

Alliance Quebec

Committed to the preservation and enhancement of the English-speaking communities and institutions within Quebec

Annual Report 2000 - 2001



Celebrating 20 Years



Mission Statement

Alliance Quebec is committed to the preservation and enhancement of the English-speaking communities and institutions within Quebec.

Values in Support of the Mission

- Respect for the majority French-speaking community;
- Recognition of the English-speaking communities as full participants in Quebec society;
- Acceptance of an open and multicultural society;
- Commitment to a united Canada;
- Participative, integrated approach towards community retention and development;
- Proactive and entrepreneurial management.

Constitution Preamble

ALLIANCE QUEBEC ALLIANCE FOR LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES IN QUEBEC

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Preamble

We, the English-speaking people of Quebec, have been and intend to remain an integral part of this society. Multicultural, multiracial and living in various regions of Quebec, our community has made contributions to our province of which we are proud.

Our vision of Quebec, like our vision of Canada, is of a society in which all of its people can meet and nurture one another in an atmosphere of respect and understanding.

We are committed to the goal of ensuring opportunities for full participation by all English-speaking peoples within Quebec's society. We are committed to ensuring that the English language is visible and the rights of all linguistic groups within Quebec are respected.

We believe that all Canadians should be assured the rights and the services necessary to enable them to live and to feel at home in either official language throughout Canada.

These objectives inspired the creation and guide the efforts of Alliance Quebec.

Board of Directors 2000 - 2001

Executive Committee Members

Chairman

Jerry W. Slovacek

President

Anthony Housefather

Vice-President

Stephen Schenke

Mainland Vice-President

Jo-Anne Fandrich

Treasurer

Stanley Grossman

Secretary

Arlene Scher

Charlotte Fineberg (the late)

Darryl Levine

Georgina Saba

Members of the Board of Directors

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Sam Allison

Philip Bobrow

Velda Bourne

Eva Clayman

Marni Fishko

Ray Fitzsimons

Dan Fuchs

Joshua Goldberg

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Bruce Hulley

Bernard King

Mitch Lariviere

Duncan Macdonald

Ed Manis

Peter Marshall

Michael Mills

Robert Morgan

Steve Pinkus

Josie Ricciotti

Lorne Richler

Peter Romaniuk

Dr. Mark Roper

Bob Smith

Myra Smith

Gordon Thomson

Robert Van Tassel

Lawrence Vitas

June V. Weiss

Executive Director

Glenn J. Nasben



Brent D. Tyler
President, Alliance Quebec

Dear friend,

This has been an exciting and challenging year for Alliance Quebec. As you will read in this report, this year our resources were focussed on ensuring access to English-language health and social services as well as education, opposing forced municipal mergers, working towards employment equity, producing and presenting Briefs to the Estates General on the Status and the Future of the French Language, the Clair Commission, Bill 170, Draft Law 143 and the electoral reform commission. In April, our members travelled to Ottawa to meet with more than 40 members of parliament and federal officials to discuss our issues and concerns. At the local level, our 11 chapters and Provincial Youth Commission were instrumental in providing much needed information and services to English-speaking Quebecers residing in Montreal, Laval and the South Shore as well as in the Saguenay, Abitibi East and West, the Mauricie, and Upper and Lower Laurentians.

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary we continue to strive for the promotion of human rights and minority language rights and remain steadfastly committed to the preservation and enhancement of the English-speaking communities and institutions within Quebec. As a non-profit, community based organization that relies heavily on volunteers we have much to be proud of as we reflect on our activities over the past year. Our members donated thousands of hours as the Executive, Board, Chapter Boards and working committees met consistently throughout the year to review Alliance Quebec policy with respect to our many working dossiers, develop projects and programs and implement policies determined by Alliance Quebec's governing council at our annual convention.

While we reflect on the past year, we must ensure that we are well-equipped to meet the many challenges that face us in the coming year. The final report of the Estates General on the Status and the Future of the French Language is cause for concern for all English-speaking Quebecers. Alliance Quebec is committed to ensuring that the rights of the English-speaking communities are respected. A number of cases will be heard before the courts in the coming year. Worth noting; we await a ruling by the Court of Appeal in *The Lyon and the Wallrus* case, and appeals in the French-speaking parents case, the Solski case, will be heard in October, to name two.

