that the institution not necessarily every employee must be able to function in French.

The Alliance is mounting a major campaign to ensure that our institutions continue to be controlled by and reflect our community. It's time to get involved.

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AQ Chapter Starts in Sept-Iles

by Barbara Verity

President Eric Maldoff assisted in the launching of the Sept-Iles/Port Cartier Chapter of Alliance Quebec at a Feb. 9th public meeting which was part of a two-day tour of the region. "It was an excellent meeting - everyone was happy," says Chapter Co-ordinator Marguerite Laflamme. Forty of those attending joined the chapter with more than half offering to work on various committees.

During the tour, Mr. Maldoff and Education Programme Director Doug McCall were honored at a civic reception attended by 28 community leaders representing all sectors of Sept-Iles/Port Cartier. A reception was also held at the Press Club where Mr. Maldoff explained the objectives of Alliance Quebec: "Our most pressing mandate is to promote an entente between Quebec's two major linguistic communities. Our vision of Quebec is a society which welcomes linguistic and cultural diversity." Mr. Maldoff was also interviewed on the local cable television station and lunched with the chapter's steering committee.

Speaking at the chapter's public meeting, Mr. Maldoff said that integration into Quebec society by anglophones is the Alliance's goal rather than promoting confrontation with French Quebec. Several had come to the meeting reluctantly but left reassured, Marguerite said. She had been finding that the concept of Alliance Quebec was more readily accepted by the French-speaking population. Some within the English community feared they would be polarized or ghettoized.

"One of our objectives is to convince the anglophone population that we need to have this unity so we can speak in a reasonable manner to the institutions or to government. It's time that we got together and ar-

ticulated our concerns to Francophones. It doesn't mean we are a ghetto but rather that we finally look like an organized community in Quebec," she says.

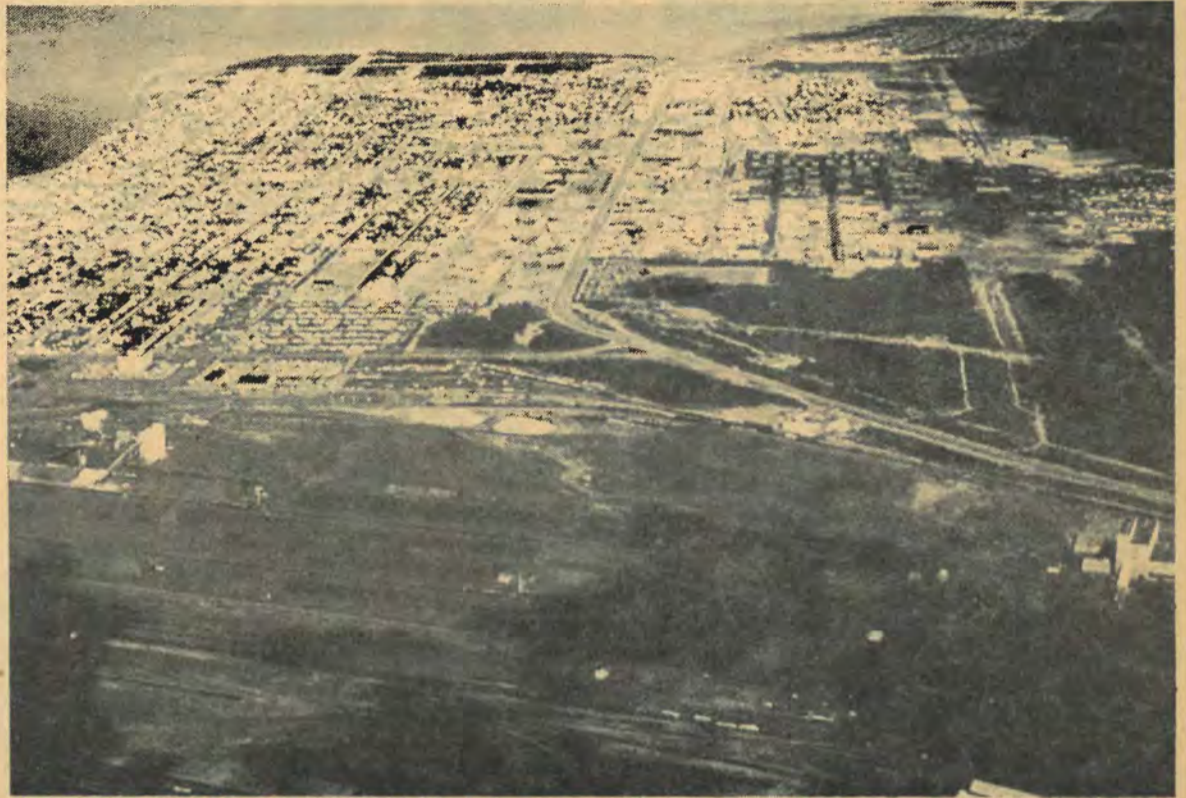
Situated at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, Sept-Iles has drawn residents from many countries to work for its mining companies. As a result, this major Canadian port has developed a cosmopolitan character.

The community's strength, however, is threatened by government policies which discourage English-speaking people from immigrating and which, if carried out, would destroy the English school system.

Marguerite is unhappy with the situation. "No matter what the language or race of the members of the community of the North Shore, they have contributed to the development of their region and it's only normal that they have a legitimate place within the community no matter what their numbers."

Born in France, Marguerite moved to Montreal with her family when she was nine years old. They soon settled in Sept-Iles where her father was employed by the Iron Ore Company of Canada. As a Protestant, she attended English schools. Marguerite, who is fluently bilingual, moves with ease between both linguistic communities.

Founded October 2, 1982, the Sept-Iles/Port Cartier Chapter has been successfully working with francophones on common issues. MRCs (Municipal Regional Councils) are viewed by both linguistic communities as being centralist and as serving the government's political goals. The need for universal suffrage in school board elections is another point of agreement between the two com-



THE CITY OF SEPT-ILES draws residents from many corners of the world, resulting in a cosmopolitan atmosphere.

munities. A consensus on these issues led the members of the chapter and the francophone community recently to present their views to the Sept-Iles municipal council when it passed a resolution supporting their position.

By working together in this way, Marguerite points out that the English community had the opportunity of making French-speaking residents aware of its concerns such as the threatened loss of English schools by the Laurin White Paper. As a result, the French community is now sympathetic with the English on this issue.

Education is the focal point around which the chapter has been organized. The Education Ministry's plan to base school boards on MRCs would split the Sept-Iles

Protestant board in half. Neither of the two resulting groups of anglophones would be numerous enough to warrant a linguistic committee. The community would be silenced.

The Protestant School Board of Greater Seven Islands covers Sept-Iles, Port Cartier, Schefferville, Fermont and Gagnon.

The Education Committee, which is chaired by Marguerite, is also planning to sponsor a book that will describe the region's history, geography and culture for use in English and French schools.

Workshops will also be held on topics such as nutrition policies for schools, the Régime Pédagogique, and the Youth Protection Act.

The Health and Social Services committee, with Ingrid Chanda as

chairman, is focusing on the region's lack of psychiatric, counselling and emergency services in English. The committee also is encouraging English-speaking volunteers to become involved through the auxiliary in hospital work.

The chapter is forming a francization committee to study the effects of Bill 101 on the region.

Eric Maldoff's two-day tour of the region gave added impetus to an already dynamic chapter. AQ-Sept-Iles/Port Cartier is a vital link in an ever-growing network throughout the province. As Marguerite Laflamme says, "The English community has functioned in little handfuls all over the province and it's high time we started functioning as a unified voice."



INGRID CHANDA, Chairman of Health and Social Services Committee, AQ-Sept-Iles/Port Cartier.



AS PART OF FESTIVITIES to launch the AQ-Sept-Iles/Port Cartier Chapter, AQ President Eric Maldoff was honored at a civic reception at Sept-Iles. From left to right are D. Guignard, Pro-Mayor of Sept-Iles, Marguerite Laflamme, co-ordinator of the chapter, Eric Maldoff, and G. Belanger, Town Clerk.

Interview:

Eric Maldoff

Quebecer: Mr. Maldoff, the emergence of Alliance Quebec raised many expectations, how do you rate the Alliance after its first year?

Maldoff: We've made a great start. In less than one year, the Alliance is a major force in Quebec society. We're well known in both French and English speaking communities. We are recognized by both the federal and provincial governments and various opposition parties. There is little doubt that the Alliance has become the leading voice of English-speaking Quebec.

The Alliance is strong and its strength is growing. We now have twenty-two active regional groups and member institutions. We have committees, task forces and work groups dealing with such subjects as education, health & social services and employment and business. We have tens of thousands of members and many hundreds of volunteers. By any objective measure, these are significant achievements.

