

Alliance Quebec Presents Equity Brief to Quebec National Assembly

Montreal, August 28, 2000—Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather and Executive Committee member Darryl Levine will present a *Brief on Draft Law Number 143 – Equity in the Civil Service* before the Cultural Commission of the Quebec National Assembly at 5:00 pm, Tuesday, August 29 at the Louis-Hippolyte-LaFontaine room in the Parliament Hotel. The brief will illustrate the under-representation of Quebec’s English-speaking community in the Quebec Civil Service.

The Government of Quebec is studying a bill which addresses the under-representation of women, visible minorities and aboriginals in the public sector, but English-speaking people are not counted as a minority group”, says Housefather. “The English-speaking community must be included as a target group in the current employment equity legislation.”

In 1996, only 0.76 percent of Quebec Civil Service employees were from the English-speaking community, and until recently there was almost no effort to recruit English-speaking people. In fact, job postings were rarely sent to English-language newspapers or job banks catering to the English-speaking community. Even when English-speaking candidates applied for positions the results were poor. In the summer of 1999, Quebec launched a program to hire minority youths in the Quebec civil service. But of the 4,218 students hired, only 217 (5 percent) were English-speaking.

The brief, which was prepared by Alliance Quebec, provides a list of recommendations to the Committee studying draft law 143. The recommendations strive for an improved effort by the government to make civil service positions more accessible to the English-speaking community. Housefather and Levine believe that tomorrow’s presentation to the National Assembly is a positive step towards employment equity. “We hope that the Quebec government will listen to Alliance Quebec, as well as other English language community groups, and amend the draft law to include English-speaking Quebecers,” concluded Housefather.