The stage has been set for a dynamic and productive year.

Alliance Quebec Staff 2000 - 2001

Executive Director	<i>Glenn J. Nashen</i>
Director of Administration & Personnel	<i>Bryna Garmaise</i>
Director of Community Development	<i>Mary Anne Thomson</i>
Director of Communications	<i>Lynn Roy</i>
<u>Consultants/Coordinators</u>	
Education Consultant	<i>Sam Ephraim</i>
Community and Political Action Coordinator	<i>Peter Johnson</i>
Health and Social Services Consultant	<i>Lorraine Torpy</i>
Membership and Fundraising Coordinator	<i>Jodi Baron</i>
<u>Administration</u>	
Executive Secretary	<i>Jennifer Solomon</i>
Membership & Communications Secretary	<i>Linda Lisacek</i>
Community Development Secretary	<i>Dorothy Auclair</i>
<u>Community Organizers</u>	
Upper and Lower Laurentians	<i>Margaret Ann Adams</i>
South Shore & Laval	<i>Sally Butterworth</i>
East Island & Montreal Region	<i>Sean Dineen</i>
Val d'Or	<i>Beverley Dupuis</i>
West Island & Provincial Youth Commission	<i>Katherine Korakakis</i>
St-Maurice Community	<i>Eileen Mullin</i>
Rouyn-Noranda	<i>Sharleen Sullivan</i>
Media Perspectives	<i>Joan Mortimer</i>

AQ Presidents

Brent Tyler
August 2001 to present

Anthony Housefather
May 2000 - August 2001

William Johnson
May 1998 - May 2000

Constance Middleton-Hope
November 1997 - May 1998

Michael Hamelin
December 1993 - November 1997

Robert Keaton
October 1989 - December 1993

Royal Orr
June 1987 - March 1989

Michael Goldbloom
June 1985 - June 1987

Eric Maldooff
June 1982 - June 1985

Chapters

East Island Chapter
1980 Sherbrooke Street West,
Suite 830
Montreal, Quebec H3H 1E8

Laval/North Shore Chapter
Postal Station Elysee
P.O. BOX 89009
Laval, Quebec H7W 5X1

Lower Laurentians Chapter
P.O. Box 461
Lachute, Quebec J8H 3X9

Montreal Region Chapter
1980 Sherbrooke Street West,
Suite 830
Montreal, Quebec H3H 1E8

Provincial Youth Commission
1980 Sherbrooke Street West,
Suite 830
Montreal, Quebec H3H 1E8

Rouyn-Noranda Chapter
Avenue du Portage
P.O. Box 2277
Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec J9X 4M8

Saguenay/Lac-St-Jean Chapter
P.O. Box 1424
Jonquiere, Quebec G7S 4L1

South Shore Chapter
10 Churchill, Suite 205
Greenfield Park, Quebec J4V 2L7

St Maurice Chapter
P.O. Box 757
Trois-Rivieres, Quebec G9A 5J9

Upper Laurentians Chapter
P.O. Box 491
Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, Quebec
J8C 3C6

Val d'Or Chapter
P.O. Box 639
Val d'Or, Quebec J9P 4P6

West Island Chapter
1980 Sherbrooke Street West,
Suite 830
Montreal, Quebec H3H 1E8

Introduction

In 1982, following its long tradition of creating organizations and institutions to meet its needs and fulfill its aspirations, the English-speaking community created Alliance Quebec to respond to the dramatic changes in Quebec's society.

Alliance Quebec is a non-profit, volunteer-based, community organization committed to the preservation and enhancement of the English-speaking communities and its institutions in Quebec. Alliance Quebec serves as the voice on public policy for the English-speaking communities. To that end, we strive for acceptance of an open and multicultural society; a commitment to a united Canada; a participative and integrated approach toward community retention and development; and proactive and entrepreneurial management.

More than one million English-speaking people live in the province of Quebec. Although chiefly centred in Montreal, a significant proportion live in English-speaking communities outside the greater Montreal region. Approximately 85% of Quebec's English-speaking population live within the territory of Alliance Quebec's eleven (II) Chapters and Provincial Youth Commission, notably in the West Island, East Island, Montreal Region, Laval/North Shore, South Shore, La Mauricie, Saguenay/Lac St. Jean, Val d'Or, Rouyn – Noranda, Lower Laurentians and Upper Laurentians.