Our community is united and determined. For many, expectations are high, but we have to be realistic. Excellence is the key. We can't do everything at once. Whatever we do will be done right. It may take time but there's no substitute for doing it right.

Quebecer: What are you trying to do?

Maldoff: Our principal objective is to promote a Quebec society in which cultural and linguistic diversity are recognized as an asset, in which English and French-speaking Canadians can live and share together to their mutual benefit.

We want a society in which it is understood that providing both communities with dignity and security are not mutually exclusive goals. It is only on this basis that a fair, just and lasting linguistic peace can be established and that all Quebecers can get on with the job of building a better Quebec for ourselves and our children. Quebec belongs to all of us.

Quebecer: What is the basis of this linguistic peace?

Maldoff: While we recognize the need to protect and promote the French language in Quebec, the English language and culture are no less legitimate parts of Quebec's society. Certain rights flow from that legitimacy. We have a **right** to our educational, health, social services and cultural institutions. We have a **right** to be visible in our Province. We have a **right** to representation in the agencies and departments of our government.

I can only emphasize that the basic issue is the legitimacy of our language (in our community.) The recognition of the legitimate status of our language and culture will eliminate provocative government



Eric Maldoff, President of Alliance Quebec

actions such as the Commission de Surveillance's decision on St. Mary's Hospital, the threat to our community embodied in Dr. Laurin's school reform and legislative proposals which restrict access to films in the English language.

Quebecer: How does this relate to current government policy?

Maldoff: Our vision is of a positive future where the two language groups can live, work and prosper together in mutual respect and security. Quebec must recognize its cultural and linguistic duality, that it provides advantages to all Quebecers. The PQ vision appears very different. It is the vision of a unilingual, homogeneous society. It was Premier Lévesque who claimed that the co-existence of the two language groups was impossible... "two scorpions in a bottle".

The English-speaking community of Quebec has a special responsibility to put the lie to that kind of rhetoric. We have a special responsibility to show that it is not true.

Instead of looking to the future and focusing on the real benefits of two thriving language communities, the government insists on looking to the past. We don't buy their thesis that the French language and culture can survive only if our English heritage is officially denied.

We must persuade our fellow French-speaking Quebecers that recognizing our language and culture, the right to be visible and present across the province, in no way threatens their dignity or their security.

Quebecer: There are those in our community who are concerned that the Alliance does not appear to

be doing enough.

Maldoff: The key word in your question is "appear". I would hope that people interested in the Alliance would take the time to find out what we have done so far.

We have built a credible and effective province-wide organization involving thousands of people. Our policy and leadership has been democratically chosen.

We have won important issues. We brought about change in the rules so that unemployed, unilingual English Quebecers can take French courses and still get UIC payments. Fourteen thousand members of our community benefited directly.

Our pressure, planning and hard work has forced Gérald Godin to publicly admit that there are abuses and errors in Bill 101 requiring change. We stood up for St. Mary's Hospital with widespread support from both linguistic communities. We have helped communities, such as the Gaspé to get government documents in English.

It takes time. Unfortunately, there is no "quick fix". Only involvement and hard work will bring about real solutions.

Quebecer: Some people feel that the Alliance is "too moderate". They want you to stand up and shout out what we want. Is "reasonable dialogue" the answer, after all Premier Lévesque turned you down flat.

Maldoff: Look, our job is to persuade all Quebecers that it is in everyone's best interest that we live and work together. When was the last time you persuaded anyone with empty threats?

Approaching the Premier was a necessary step, we had to go to the highest elected official in the

Quebecers would accept their timeworn myths and rhetoric without question. They believed that the Alliance would give up. They were wrong on both counts.

It's clear that we cannot really expect much from this government. Sure, they may make cosmetic public relations' moves when they feel they have to, but we can't expect anything because this government has lost its moral authority.

When a government has moral authority, it promotes consensus and advances policies on the basis of persuasion. When it loses its moral authority, a government can only resort to coercion and intimidation. All Quebecers are experiencing these threats — Bill 111, the forced amalgamation of Haute Rive and Baie Comeau, Dr. Laurin's court injunction against French parents who wanted schools to teach more English — are a few recent examples.

A government that loses its moral authority is a weak government. A weak government is incapable of solving problems. It cannot solve problems because it feels that to respond positively to constructive suggestions from its citizens is an admission of weakness. Such a government cannot respond positively to its citizens. It has backed itself into a corner. This government has backed itself into that corner.

I firmly believe that the vast majority of Quebecers are more open-minded and tolerant than the present government. I also believe that most French-speaking Quebecers want a viable and vibrant English community.

So, we have a base to work from. But, it will only be through a reasonable and rational dialogue that

be gratifying. But we are not here to be gratified. We are here to represent our community in the best and most effective way. We are here to succeed.

Quebecer: The Alliance frequently talks of "involvement". What do you mean?

Maldoff: We are rapidly reaching the point where English-speaking Quebecers have to decide whether they want to help themselves or not. For the Alliance to work, people have to get involved.

A key to our future success is what we call "politique de présence". The English community has to be present where the decisions are made.

The Alliance President talking to the government is just the tip of the iceberg. Members of strong local Alliance chapters have to get involved in local community organizations — municipalities, school and hospital boards, libraries, local service clubs, CLSCs, etc.

The fact that our community concerns may get overlooked or ignored does not only have to be because of ill-will or malice. More often than not, it may reflect a lack of awareness of our concerns. That is why our community has to be present. For if we are not present when decisions are taken, we risk being overlooked.

Everyone has a role to play. When you see a federal institution posting unilingual French signs or providing services in French only, write the Commissioner for Official Languages in Ottawa to protest and send us a copy of your letter.

The Townshippers are a great example. They challenged government plans to change place names of historical and cultural significance to us. As a result, Gérald Godin made a major change in the mandate of the Commission de Toponymie.

We must actively defend our rights and institutions wherever and whenever they are challenged. Our most precious assets are our freedom and our right to actively shape the future of our society. We all lose that freedom and that right if we are not prepared to work for them.

Neither passive complacency nor aggressive emotionalism will work. Each one of us has got to make the time, stand up and get involved.

Quebecer: Would you describe the English-speaking community and its concerns?

Maldoff: People don't know who the English community really is. Many French-speaking Quebecers still think that all English-speaking Quebecers are rich and live in Westmount.

Most French-speaking Quebecers do not understand the full effects of Bill 101. When you focus on specifics, like bilingual signs or access for English-Canadians to English schools, it's clear that most French-speaking Canadians don't know they are prohibited under Bill 101. They just don't know what Bill 101 says.

The PQ myth is another problem. It's an apparently quick and deceptively easy solution, attractive

'The government has lost its moral authority...'

province. After all, it was he who asked for "reasonable dialogue" in the first place. Quebecers had to see whether he was sincere or bluffing. We got our answer.

That process helped the Alliance in four specific ways. First, it enhanced our credibility, importance and representative nature, especially to French-speaking Quebecers. Second, it helped put up our community's issues squarely on the map. We set the agenda for the public discussion. Third, it gave us the opportunity, on several occasions and in considerable detail, to explain these issues to the public and the press. And fourth, the Premier was put on the spot. Either he recognized the "reasonableness" of what we asked for and did something about it, or he would be shown publicly to be "unreasonable". He showed his true colours in deciding as he did. I know that many Quebecers, even in our own community, were surprised that he was not the "good guy moderate among the bad guys" that many of them had hoped he was.

The government was the loser. They thought that French-speaking

we can change the public climate of the debate.

It wasn't so long ago, you know, that most French-speaking opinion leaders refused to believe that English Quebec's anger was legitimate. That is changing — and it's not changing because we are chaining ourselves to the front doors of the Office de la langue française. It is changing because we are doing our homework to explode the myths and taking the time to explain our concerns and convince others.

People too often mistake "knee jerk" destructive action as a constructive solution. When the Alliance acts, it does so deliberately, supported by solid research and community expertise. You can't persuade people with mindless threats. What we are doing may seem frustratingly slow to some, but we are talking about fundamental changes in a society. It is unrealistic to work any other way, if we are serious about succeeding.

At times I would love to get up and scream about all the absolutely outrageous things that are happening in this province. It certainly would

(Cont'd on p. 4)

Interview with Eric Maldoff

(Cont'd from p. 3)

to many inside and outside our province who haven't really thought through the rhetoric to the consequences. Two unilingual solitudes — an all-French Quebec and an all-English rest of Canada — is but one short step from the dissolution of our country. What we are fighting for here is the very notion of our country.

Over 106,000 members of our community, Quebecers, have left this province permanently in the last five years. This is a reality that cannot be ignored. The economic power in Canada is shifting West, they say. The government would like us to believe that the exodus is simply the result of some inevitable law of economics. It's not. The narrow-minded vision of the government is causing Quebecers to leave their homes, while discouraging immigration and the creation of new jobs.