Since its inception, Alliance Quebec has been a strong advocate for the English-speaking community we represent, as we have experienced, and continue to experience, dramatic social and political change within the larger Quebec society and hence within our own community. As the majority French-speaking community has moved to assert and promote its language and unique cultural identity, the English-speaking community has also had to define and assert its place within this society. As individuals, and as a group, we have been called upon to answer some of the most profound questions we can ask of ourselves with respect to our community's role in Quebec, our loyalties towards Quebec and Canada, our responsibilities to, and expectations of, our fellow Quebecers and about the role of the various levels of government and their responsibilities to our communities.

We have struggled to answer these questions in a context in which certain provincial laws and policies have threatened and undermined the confidence of our community and its future in Quebec.

Over the years, the English-speaking community has built an impressive array of institutions - hospitals, social service agencies, schools, libraries and universities, which not only serve our community but contribute to the larger Quebec and Canadian society. Although many of these institutions are now part of the public or para-public sector in Quebec, the community continues to feel a strong sense of connection and commitment rooted in the history of private initiative and community cooperation which built and maintained these institutions. The community also recognizes that these institutions remain essential to its ability to care for its individual members and to define and promote its unique identity.

For more than two centuries, the English-speaking community of Quebec has been an integral element of the province's social, political, cultural and economic history and development. Although a minority, our community is more than just significant; it is part of the identity, substance and character of Quebec. Quebec has long been defined by its two important linguistic communities. However, the English-speaking community's numbers have been in relative decline since 1971 and there has been an absolute decline in mother-tongue English since 1976. The community has not been able to replenish itself, either through migration of English-speaking Canadians from outside the province, or from the influx of immigrants.

The significant exodus of our youth has had a devastating effect on the community. The *Task Force Report on Job Opportunities for English-speaking Youth* in 1992, had this to say concerning the exodus:

The most worrisome aspect of the trend is that it is most prevalent among young people. According to research on current trends and attitudes, Quebec will continue to suffer a major loss of young English-speaking Quebecers over the next decade. Over 60% of young English-speaking Quebecers expect to

leave Quebec within five years and almost three-quarters within ten years. This is not the result of poor ability in French, two-thirds of young people with high French competency plan to leave.

Alliance Quebec's challenge is to create a different reality and begin to fashion a different future for English-

speaking youth in order to ensure that dire predictions like this are not fulfilled. We are striving to convince young people that there are opportunities here to make their future within the Quebec society that their parents and grandparents helped build. We work hard to ensure access to English language health and social services, access to English language education, employment equity and community development.

Briefs and Position Papers

August 2000

Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather and Executive Committee member, Darryl Levine present a Brief on Draft Law Number I43 – Equity in the Civil Service before the Cultural Commission of the Quebec National Assembly. The brief illustrates the under-representation of Quebec's English-speaking community in the Quebec Civil Service.

Anthony Housefather, President of Alliance Quebec and Darryl Levine, Executive Committee member meet with Ginette Galarneau, sous ministre adjointe aux Relations civiques du ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'immigration, and other representatives of the English-speaking community, for a round table discussion on the Quebec Citizenship Consultation Paper for the National Forum on Citizenship and Integration.

October 2000

Alliance Quebec Health and Social Services Committee member Heather Stephens along with Jim Warbanks present a Brief titled Communication and Efficiency: Language and Health Care before the Clair Commission. One of the recommendations is that the government grant bilingual status to healthcare institutions that serve a population where more than 10% of their clientele is non-French-speaking.

November 2000

Members of the Laval/North Shore Chapter of Alliance Quebec present a Brief to the Estates General on the Status and Future of the French Language in Quebec.

December 2000

Representatives of Alliance Quebec present Briefs on Bill I70 before the Quebec Liberal Party's public hearings which are held in various locations of the city. During their presentations, members of Alliance Quebec express concern that forced municipal mergers will lead to the reduction of services in English for people living in towns and cities with bilingual status.

Alliance Quebec reviews and submits a response to the Commissioner of Official Languages' Preliminary Investigation Report Concerning the Language of Work Situation at Canada Post in the Montreal Region.

March 2001

Alliance Quebec presents a Brief to the Commission de la représentation électorale. In its Brief, the organization calls for a fifth riding for Montreal's West Island to correct long-standing and flagrant inequities in the distribution of electoral ridings on the Island of Montreal.

Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather presents a Brief to the Estates General on the Status and the Future of the French Language in which he stresses the important role the Quebec government can play in finding a balance between the legitimate interests of promoting French and the needs of Quebec's English-speaking community. In addition, Housefather makes recommendations with respect to issues of particular concern to members of the English-speaking communities the organization represents, notably: employment equity and youth development, access to English language health and social services, municipal mergers and their impact on acquired rights and bilingual status, access to English language education.

A Chronology: Some Highlights of the Year

APRIL 2000

Alliance Quebec Chapters and the Provincial Youth Commission hold their annual general meetings.

April 7, 2000 - Alliance Quebec Vice-President, Anthony Housefather, calls on Health Minister Pauline Marois to clarify new language policy for personnel working in the health and social services system and asks that the Health Minister reconsider placing such restrictions on dealings with English-speaking citizens.

April 10, 2000 - Alliance Quebec supports the Université du Québec à Montréal's decision to offer a special Bachelor's program at the Torah and Vocational Institute in Cote des Neiges and encourages the University to continue to offer this invaluable service to members of the community who had previously been deprived of the opportunity to obtain a higher education.

April 11, 2000 - Alliance Quebec invites the English-speaking community to unite in an effort to save Newswatch.

April 13, 2000 - Superior Court Judge Paul Marcel Bellavance upholds the Quebec government's appeal of *The Lyon and the Wallrus* case. Mr. Justice Bellavance finds *The Lyon and the Wallrus* guilty of violating the sign provisions of Bill 101 and imposes a \$500 fine.

Alliance Quebec and others announce the matter will be appealed and brought all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary.

April 19, 2000 - Alliance Quebec supports the parents of students attending the Francesca Cabrini and Emily Carr schools in their genuine struggle to save their community schools for the education of their children. Furthermore, Alliance Quebec urges the Education Minister to allow the democratic process of consultation and structural reorganization to occur before intervening with any legislation that would unilaterally determine the fate of English language institutions and set a precedence which will undermine the democratic process.

April 20, 2000 - Alliance Quebec President, William Johnson, publicly states that the reprint of Bill 99: An Act respecting the exercise of the fundamental rights and prerogatives of the Quebec people and the Quebec state is still unconstitutional and amounts to little more than a unilateral declaration of independence.

April 26, 2000 - Alliance Quebec calls upon the Quebec Government to decree that the soon to be created Montreal Metropolitan Community should be designated as a bilingual institution in order to guarantee services will be offered to residents in both official languages. Alliance Quebec announces they will continue to oppose forced amalgamations and will work to ensure the English-speaking communities maintain their bilingual status.

MAY 2000

May 6, 2000 - Alliance Quebec demonstrates in front of the Palais des Congrès during the PQ convention to protest the lack of inclusion of English-speaking Quebecers in the Provincial Civil Service.

May 26 & 27, 2000 - Alliance Quebec holds its 19th annual convention at the Airport Hilton Hotel in Dorval. Anthony Housefather is the first President elected for a two-year term.

JUNE 2000

June 21, 2000 - Alliance Quebec is pleased by the Quebec Superior Court ruling clarifying that employees have the right to choose the language of software they prefer to work in. Alliance Quebec has fully supported this case since April 1998, when the Office de la Langue Française told companies that their employees were not allowed to use English software, because equivalent French language software was available on the market.

JULY 2000

July 17, 2000 - Alliance Quebec writes to Ontario Premier Mike Harris asking him to reconsider Ontario government policy as it relates to the Montfort Hospital. "The Montfort Hospital is an important symbol to Francophones in Eastern Ontario," states Alliance Quebec

President, Anthony Housefather. "We support the French-speaking community in their desire to retain the hospital as is."

AUGUST 2000

August 2, 2000 - Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather and lawyer Michael N. Bergman hold a press conference to outline the status of legal proceedings in which Alliance Quebec demanded access to all documents relating to the Quebec referendum in October of 1995. Samples of ballots, which were rejected during the 1995 referendum, are displayed during the press conference.