Quebecer: *What notion of our country is Alliance fighting for?*

Maldoff: We are committed to a vision of Canada that includes real respect and security for the national language minorities across our country. For that reason, we have a special leadership responsibility for official language minorities across Canada. The constitutional guarantee of minority language rights must become a national issue.

We have worked long and hard to establish working relationships with language minorities in other provinces. We regularly participate in public and private meetings with our counterparts across Canada. Frankly, it has taken longer than we had hoped, especially because of the great efforts made by the PQ to poison relations between us and other groups.

That said, one thing we cannot accept is being treated as hostages by our own government in our own

province. Most of us were born and educated here. Most plan on living and working here, raising children and grandchildren here. We pay taxes here. We're not illegal aliens. By what right does this government come along and say, "Your rights are suspended now. They will be reinstated and recognized when we judge that governments elsewhere are behaving satisfactorily." That kind of double-talk in a modern, democratic society is intolerable.

We are committed to strong, cooperative action at the provincial and national levels. Our frequently-stated, active support for real, minority language rights in every province remains unchanged.

Quebecer: *Is the Alliance going to become a political party, running candidates in an election? Will it support particular candidates at the next provincial election?*

Maldoff: Allowing the Alliance to become a political party would be

suicidal for the English community. An all-English minority party would only help the present government in achieving its objective to marginalize us.

The Alliance was started as an alliance of English-speaking Quebecers. But our vision will have to be embraced by a majority of Quebecers for us to succeed. Instead of narrowing our potential base of support, we have to do the opposite. In my judgment, it would be a grave error to become a political party.

As far as individual party candidates are concerned, one of the problems our community has had in the past is that we were seen to be in bed with particular political parties. We cannot be hostage to one party. It is our job to encourage all political parties, federal and provincial, to adopt policies consistent with our vision of Quebec and of Canada. Also, we have to encourage members of our community to get involved in

political parties, and to encourage candidates who share our vision to present themselves.

Quebecer: *Will the Alliance succeed?*

Maldoff: Yes, because it is not just in our best interests, but in the interest of all Quebecers that we do. Right now, we are all facing serious economic and social problems in our province. Quebec is now a more fragmented society than ever. More and more Quebecers are coming to understand that the only way out is for us to pull together and use our common advantages and assets. Everyone must be accepted as an important contributor to building Quebec. Right now, I am convinced that Quebecers realize that their cultural and linguistic duality is a solid asset on which to build our future. We shall succeed, we are succeeding, because we're right.

Language tests spur protests

by Barbara Verity

Three women have taken a stand against Bill 101 language tests to fight for their rights and point out the injustices of the testing procedures. Their courage has helped clear the way for other nurses and nursing assistants, and perhaps eventually for all professionals. Yet their own situations are little better than before their struggle began.

"I'm still out of a job. I'm just working part-time as a nurse. That's the price you pay for speaking out for your justice. No one wants to touch me. It's very degrading for me going out looking for work. I think they're afraid I'll run back to the newspapers if something goes wrong," says RN Edith Thompson who lost her job a year ago after she had failed the language test nine times and her temporary permit had expired.

Does she regret her stand? "Somebody had to do it. It just happened to be me. I was at the right place at the right time. I think if Alliance Quebec and Mr. Marx (MNA Herbert Marx) hadn't gotten involved, the OLF wouldn't have changed the tests. I really appreciate that."

After several cases such as Ms. Thompson's were publicized, the OLF (Office de la langue française), which is responsible for the language testing of professionals, lowered the marks required for passing and drew up new tests based on medical language rather than general terminology. Edith Thompson has since passed both the oral and written tests.

Thirty-seven-year-old Ms. Thompson was born in Jamaica and immigrated in 1968 to Montreal where she studied nursing at Dawson College. Now that she is nursing part-time she must wait at home when not working to be available for

other calls. Meanwhile, she watches her finances so she can pay her bills. "It's a frightening situation," she comments.

Montreal-born Nancy Forget has not fared much better. She lost her job as a nursing assistant in 1981 when her temporary permit expired after nearly two years employment. Nancy, a Rosemount High graduate, has unsuccessfully attempted the written test 11 times, but has readily passed the oral.



In March, 1982, Ms. Forget went to court to challenge Bill 101 regulations which made those educated in French institutions exempt from tests and which allowed tests to contain inappropriate questions. After losing the case, she appealed in Quebec Superior Court which ruled that the regulations were not discriminatory.

After four months of unemployment, Ms. Forget got a job in a fabric store where she is still working. "I'm disappointed but I haven't given up yet. I have a few more years to find work before I'll have to start studying again," she says. After five years of not being employed as a nursing assistant, an individual must return to study the profession again.

The Joanne Curran case has been one of the most celebrated because her fluent bilingualism blatantly illustrated the unfairness of the tests. Ms. Curran has been more fortunate than Edith Thompson and Nancy Forget because following her ordeal she regained her job in a nursing residence affiliated with Santa

Cabrini Hospital in Montreal.

Ms. Curran became a cause célèbre through her determination to stand up for her rights and her success in doing so. She lost her license to practise as a nursing assistant because she failed the written part of the test with a 62 mark. The passing mark was 70. However, on her oral examination, Ms. Curran earned an 85. Her fluency in French, which was obvious in her many radio and television appearances, underlined to French-speaking Quebecers that something was wrong with the whole procedure. The sympathy she gained in the French-speaking community eventually led the OLF to soften the marking procedure. The pass mark was changed so that a person with 70 in either the oral or written test and 60 in the other would pass.

These three women are among those who have been victims of Bill 101 in its goal of seeing that services are available in French to the French-speaking public and in seeing that Francophones can work in their mother tongue. Alliance Quebec understands the priority but does not accept the means of achieving it because the bill's regulations restrict the basic rights of individual citizens by submitting them to arbitrary and irrelevant tests. Bill 101 also discriminates against those educated in English institutions since anyone educated in French institutions is exempt.

Alliance Quebec has continuously protested language testing. More than 260 professionals have been counseled since its predecessor, the Council of Quebec Minorities, began in 1978. Pressure tactics and consultation with the OLF have in some cases resulted in marks being lowered and more appropriate tests being formulated.

Advice on following the tests and



Edith Thompson

volunteer coaching has been provided by the Alliance to candidates. Alliance Quebec has represented individuals in dealings with the OLF, arranged for special examination sessions, and helped them get legal counsel. An OLF Committee was formed last November to act as a watchdog of the OLF for individuals and organizations.

Alliance Quebec believes that if there is to be testing, no one should be exempt. Preferable to tests would be an evaluation of linguistic ability on-the-job. The Alliance has received support for its position from the French press and the Conseil de la langue française, a committee established to advise the Quebec

government on the application of Bill 101.

Looming in the future is the prospect of more language tests, this time in educational institutions, health and social service institutions, and municipal administrations serving populations, at least half of which are English-speaking. These institutions and administrations are exempt until December 31, 1983 from full francization. At that time they must follow Bill 101 regulations which require that personnel hired, promoted or transferred must have a sufficient knowledge of French. Unless alternative forms of evaluating this knowledge are found, the OLF will do the testing.

The implications for English-language institutions are far-reaching because their affairs will have to be conducted as if they were French-speaking. This will permanently change the character of these institutions, which form the foundation of the English-speaking community. Furthermore, the lives and careers of the many people working in them will be seriously affected.

Alliance Quebec believes it is essential that institutions maintain control of their own linguistic standards and methods of evaluating the knowledge of French. Through the efforts of Alliance Quebec and other interested groups, a number of municipalities has agreed on a common strategy and a set of testing, while also hiring a consultant to develop their own form of evaluation.

Bill 101 language tests threaten the fabric of English-Quebec society and they threaten individual rights. It is only through individuals who stand up to be counted that change will occur. Edith Thompson, Nancy Forget and Joanne Curran have proven that this is true.

School Board Re-organization

The challenge brings unity

First in a 3-part series on Education by Douglas McCall of Alliance Quebec

The English-speaking community can thank Dr. Camille Laurin for something; he has helped bring together the various members and organizations of our community.

When the news of Dr. Laurin's plan was first leaked to the public in the Fall of 1981, many organizations were quick to respond. The Alliance's predecessor, the Council of Quebec Minorities, began to work with the various groups in order to harmonize their positions on the issue. In February of 1982, Alliance Quebec sponsored a major conference to inform parents across the province on the issue. Thus, when the White Paper was officially published in June, the educational organizations serving the English-speaking community were able to present a united voice at a press conference. The concerns expressed in that public statement have gradually won acceptance throughout Quebec.

This school year began with the creation of a small committee to lead the Alliance's efforts. Michael Goldbloom, Alliance Quebec Executive member, was joined by Gaby Ostro (Parent Animator for the PSBGM), Donald Burgess (Faculty of Education, McGill University), Diane Bertv (Commissioner, Baldwin Centre School Board) and John Nichol (lawyer).

A careful evaluation of goals, legal possibilities, public opinion and editorial responses was used to develop a strategy that was verified with several groups in the English and French-speaking communities. Essentially, the plan aimed at continuing animation of community co-ordination efforts, the gradual explanation of our position in close co-operation with other groups and in harmony with announcements coming from French-speaking groups, and finally at providing public leadership during the final stages of the legislation and Parliamentary Commission.

The first step was to establish active Education Committees in each of Alliance Quebec's regional groups. Five different meetings have been held to inform these Regional Education Committees of developments and to plan co-ordinated actions. The efforts of volunteers in each community has been supported by technical help, visits and advice from volunteers and staff at the provincial level. Regular updates of happenings across the province have been sent as well. We now have the beginnings of an emerging community-based leadership in education.

A second network to co-ordinate the efforts of the educational institutions and organizations was also established in the Fall. Operating under the incongruous title of the



"Group of Fourteen", the mechanism has served as a forum for exchange of information and views. Gradually, as the level of trust improved, participants were able to begin to discuss policy issues with a view to developing common statements regarding some of the specific items, within the general principles agreed upon by all groups. Although meetings of the Group of Fourteen were suspended during the recent negotiations crisis, this mechanism can prove to be an invaluable tool for the English-speaking community.

A third type of community building has been achieved through the linking of English-speaking parents across the province to exert influence on the deliberations of the Fédération des comités des parents de la province de Québec (FCPPQ). The FCPPQ leadership has been supportive of the Laurin plan and thus our efforts have centered upon providing information, lobbying and assisting in the preparation of three major FCPPQ meetings. A portion of this effort has also been aimed at helping in the development of an independent network of English-Catholic parents at the provincial level: a mechanism which is not yet available to the community. Over the past few months, some significant social change has occurred dramatically in this area. Firstly, this network of over fifty parents has overcome the barriers long dividing English-Catholic from English-Protestant parents. Secondly, these parents have, within the space of a few months, made up

for years of under-involvement within the parent movement in Quebec. Many of the parents within the network have been elected to regional leadership posts and many FCPPQ regions are formally recognizing the English-speaking community through special structures.

The final development within the community has begun to occur in the regions. In seven different areas of the province, the educational leaders from the English-Catholic and English-Protestant sectors have come together to discuss the White Paper. Education committees of the Alliance member groups have, in most instances, been the catalyst and organizer of such events. The dialogue and the inevitable recognition of common concerns has served to strengthen the community.

Explanation

One major fear which dominated Alliance Quebec planning on the White Paper issue was Laurin's obvious desire to translate the issue into an English-French fight. Therefore, careful planning resulted in press and public announcements that emphasized all of the harmful aspects of the White Paper, not only its effect on our community. These public statements were co-ordinated through the "Group of Fourteen" and the process of consensus ensured the appearance of a united community. The technical skills in media relations and the Alliance's high degree of credibility with the French media was an important

factor in conveying our community's message. The timing of our announcements was geared to that of French-speaking groups in order to ensure that we would be in the mainstream. Even the message itself avoided the somewhat typical, no change status quo stance. We would oppose the White Paper by proposing something better. In our presentations, the Alliance took great care to explain why our community felt the way it did, as well as describing what we wanted. We also worked very hard to understand and to influence educational and political organizations throughout Quebec so that we could work on similar wavelengths.

To date, the strategy of careful explanation has been successful. The English-speaking community has not served as a convenient target and has indeed contributed to Dr. Laurin's difficulties. All of the major media outlets have agreed with our views in their editorial response. All of the organizations in the French-speaking community have formally recognized the fundamental principle that the linguistic minority in this province must have the right to control and manage their schools. Recent changes show that Dr. Laurin's original plan, which had insignificant "school boards" organized along "unified" (or simply geographical) lines, will continue to evolve towards our point of view. Perhaps, the lessons the community has learned from the issue will be helpful elsewhere.

Leadership

The Alliance Quebec submission to the Superior Council concerning the White Paper served as a reference point in many media reports. Presentations from the Alliance on the White Paper have been solicited for various meetings such as a major seminar for francophones from other provinces, a group of visitors from the World Council of Churches as well as other out-of-province meetings. In essence, the Alliance has been recognized as a primary voice on behalf of the community regarding the issue.

When and if the legislation is brought forward, it will be critical that every voice and every resource within the community be brought to bear. We will have no use, nor time, for anything but total co-operation between all the groups. We cannot afford to do anything else.

So, as the issue of Educational Re-organization resolves itself in the next few months, it is hoped that we will have learned from this experience. We must continue to work together, rather than apart. Community based leadership in Education, institutional and organizational co-operation, parental involvement in the Quebec reality and networking at the local level are essentials if we are to survive this issue and others in the future. Co-operative leadership must come from all the groups and remain as a permanent feature of our community.

The Youth Work Group

"Before I joined the Alliance," says member Marie Green, 19, "my attitude was that the political and social situation was hopeless and that there was nothing here for me." I had decided to go to Ontario and was admitted to a university there — but through my involvement with Alliance Quebec I feel that I have a better understanding of the situation and that I can do something about it. It's no longer a threat to me but a challenge."

As a member of Alliance Quebec's Youth Work Group, the challenge is to find solutions to the issues and problems facing Quebec's young people, a job which requires equal measures of hard work, perseverance and idealism. Members range in age from 17 to 35, come from various regions throughout the province and are, for a large part, students.

The committee first met last June, after having been organized through Alliance Quebec's network of regional contacts. Those invited had either attended a previous Alliance Quebec public meeting or had volunteered to work in the organization. They are involved, for the most part, because they've chosen to remain in Quebec, and

would like to help convince other members of the province's English-speaking community to do the same. The shaky economy worries them, and the 'anti-English' policies of the PQ government disconcert them, but they remain determined.

"As much as I consider Canada my country, Quebec is my home," states member David Shapiro, 21. "I'm not going to leave over a language issue."

In the area of education, they concentrated on the state and quality of French second language instruction. Most of the group speak some French; and a few are graduates of French Immersion programs, but students just leaving the English school system are angry. In their estimation, it had failed to turn out even functionally bilingual graduates — or for that matter, graduates who were familiar with Quebecois history and culture. As a first step to playing their part in remedying this situation, some members of the group are steeping themselves in various ways of learning a second language.

Others are also involved in the distribution of the Employment Opportunities Development



CAREER ADVICE was presented to Hudson High School students in early December by the Alliance Quebec Employment/Business Programme. A team of five, including Youth Committee member Gayle Pinheiro seen above, discussed job opportunities and career planning. The five volume Employment Opportunities Development Package (EODP) was also described to students.

package: a five volume career package that was compiled by AQ after a survey of young people showed that the majority tended to look outside Quebec for their careers and futures.

"We decided that you couldn't just hand somebody five volumes of

economic projections and factual information and expect them to choose a career from that," explains Pinheiro, "so we developed a parallel service of follow-up seminars to present the package in a more 'personal and practical' light. A lot of value considerations — like

enjoying what you do — have to be a part of a career choice. We also wanted other young people to see that there are still possibilities for making opportunities for themselves here in Quebec, even though there aren't as many jobs out there as there used to be."

AQ Chapters holding Annual General Meetings

Alliance Quebec Chapters soon will hold their Annual General Meetings, to elect their 1983 - 1984 Board, to consider policy matters and to choose their delegates to represent them at this year's provincial General Council, June 3 - 5. As we go to press, we have firm dates from the following Chapters:

NOTE that all these meetings will start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

April 26

St. Laurent Chapter (St. Laurent, New Bordeaux, Cartierville) Norwood United Church Hall, 1600 de l'Église, St. Laurent.

April 27

Montreal Centre — (Westmount - Downtown), Room H937, Henry Hall Building, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West.

April 27

South Shore — St. Lambert Elementary School, corner Green and Notre Dame, St. Lambert.

May 1

N.D.G. — Montreal West — St. Monica's Parish Hall, 6405 Terrebonne Ave. 1:45 p.m.

May 3

West Island (Autoroute 13 and Lachine west to Ontario Border), Beaconsfield United Church Hall, 202 Woodside Ave. Beaconsfield.

May 4

Laurentians, Lachute (Argenteuil) — Laurentian Elementary School, Lachute.

May 4

Town of Mount Royal — Cote-des-Neiges — Snowdon — Coronation School, 4860 Vezina St. (corner of Victoria Metro Plamondon), Room 19.