August 14, 2000 - Alliance Quebec congratulates the Quebec Liberal Party Youth Wing for its recommendation to start teaching English as a second language in Grade I instead of Grade 4.

August 14, 2000 - Alliance Quebec reacts with outrage at the order by the Quebec Court of Appeal to hand over the Francesca Cabrini or Emily Carr School from the English Montreal School Board to the *Commission Scolaire de Montreal*. Alliance Quebec had previously pledged strong support for the parents of students attending the Francesca Cabrini and Emily Carr schools in their genuine struggle to save their community schools for the education of their children.

August 15, 2000 - Louise Beaudoin's assertion that French-speaking children must master their mother tongue before being introduced to a second or third language is questionable to say the least, says Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather. Alliance Quebec calls on the Language Minister to examine research on French Immersion in Canada or "second language programs in other countries" and provide French-speaking children in Quebec with the same learning opportunities as their English-speaking counterparts.

August 29, 2000 - Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather and Executive Committee member Darryl Levine present a *Brief on Draft Law Number 143 - Equity in the Civil Service* before the Cultural Commission of the

Quebec National Assembly. The brief illustrates the under-representation of Quebec's English-speaking community in the Quebec Civil Service.

SEPTEMBER 2000

September 6, 2000 - Alliance Quebec expresses dismay at Quebec Finance Minister Bernard Landry's decision to snub \$500 million (\$100 million over the next five years) slated for municipal infrastructure. It was reported Landry might refuse the money because of the Federal Government's conditions, which includes co-management and bilingual signage. Alliance Quebec reiterates its full support for bilingual signage throughout Canada, in order to show proper respect to both of Canada's official language communities.

OCTOBER 2000

October 5, 2000 - Alliance Quebec urges Louise Beaudoin to reconsider her position that language legislation should precede the Estates General. The Language Minister's comments that the only thing that can save French is sovereignty and her intent to introduce new language legislation which would require employers prove that knowledge of a language other than French is required before filling a position for which bilingualism is required, is extremely disheartening and does not lend much credit to the upcoming Estates General on language, says Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather.

October 10, 2000 - Representatives from Alliance Quebec present a brief titled *Communication and Efficiency: Language and Health Care* before the Clair Commission. One of the recommendations is that the government grant bilingual status to healthcare institutions that serve a population where more than 10% of their clientele is non-French-speaking.

October 11, 2000 - Alliance Quebec calls on the Quebec government to ensure that the Montreal Metropolitan Community, the proposed island-wide City of Montreal and the proposed City of Champlain on the South Shore, outlined in the Bernard Report, will guarantee bilingual status for all districts that would be eligible as

A Chronology: Some Highlights of the Year

autonomous municipalities and will grandfather that status, for any city which had it before, into the new district.

NOVEMBER 2000

November 7, 2000 - Alliance Quebec calls for a mobilization against the proposed Montreal megacity, stating the potential loss of legal protection for English services is a good reason to fight forced mergers. Alliance Quebec urges cities to adopt resolutions to protect their bilingual status, and President Anthony Housefather encourages residents to participate in referendums and demonstrations on the issue, and support the formation of anti-merger groups.

Alliance Quebec announces they have facilitated the set up of a website dedicated to opposing the plan: www.notomergers.com, which compliments the Sillery-based site: www.nonauxfusions.com.

November 8, 2000 - Members of the Laval/North Shore Chapter of Alliance Quebec present a Brief to the Estates General on the Status and Future of the French Language in Quebec.

November 15 & 16, 2000 - Alliance Quebec hosts public information meetings on forced mergers, November 15 in Hampstead and November 16 in Pointe Claire.

November 18, 2000 – In an Opinion Editorial published in the National Post, Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather, calls on English and French-speaking people across the island of Montreal, South Shore, Outaouais and Quebec City areas to unite in opposition of municipal mergers.

November 29, 2000 - Alliance Quebec is pleased with the results of this week's federal election. "It is clear that more Quebecers voted against the Bloc Québécois in reaction to Bill 170 and the government's plan to go ahead with forced mergers against local elected officials and residents," said Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather.

DECEMBER 2000

December 3, 2000 – Representatives of Alliance Quebec present Briefs on Bill 170 before the Quebec Liberal Party's public hearings which are held in various locations of the city. During their presentations, members of Alliance Quebec express concern that forced municipal mergers will lead to the reduction of service in English for people living in towns and cities with bilingual status. A copy of the entire Brief can be found on Alliance Quebec's website at www.aq.qc.ca.

December 7, 2000 – Alliance Quebec announces its opposition to language laws which prohibit the sale of children's toys based on the language that these toys speak. This is in response to a news item in the Ottawa Citizen reporting that Quebec's Charter of the French Language (Bill 101) prohibits the sale of unilingual English-speaking toys. The report indicates that the Ooglies English-speaking doll is not allowed to be sold in Quebec toy stores, nor could it be transferred from other stores in Canada to Quebec, because the doll only speaks in English.

December 15, 2000 – In a press release issued Friday, December 15th, Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather announces he is pleased to learn that Quebec Superior Court Judge Danielle Grenier struck down part of Quebec's language law ruling that there is a fundamental incompatibility between the federal Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Quebec's Charter of the French Language.

JANUARY 2001

January 22, 2001 – In an Opinion Editorial published in the Gazette, Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather expresses concern over reports that health professionals refuse to communicate in the language of the patient, despite being capable of doing so. Housefather states that it is clear that from the perspective of physicians' ethical duties and obligations, the real needs of the patient should take priority over the cultural, linguistic or political preferences of a physician. Alliance Quebec encourages individuals who have not been properly served in English in a health care facility to

avail themselves of the complaint mechanisms at their disposal and to contact the *College des Médecins* and Alliance Quebec for assistance.

January 24, 2001 – Alliance Quebec expresses shock over remarks made by Deputy Premier, Bernard Landry, in response to the Federal Government's offer of \$18 million to fund the Quebec City zoo's renovations. The Federal Government had requested that the Canadian flag be displayed and two bilingual signs be posted at the zoo. "The PQ government is once again denying Quebecers their share of federal funding," said Alliance Quebec President, Anthony Housefather. "Most Quebecers would be only too pleased to have the Canadian flag and bilingual signs at the zoo in order to receive this funding."

FEBRUARY 2001

February 23, 2001 – Lawyer Michael Bergman publicly states Alliance Quebec will continue its legal efforts to obtain access to all the ballots which were cast during the referendum.

February 23, 2001 – Alliance Quebec Vice-President Stephen Schenke calls the Bloc Québécois' youth wing's Brief to the Estates General on the French language "out in left field." Gilles Duceppe, leader of the BQ, was quick to disassociate the party from the Brief which maintains that Quebec's language problem is essentially a problem of immigration. "It shows the bitter dichotomy the separatist movement has to resolve," said Schenke. "The more they try to promote their movement using this kind of language, the worse it is for their movement. It is just not true that immigrants are part of the problem (as the document states). French is not threatened in Lac-St-Jean."

MARCH 2001

March 1, 2001 – Alliance Quebec was dismayed to learn that the Commission de la protection de la langue française has taken policing the English language to an unprecedented level and fined Montreal, Beaconsfield and Pointe-Claire for having generic English language words on street signs. "Over the years the English-speaking community has built an impressive array of institutions -

hospitals, social service agencies, schools, libraries and universities, which not only serve our community but contribute to the larger Quebec and Canadian society," said Alliance Quebec Vice President Stephen Schenke. "Today, it would seem the PQ government is determined to erase every trace of our communities' contribution to the history, growth and development of our province."

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

March 8, 2001 – In a letter to Bernard Landry, the newly appointed Premier of Quebec, Alliance Quebec requests a meeting to review and discuss issues of particular concern to the English-speaking community.

March 14, 2001 – Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather presents a Brief to the Estates General on the status and the future of the French Language in which he stresses the important role the Quebec government can play in finding a balance between the legitimate interests of promoting French and the needs of Quebec's English-speaking community. In addition, Housefather makes recommendations with respect to issues of particular concern to members of the English-speaking communities the organization represents, notably: employment equity and youth development, access to English language health and social services, municipal mergers and their impact on acquired rights and bilingual status, access to English language education.