May 5

Laurentians (Highway 117 area) — James Jacobsen High School, 26 Napoleon Street, St. Agathe.

May 9

East Island (Park Extension east

to Bout de l'Île), Rosemount High, 3737 Beaubien Street, East.

May 10

Laval North Shore — Western Laval High School, 5075 Souvenir Road, Chomedey, Laval, 8 p.m.

May 18

Southwest (Lasalle, Verdun, Point St. Charles, St. Henri, Ville Emard, Cote St. Paul). 5835 Verdun Ave., between Manning and Richard.

COMMON AGENDA

The order of agenda items may vary slightly from Chapter to Chapter, but they will all include:

- Reports on Alliance Quebec activities at the provincial and Chapter levels.
- Election of the Chapter Board and Officers from 1983 - 1984.
- An overview of the Alliance Quebec policy manual for the provincial Convention to be held on June 3 - 5, 1983.
- Selection of delegates to represent the Chapters at this Convention.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Only **paid-up** members of Alliance Quebec may vote and run for election at these Annual General Meetings. Your membership card or temporary membership application receipt is your proof of membership: please bring one or the other with you. For those who have applied for membership via a newspaper or newsletter coupon, the Alliance Quebec provincial office will provide lists of these applicants to the Chapters.

AQ is helping our youth stay

To help halt the westward flow of English-speaking Quebec youth, Alliance Québec (AQ) recently began distribution of a five volume Employment Opportunities Development Package (EODP).

Over 200 already have been given free of charge to school boards, Cegeps, universities, community organizations and Alliance Québec member groups across the province. The furthest point reached has been to a school in James Bay serving Native People. A total of 300 packages were produced.

Guidance counsellors are being shown how to use the package and in some cases seminars, organized by the AQ Employment/Business Programme and the AQ Youth Committee, have been held in schools. For instance, in early December, 1982 an AQ team gave a three hour seminar on job opportunities and career development to 20 Hudson High School senior students who participated enthusiastically with questions and comments. The team leading the seminar consisted of AQ Programme Director John Parisella, career experts and members of the AQ Youth Committee, a volunteer group mostly made up of Cegep or university students.

EODP is geared to help teachers, guidance/vocational counsellors and community leaders inform their

clientele about job possibilities in Quebec. Its goal is to point out where areas of predicted economic growth are in Quebec and to stress that non-francophones can aspire to jobs, provided they have the necessary competence in French and required job skills.

The first step in creating the package began in 1981 with the distribution of a questionnaire to Cegep and high school students in many parts of the province. Students were asked whether they plan to stay in Quebec, what obstacles they see in remaining, and what means they could suggest to overcome these barriers. Their response left no question about the wisdom of developing the package: 30% were planning to leave the province. Students also suggested that improved French instruction and more career information would help them pursue careers in Quebec.

Released in the autumn of 1982, EODP consists of five colour-coded binders, representing a different self-contained section of the package. Each binder contains materials on a specific theme related to the development of employment opportunities in Quebec. Together they form an integrated and comprehensive package. Included are several federal and provincial government publications.

Carrying out key tasks at AQ headquarters

Mildred Jones retired only a month before the Declaration by The Coalition of English-speaking Quebecers appeared in newspapers in December, 81. When volunteers were needed to sort mail pouring into the office of Alliance Quebec's predecessor, The Council of Quebec Minorities, Ms. Jones offered to help. Soon she was busy everyday. "From then on I was hooked," she says. Twelve thousand letters later, she was still enjoying the work which also involved helping supervise other volunteers. "I've become a fixture around here", says Ms. Jones - or Mildred - as she prefers being called.

After working 38 years in Montreal insurance companies, Mildred felt that retirement had stopped her from feeling useful and from meeting new people. Handling the response to the Declaration also made Mildred, who was born in this province, more aware of herself as an English-speaking Quebecer. "When you see how generous the contributions are, it's amazing. It makes you realize there are a lot of people concerned about what is going to happen to them as English people."

Mildred is part of a core group who have helped since Alliance Quebec was formed, working on special mailings, preparing information kits for the founding meetings of regional associations, and preparing the first annual convention. Since then several projects have also been undertaken by Sheila Marcus and Florence Saunders who have carried out their tasks efficiently and enthusiastically.

Since those hectic - though exhilarating - first six months, Alliance Quebec has had an opportunity to pause and formulate a clear policy for volunteers. A work group, consisting of Chairman Marylee Kelly, who is a member of the Alliance Quebec Board of Directors, Sylvia Goldenblatt, Mildred Jones, Patricia Rustad and Community Development Programme Director Graham Weeks, has set the guidelines. When required for a special project such as the fundraising campaign, volunteers will report to a senior volunteer Group Leader who in turn will report to Nancy Kelly, the Assistant to the Community Development Programme Director. Volunteers will be oriented and trained; they will have their own workplace and their contributions will be



A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS spent several weeks opening and sorting bags of mail received following publication of the Declaration which preceded the formation of Alliance Quebec. Seen from left to right are Nora Plenderleith, Etta Weis, Doris Motley and Mildred Jones.

recognized.

Having worked since 1954 in a Montreal hospital, Marylee Kelly knows the advantages of volunteers. They can choose a variety of jobs, while gaining broad training and knowledge, all of which can be included in their Curriculum Vitae.

"The volunteers in our network are getting a bird's eye view of the political process. They see how the various networks and government ministries work. Alliance Quebec is teaching them, at whatever level of expertise, how to appeal something they don't like. Anglophones on the whole have never been very involved in the political process of Quebec. Instead they always looked to Ottawa", Ms. Kelly explains.

By working together, a greater sense of community grows among members of the English-speaking community. "If you come in to work, you find other volunteers who want the same thing for the English-speaking community. It enables you to feel you're doing something,

rather than staying home and feeling helpless about what's going on. Those participating also have a feeling that they are sharing in Alliance Quebec's victories", she adds.

Approximately 150 volunteers also are members of Alliance Quebec's 10 committees, which form policy in areas such as education, health and social services, community development and research, and of 17 work groups, which tackle specific tasks in similar areas.

"There's a place at Alliance Quebec for people at whatever level they want to contribute", Ms. Kelly says. Anyone interested in helping can call 849-9181.

Join Alliance Quebec

Letters

by Linda Maislin

When the Alliance was forming just over a year ago, the Declaration was published in 22 newspapers across Québec and Ontario. The response was overwhelming. More heartening were the words of encouragement and solidarity received from English- and French-speaking people from every corner of Québec and from many of our Ontario neighbours. Here are some excerpts:

My family roots go back many generations in Québec. My father lies buried in Québec soil along with members of both sides of my family. Unfortunately, since my father's death, the majority of my immediate family left the province. This makes me both sad and angry. Sad, because we left my father and our past ties; angry, because of the conditions that influenced our decision to leave.

**Peter LeRoy
Arnprior, Ont.**

Thank you for giving us the hope of hearing and seeing more of our language.

**Margaret Gélinau
Farnham, Qué**

Our roots, our history and our descendants are truly a dedicated part of Québec and Canada, and it behooves us all to take a firm stand now and always.

**Mrs. H.
St. Lambert, Québec**

Il me fait plaisir de me joindre à votre mouvement, que j'approuve à cent pour cent. Toutes mes félicitations pour cette initiative et je vous souhaite toute le succès possible.

**Emilienne Guilbault
Montréal, Qué.**

It is about time we took a stand. I was born and raised in this beautiful province and wish to remain here.

**Ivy Hood
St. Lambert, Qué.**

I might be a francophone but I think that English-speaking Québecers have the basic right to feel at home here, and therefore the right to send their children to the school of their choice, and to give an English name to the companies they create if that's what they want. Continue the work... we need you!

**Mr. B.
Lennoxville, Qué.**

Alliance Québec is performing a tremendous service during these difficult times, with what I always perceive as a sense of fairness. I want to congratulate all of you, and say thank you.

**Valerie Verity King
Pointe Claire, Qué.**

Les gens comme ma famille et moi, nous avons besoin de vous et nous vous respectons et vous aimons beaucoup. S'il vout plait ne partez pas et continuez à combattre avec fierté pour garder votre place. Nous savons que celà prend beaucoup de courage mais le Canada en vaut la peine.

**Mr. C.
Québec, Qué.**

I am Dutch and lived through hell during the Second World War. I know too well how it feels to be dominated, and now I refuse to be stepped on again. I do hope this Declaration will be a success and bring people of Québec, both English and French, to an understanding.

**Johanne Auclair
Mariville, Qué.**

Je ne veux pas voir disparaître la communauté anglophone car leur culture est un atout pour former un peuple fier et genereux. Je ne voudrai pas voir la balance de l'assimilation se renverser mais il faudrait qu'elle continue d'atteindre l'équilibre actuel: égal à égal.

**Mr. B.
St-Eusèbe, Qué.**

We are a proud culture that has contributed dynamically to the growth of Québec.

Montréal, Qué.

I am now living on the farm where my great grandfather cleared the land and raised his family... my grandfather helped open up Northern Québec. Now the English have left Northern Québec but the land he cleared is still there... I hope we all stand together for our rights before all English-speaking people leave the province.

**Everette Taylor
Danville, Qué.**

This section is reserved for letters from our readers — your comments are welcome.

ED.

The culture of English Quebec:

By Ronald Sutherland

Is there any such thing as a distinctive English Quebec culture? The question can no longer be avoided, because if there isn't then a lot of outraged anglos have been sounding the alarm about the threatened existence of nothing.

Certainly culture has become a loaded term in the province. The justification for Bill 101, the Charter of the French Language, is that it is essential to protect the Québécois culture. Until recently, no-one seemed concerned about the possible culture of English Quebec. Novelist Victor-Lévy Beaulieu once even went so far as to say that the whole of English Canada had none of its own and was like an inert gas — "odorless, colorless and tasteless."

The problem, of course, is that culture can have different meanings for different people, and there can be no intelligent discussion unless the term is clearly defined. The best definition I know is that of famed ethnologist Konrad Lorenz, who states that the culture of a people is "a system of rites and norms which are emotionally felt to be values."

In the sociological sense, then, culture is simply the way a group of people live and what they live for. It is what they are attached to emotionally, and as Lorenz further points out, there is always the strong tendency, often enough witnessed among both the English and the French of Quebec, for the emotional attachment to lead to a conviction of superiority. Or as Hugh MacLennan aptly phrased it in *Two Solitudes*, identification of "the familiar with the excellent."

The culture of any individual in fact consists of several levels, applied like coats of paint as the individual grows up. The initial level is that of the immediate family — normally mother, father and siblings. As the child's world expands, a second level forms from contact with the extended family — cousins, uncles, aunts and close friends. The third level develops with consciousness of the wider community in which the individual lives — a small town, a city district — and the first three levels of culture are all characterized by physical proximity and relationships usually on a first-name basis — Aunt Mabel, Freddie next door, Joe's corner store.

The fourth level of culture, bestowed on the average individual is associated with the region, which can be a city such as Montreal, or a larger geographical area like the Gaspé, the Eastern Townships, Lac St. Jean. The fifth level is the province. Identification at these two levels becomes more impersonal — Premier Lévesque, Mayor Drapeau, the guy who runs the Department of Education.

Subsequent levels of culture for contemporary citizens of Quebec are the nation, which, like it or not, is Canada, then the continent, meaning hamburgers, happy hours, acid rain, automobile mobility, playmates of

the month and everything else shared with the Americans. The eighth and ninth levels of cultural conditioning are the western world, consciousness of which is heightened by the continuing cold war, and the whole world. For most people the last level is a rather thin coat, and it would probably take an invasion from outer space for it to be truly felt.

Now obviously the different levels of culture affect people to varying degrees, and it is probably safe to say

Ronald Sutherland teaches Comparative Literature at Université de Sherbrooke and is the author of several books. In 1977 he carried out a study for the Secretary of State on The Anglophone Minority of Quebec Outside Montreal.

that all Canadians, including the Québécois (in fact especially the Québécois, because the language difference tends to give them a false sense of protection), are equally influenced by the first two levels of culture — inner family and extended family — and the continental level, which is another way of saying Americanization.

In Quebec, however, according to my observations, there has long been a subtle distinction between francophones and anglophones with respect to the relative dominance of the middle levels of cultural conditioning. Being a single ethnic group with a language of their own, thinking of themselves collectively as a "people," the Québécois are greatly affected by the provincial level. English-speaking Quebecers, on the other hand, have traditionally been more influenced by the community and regional levels.

The reasons are not hard to find. Although often grouped together as "les Anglais" (to use the polite term), English-speaking Quebecers have in fact existed in separate clusters, each with its own rites, norms, institutions, family networks and often ethnic background. In rural areas, these clusters are easy to identify.

The region of the Eastern Townships, for instance, is composed of several, loosely interrelated clusters — Huntingdon-Ormstown, Cowansville-Knowlton, Stanstead-Rock Island, Sherbrooke-Lennoxville, Cookshire-Sawyerville, Richmond-Danville and so on. At one time, when the English-speaking population of the Townships was stronger, there were many more communities, such as "Little Ireland," northeast of Thetford Mines, which was settled by Irish immigrants, or the domain of the legendary Outlaw of Megantic, which was settled by Scots from the Hebrides.

Maps and phone books tell the story. About all that is left now of "Little Ireland" are the village names St-Jean d'Irlande and St-Adrien d'Irlande, and telephone

—Is there a distinctive one?

listings such as Michel O'Brien, Jacques O'Bready, Leonard O'Donnell and Jacques MacCaughan reveal the inevitable process of intermarriage and assimilation.

But there are still many other English-speaking communities of various sizes and varying degrees of viability, ranging from Pontiac County, which is majority anglophone, to the rapidly diminishing groups in counties such as Arthabaska or Quebec City and Trois Rivières.

On the Island of Montreal, when I was growing up during the 1930s and 40s, in addition to the west side of town there were significant communities of anglophones in different districts — Maisonneuve, Rosemount, the Point and Griffintown, Terminal Park, Verdun, Lachine. Populations have since shifted to a considerable extent, and now there are new communities in the suburbs and off the island, such as Pointe Claire and Greenfield Park.

From the cultural viewpoint, therefore, English-speaking Quebecers have traditionally identified with their particular communities, some of which, such as the Gaspé or the Laurentian area north and west of Lachute, were largely isolated from the others. Naturally there was a provincial level of cultural consciousness; people knew that they were in Quebec. But this level was of minor consequence compared to the community and regional levels.

Since about 1960, however, when the Québécois resolved to become "maîtres chez nous," profound changes in cultural identity have been taking place. Centralization of institutions and government control of social services have had a powerful effect on communities where identity was symbolized and maintained by organizations such as the local schools and churches, municipal and county councils, hospitals, charity associations, village improvement societies, fairs, bazaars and the like.

The local high school may well have been the most important institution with respect to community identity in rural areas, and there can be no doubt that the creation of huge, comprehensive high schools dealt a severe blow to the community level of culture. No longer were classrooms filled with teenagers who were related to each other or who had known each other most of their lives. Government directives rather than wishes of the local school board began to control how the school was run. The strings, including those to the purse, all led back to Quebec City.

Many other factors — economic conditions, the availability of jobs, smaller families, greater mobility, access to the media, Calgary — have

contributed to the weakening of both the community and regional levels of culture. But certainly one of the major factors was the election of the Parti Québécois. Already shaken and disoriented by the loss of control of some of their local institutions, suddenly English-speaking Quebecers became aware that their destiny was now in the hands of people whose primary concern was hardly their continuing welfare. Determined to reshape the face of the province and dedicated to the Social Democratic principle of ubiquitous government intervention, the P.Q. Government intensified the erosion of anglophone local institutions.

Ironically, however, the nationalist thrust has also had the effect of finally forging a strong provincial level of cultural identity among English-speaking Quebecers. Like the muskoxen of the North, we have formed a circle to protect ourselves.

Anglophone Quebecers, who used to perceive themselves as individuals in small communities, have begun to think of themselves as a collectivity with more in common than anyone had ever imagined. And oddly

'Quebec Anglos forming circle for protection...'

enough, the Québécois, who have traditionally acted as a collectivity, are now becoming more and more individualistic.

The old Quebec inferiority complex, of course, has gone the way of the *touitière* and *tuque*. Quebec now sends teachers, engineers and technical advisers to both developed and undeveloped countries; research specialists are making breakthroughs in a variety of fields; writers, musicians and artists are internationally known. The resulting confidence and cultural security have fostered the new individualism among Québécois.

Meanwhile, interacting with the government as never before, constantly engaging in discussions of policies which affect them all, confronting the predominance of the French Language, anglophone residents of Quebec are even developing their own peculiar brand of English. A sentence such as "The director-general of the polyvalent called all the animators to a reunion to discuss the recent manifestation by student militants" would probably be understood immediately by any anglophone Quebec educator, but for outsiders it would have to be translated: The principal of the comprehensive school called all the counsellors to a meeting to discuss the recent demonstration by student representatives. Non-English words and usages are increasingly common; among them are inscription,

modalities, notes (marks), autoroute, syndicate (union), convention (labor agreement), subvention (subsidy), consecrate (devote time), popular (by the people).

I am not suggesting, incidentally, that the English language is being threatened or is in any real danger in Quebec. Actually, when two languages are spoken side by side, there is always a transfer, usually from the one associated with the power structure. That Quebec English is now being slightly flavored by French is an indication that the survival of French is no longer threatened, and it is likely that the more extreme measures taken to protect it will soon be considered no longer necessary. In other words, the situation is healthy.

Moreover, there can be no serious comparison made between English in Quebec and French in the other provinces. English-speaking people in Montreal are in sufficient numbers to sustain themselves, and those living outside Montreal have access to masses of material in their own language, including television, radio, newspapers and magazines. The

continental level of culture is the guarantee that the English language is secure anywhere in North America.

The provincial level is now being reinforced by new organizations such as Alliance Quebec, which are helping to shape a collective consciousness fuelled by mutual concerns. Principal aspects of this collective consciousness are acceptance of a minority status in Quebec but insistence on respect for rights, bilingualism as a method of survival in the job market and flexibility of attitude. Many of those who were incapable of flexibility, it would appear, have already hit the 401.

French Quebec, meanwhile, is rapidly being transformed into a pluralistic society. Bill 101, inadvertently perhaps, is bringing about the integration of large numbers of ethnics, notably Haitians, North African Jews, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Italians, East Europeans and South Americans. What this means is that narrow Quebec nationalism, the kind that moved the president of the Montreal chapter of the St-Jean Baptiste Society to suggest the suppression of English CEGEPs, will eventually disappear. And the sooner the better — nationalism and tribalism, which have brought so much misery to the human condition, are in fact the result of arrested cultural



The signs campaign was launched by President Eric Maldoff at a news conference in which he called for the freedom to post bilingual signs in Quebec. Participating at the conference, from left to right, are Executive Director Geoffrey Chambers, Mr. Maldoff, Michael Goldbloom, Executive Member, and Michael Sheldon, Board Member.

Signs: A key issue for our community

by Campbell Gordon,
Chairman of AQ's provincial
signs committee.

In November, Premier Levesque responded to the demands of Alliance Quebec with arguments reminiscent of the early 1970's. One would have expected a change of attitude, or at least, some acknowledgment that the Quebec of 1982 has changed dramatically with respect to linguistic matters. Included in the response was a dissertation on the issue of signs.

Article 58 of the Charter of the French Language stipulates that commercial signs must be "solely" in the official language. English is thus forbidden, by the legislature of Quebec, to appear publicly. The only exceptions are non-profit organizations such as churches and cultural groups. The use of another language is also permitted inside commercial establishments employing fewer than four persons.

According to the Minister then responsible, Dr. Laurin, the provision was intended to "mirror" Quebec society. It is a distorted mirror, for one million Quebecers, 20% of the population, do not appear in it.

English-speaking Quebecers, who include people of many different origins, have made great contributions to Quebec in the past. They continue to do so. Unfortunately, only a stereotypical

caricature of their history and their contribution is acknowledged by the government, which uses this as a base to proscribe their language publicly. Such legislative treatment of a minority is damaging to Quebec and its international reputation, divisive for its society, philosophically immoral and unjustified in practice. Minorities must always have the right to be visible. To deny this for an ill-conceived short-term gain is irresponsible of a government.

In his letter, the Premier told us that Quebec should have a French face. It is clear that the dominance and primacy of French should be reflected visibly. We simply ask for the same reflection for the place occupied by English, and we do not see why encouraging French requires outlawing English.

Alliance Quebec does not believe, as the Premier implies, that all signs must be bilingual. Alliance Quebec's position is that ALL signs must be in French, but that any other language should be allowed, at the discretion of the owner of the sign.

The Premier continued his letter by saying that a bilingual sign (again misinterpreting Alliance Quebec's position), had the effect on English-speaking Quebecers of saying "No need to learn French — everything is translated." Sixty-two per cent of anglophones now claim to speak French; an increase of 24% over a decade ago. 18,000 anglophones

entitled to attend English schools, even under Bill 101, have chosen to attend French schools. Over 16,000 English students are registered in French immersion programs. Most did this with enthusiasm and not just because the reality of today's Quebec demands it. Anglophones are not so

general bilingualism in this domain. Surely, it is clear that this is a weak assertion. In some areas where there are many anglophones, merchants may wish to put up signs that are bilingual, particularly if they are anglophones or have a large anglophone clientele. This is

January 1982) believe that bilingual signs should be permitted. Seventy-two per cent of all Quebecers believe that same thing.

Alliance Quebec believes in a vision of harmony in Quebec. We believe that all Quebecers wish to see members of society fairly treated. We

The language of signs has become a major symbol of the English-speaking community's opposition to Bill 101

foolish as to think "no need to learn French" on the basis of a few bilingual signs.

The premier, having dealt with the psychological, communications element of the signs issue, moved to higher ground. He says that English remains the language of work in a proportion that surpasses the numerical strength of the minority, and that all one must do is turn on the television or go to a newspaper kiosk to observe the dominant place it maintains in Quebec. The signs restriction, he concludes, is a "modest counterbalance".

Premier Levesque says that too great a use of English beside French in signs would lead rapidly, in view of the North American context, to

reasonable and right. But it would come as a surprise to many Quebecers if this happened across the province. Most would have neither the inclination nor the means to change their signs yet again, where there were no English customers. Does the Premier seriously believe that merchants in St-Felicien or St-Georges de Beauce would be likely to spend money making their signs bilingual? Furthermore, generalized bilingualism among francophones has steadily declined in recent years, which would seem to suggest that the signs law has nothing to do with the issue.

Sixty-four per cent of francophone Quebecers (Sorecom, Le Devoir

believe that minorities should not be deprived of the right to be visible members of society, particularly when their exclusion is for no good reason and does not further the francization of Quebec.

The government, by acting in such an arbitrary and discriminatory manner, is seeking to further alienate the anglophone community and enact vengeance on a new generation for the caricatured sins of some of our ancestors. It is seeking to prolong and exacerbate divisions in our society. We appeal to all Quebecers to support the moderate and reasonable demands we at Alliance Quebec have made and that have attracted so much support in the French community already.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES for English Quebecers was the topic of a public meeting held March 6th by AQ-NDG/Montreal West. In the foreground is Michael Goldbloom, Executive Member of Alliance Quebec, and from left to right are William Watson, McGill University economic professor, Bob

Harrison, President of the Montreal Board of Trade, Hugh Mitchell, coordinator of AQ-NDG/Montreal West, and Fran Riley, President of WOW (Work Opportunities for Women).

NDG/Montreal West meeting

The outlook on job opportunities for anglophones is dependent on a change in government policy which already may be underway, Board of Trade President Bob Harrison said in a speech at a public meeting held by the AQ-NDG/Montreal West Chapter on March 6 in Centennial Academy.

"The government is openly talking to us and Alliance Quebec about changing Bill 101. There is a better rapport now," he said. With job opportunities obviously tied to the health of the economy, Mr. Harrison

said a key factor is whether or not the spectre of independence hangs over Quebec. "It's impossible to get investments in Quebec while independence is being threatened. So long as it's there, we're going to have economic problems," he said.

Commenting on the anglophone exodus from Quebec, Mr. Harrison said that an improved economy would help halt the flow. Many of those who left were responding to moves by their employers rather than to individual choice. The current recession, however, has slowed the

move by companies out of Quebec.

"Bill 101 clearly is a problem," Mr. Harrison said, describing obstacles to economic progress in the province. Other problems are over-spending and over-regulation by government; the threat of even more government regulations upcoming; and government policy which favors medium rather than big business.

Speaking at the same meeting, Bernard Dufresne, Director of the National Training Program, Quebec Region, said more funds are being earmarked by the federal

government to help anglophones in Quebec get jobs. Admitting that not enough has been done in the past, Mr. Dufresne said more federal government re-training courses will be held in English while adding that the government is contacting English school boards for help in identifying training needs of anglophones. This is part of a nation-wide policy to aid minorities.

Mr. Dufresne added that job prospects look promising in computer drafting, engineering, computers, aircraft technology and

electronics.

As a result of enthusiasm by the audience consisting of about 100, the NDG/Montreal West Chapter set up a Work Group to gather information on employment opportunities and training courses. Several present joined the group which has Ron Silverman as chairman.

Also participating as resource people at the meeting were Fran Riley, president of Work Opportunities for Women, and William Watson, Economics Professor at McGill University.

Look forward to

Smash hits!

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Theatre 1983 - 84

the quebecer alliance québec

The Quebecer is published quarterly by Alliance Quebec in English and French to provide information on activities and issues of concern to English-speaking Quebecers throughout the province.

Editor
William Brooks
Assistant Editor
Barbara Verity
Contributors in this issue
Donald Sutherland
Graeme Decarie
David Powell
Campbell Gordon
Linda Maislin
Douglas McCall
Graham Weeks
June Pineiro
Production
Leonardo Publications

Key dates in English Quebec History

By Graeme Decarie

Graeme Decarie is founder and chairman of the Centre for the Study of Anglophone Quebec and History Professor at Concordia University.

- 1608 - 1760 Throughout the history of New France, anglophone settlers came to the colony, usually as religious exiles or as prisoners of war.
- 1763 The First Treaty of Paris, in deciding that Quebec would be a British colony, attracted British and American merchants to Montreal and Quebec. Though few in number, they were the start of the anglophone business community.
- 1774 By preserving the economic and social role of the Catholic clergy and the seigneurs, the Quebec Act did much to ensure that Quebec anglophones would continue to live in the midst of a francophone majority.
- 1775 - 1783 Refugees, fleeing the American revolution, began a strong anglophone presence in the Gaspé, the Eastern Townships, and western Quebec (Now Ontario).
- 1791 - 1792 The Constitutional Act divided Quebec at the present day Ontario border, once again ensuring that Quebec anglophones would remain a minority.
- 1815 The end of the Napoleonic wars began a stream of British migrants to Quebec. Most were displaced farmers and unskilled workers. These became the majority of anglophones.
- 1817 Founding of the Bank of Montreal. This marked the rise of Montreal's anglophone business community to dominance in British North America.
- 1837 The so-called Papineau rebellion had significant anglophone participation and leadership, an indicator that the anglophone community was not homogeneous.
- 1847 - 1848 The Black Rock, a monument that stands at the approach to the Victoria Bridge marks the mass grave of immigrant cholera victims. It is a reminder of the impoverished condition of most anglophone immigrants in the nineteenth century.
- 1860s The beginning of the decline of rural anglophone Quebec. Once holding the majority of anglophones and developing its own institutions, its decline signalled a shift to Montreal
- 1867 Confederation's division of powers enabled the business community to work with a federal anglophone majority. All others would have to learn to work with a provincial francophone majority.
- 1869 Council of Public Instruction established separate Protestant and Roman Catholic committees, permitting Protestant anglophones to control their own schools.
- 1896 The Laurier Years as Prime Minister began the years of non-British immigration. Those of Non-British origin are now over one-half of the anglophone population
- 1903 Jewish immigrants, refused admission to francophone Catholic schools, entered anglophone Protestant schools -- a major factor in causing immigrants to join the anglophone community.
- 1907 Founding of Macdonald College, one of the few Montreal anglophone institutions to serve rural anglophone Quebec.
- 1918 Displacement of Britain as a major trading and investing partner by the United States accelerated a shift of Montreal's anglophone business interests to Toronto.
- 1945 The anglophone quiet revolution. The expansion of the private sector, which operated in English, provided white collar employment for working class anglophones and enabled them to move to middle class status.
- 1960 The francophone quiet revolution, as an expansion of the public sector, repeated this process, creating a competitive francophone middle class.
- 1973 First popular election for the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. Until then some members had been appointed, largely by or from the anglophone business community, and others represented Urban boards and the Jewish community.
- 1974 Bill 22 made knowledge of English a prerequisite to English schooling, the first attempt to draw non-British immigrants into the francophone community.
- 1977 Bill 101 -- attempt to end anglophone dominance of private sector business.
- 1978 Departure of Sun Life head office marked the end of both the ability and the will of anglophone business to play its traditional leadership role.
- 1982 Founding Convention of Alliance Quebec, the first attempt of anglophone Quebec to develop popularly based leadership on a province-wide basis.

The culture of English Quebec

(Cont'd from p. 8)

development, of being stuck at one level, of immaturity and insecurity.

The bilingual, flexible English Quebecers, thus, may soon find themselves in a vibrant, new Quebec and part of a French-speaking pluralistic society which has replaced adolescent flag-waving and slogan-shouting by concerted efforts to insure the well-being of all citizens. And they will still be able to function comfortably at the national and continental levels of culture as English-speaking Canadians and North Americans. Premier Lévesque's recent announcement that entering federal politics, a contradictory and wasteful gesture, has been put on the back burner in

favor of tackling the problems of the economy suggests that the process may already have started.

To return to our original question as to whether there is any such thing as a distinctive English Quebec culture, the answer is: Yes, there is now. In the last few years anglophone Quebecers have distilled a collective consciousness, a whole spectrum of shared rites and norms which emotionally they hold to be values. And what is more, if the extremists do not succeed in tearing the whole country apart and the economy does not deteriorate to the point that we will all have to be sold into slavery to pay the deficit, the culture of English Quebec is bound to get steadily stronger.

CURE Festival

The Cultural Resource Centre-Outaouais is holding a day-long festival called the Wrights of Spring, on Saturday April 30 at Philemon Wright High School. Its purpose is to combine business and pleasure through meetings, arts and crafts exhibits, entertainment and activities.

The goal of the event is to develop a new region-wide organization to be known as Outaouais Alliance that will represent the concerns of the

anglophone community of western Quebec.

The day's activities begin at 7:30 a.m. with a free breakfast, followed by business meetings, sports and cultural programs. Information will also be provided about local history and from government agencies.

Free daycare is available. Further information can be obtained from Kristin Connor at 230-1413 or Pauline Smith at 777-0177.

**APRIL 30, 1983
YOU ARE INVITED!!!**



**FESTIVAL
OUTAOUAIS
ALLIANCE**

"The Wrights of Spring"

Become a part of the solution Join Alliance Quebec in your region

For many English-speaking Quebecers, living in La Belle Province, has become a spectator sport: the rules of the game seem to keep changing, and participation is limited to being hit on the head by the occasional legislative squash ball. Alliance Quebec was founded a bit over a year ago to change all that.

Its leaders wanted to work for a Quebec in which everyone could play in the game, but with respect for each other's language, culture and institutions. They felt that some of this could be brought about by activities at the provincial level — lobbying the different levels of government, explaining our situation to the media, and so on. However, they realized that the necessary changes in government legislation, policy and attitudes would not take place unless Alliance Quebec were a grassroots, community-based organization. In effect, they recognized one of the rules of the game: the kind of changes we want cannot be brought about by a handful of leaders of themselves. It will take thousands of people, each doing his or her share at the local level. So they established a network of Regional Chapters and Associations in just about every part of Quebec where there is an English-speaking community.

These local groups are the base for people like you and me to explain the concerns and needs of our community to our French-speaking neighbours. They are the vehicle through which we can learn of our community's problems and work together on solutions. In the process, we'll pick up the rules of the game and learn how to make the system work for us; whether it's getting health services in English, or better French instruction for ourselves and our children. We'll no longer be on the sidelines, reaching for a safety helmet!

The burgeoning activity of the Chapters and Associations of Alliance Quebec over the past year, and especially over the last few months, shows that a growing number of people see the opportunity for creative, solution-oriented involvement. They've signed up, paid their \$3.00 membership fee, and they're active — telephoning members, organizing employment information seminars, helping school nurses keep their jobs, or just coming out to support the group's efforts.

During Alliance Québec's Membership Campaign, the spotlight is on this opportunity.

If you want to become part of the solution, please fill in and sign the application form here. Clip it and send it to us with a cheque or money order for \$3.00, made payable to Alliance Quebec, Our address is:

Alliance Quebec Membership
1411 Crescent St., Suite 501
Montreal, Que. H3G 2B3

We will record your name and address to ensure that you receive future mailings of the *Quebecer*. We shall also pass a copy of your application and your \$3.00 to the Regional Chapter Association of Alliance Quebec in your area.



HELP BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW

Join Alliance Quebec today.

Our schools, hospitals and social services are fundamental to our community. We depend on them for our survival. Today, their future — and ours — is in question. They need our protection and support now.

Join Alliance Quebec, and the many thousands of people across the province, who are working for a better future for all Quebecers. Our members are from every walk of life, many different countries of origin and have differing political affiliations. Share with us today our vision of a Quebec in which English-speaking and French-speaking people live together in mutual respect and security.

We all have a role to play in Quebec's future. Our community must have a strong, united voice. Alliance Quebec needs your membership support if it is going to be able to represent your point of view effectively. Stand up for your future...

and the future of your children. Help us build a better Quebec and a strong Canada.



Join Alliance Quebec —

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO JOIN US, TOO.

YES, I want to be a member of Alliance Quebec.
I am enclosing a cheque for \$3.

Name _____
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Address _____ Tel.: _____

City/Town _____ Postal Code _____

Please mail to: ALLIANCE QUEBEC,
Suite 501, 1411 Crescent Street,
Montreal, Quebec H3G 2B3
(514) 849-9181

YES, I want to be a member of Alliance Quebec.
I am enclosing a cheque for \$3.

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