March 28, 2001 – Alliance Quebec's Provincial Health and Social Services Committee hosts a public information session on the McGill University Health Centre. "Access to English-language health and social services is an issue of primary importance for English-speaking Quebecers," says Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather. "To that end we feel it is our responsibility to ensure that our community has as much information as is possible where access to these essential services is concerned."

Health and Social Services

One of the main roles that Alliance Quebec has played since its inception has been to make sure that the English-speaking community has access to as much information as is possible where matters of health and social services are concerned. This has been reflected through the work of our Provincial Health and Social Services Committee, through the many opinion editorials, information sessions, press releases, meetings and press conferences we have held on this very subject.

This year was no exception. Alliance Quebec's Provincial Health and Social Services Committee met throughout the year to identify issues of particular concern to our community and to review strategies and develop programs and initiatives to address those concerns. In October, Alliance Quebec presented a Brief titled *Communication and Efficiency: Language and Health Care* before the Clair Commission. One of the recommendations outlined in the Brief was that the government grant bilingual status to healthcare

institutions that serve a population where more than 10% of their clientele is non-French-speaking.

The committee was also active in sensitizing our community to their rights where access to English language health and social services are concerned. Opinion Editorials were drafted and submitted to various newspapers and letters were sent to a number of organizations, agencies and associations. A questionnaire to examine access to English language health and social services was developed and distributed through the spring edition of Alliance Quebec's magazine.

In March, committee members along with the greater Montreal region chapters hosted an extremely successful public information session on the MUHC. A working committee was also struck to develop and sponsor a workshop on health and social services for Convention 2001.

Communications

Communications is a key part of Alliance Quebec's strategy to promote awareness of the concerns of the English-speaking communities throughout Quebec. As such, we strive to maintain clear, concise and regular communications with each of our "stakeholders", and the community-at-large. That includes Alliance Quebec constituent groups, other partners in the QCGN, the wider English-speaking community, the French-speaking majority and the rest of Canada.

In an effort to better address the needs of the communities we represent and to ensure the community is kept abreast of Alliance Quebec's initiatives, projects and programs in a timely, efficient and effective manner, the organization's two Communications Committees, namely the Website Committee and the Editorial Board reviewed the organization's communications tools and developed strategies to further enhance existing communications tools and to develop and implement new communications tools. *Media Perspectives*, a weekly summary of media

coverage of issues of particular concern to English-speaking Quebecers, the *AQ Insider*, a bi-monthly internal newsletter and *Alliance Quebec Initiatives*, a regularly updated document which provides a synopsis of the organization's activities and events, proved extremely successful this year in keeping our members and the general public informed.

The New Alliance Quebec Magazine and the organization's Website are excellent vehicles to inform our members and the public-at-large about the organization's ongoing work. This year, thousands of visitors used our Website to learn more about the English-speaking community, Alliance Quebec's dossiers, positions and policies and issues of particular concern to English-speaking Quebecers. One of our main tasks this year has been to redesign and redevelop our Website to make it more user friendly and interactive. Our new Website will be launched in the fall.



Alliance Quebec views educational institutions as fundamental tools for the development and vitality of the English-speaking community in Quebec. Consequently, the Education Policy of our organization is based on twin, intertwined principles that:

- A. the English-speaking community must maintain its right to control and manage its elementary, secondary and post-secondary educational institutions;
- B. all members of the English-speaking community must have access to their own linguistic schools and post-secondary institutions (CEGEPs and universities).

Thus far, fortunately, our community has not experienced any difficulty with the first principle as stated above. In fact, on the contrary, its legitimacy has been established by the creation of a linguistic school system in Quebec under the provisions of Bill 109 effective July 1, 1998.

The perennial problematic issues, however, are centered around:

- the parental choice of education for their children, and
- access to English language elementary and secondary schools.

In May 1993, at its General Meeting, Alliance Quebec adopted the underlying principle of freedom of choice in respect to language of instruction. While this principle is compatible with Article 26.3 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and Section 4 of the Quebec Education Act, Sections 72 and 73 of the Charter of the French Language blatantly overrides this principle of freedom of choice. Recent court challenges on this particular issue launched by a group of French-speaking parents should be watched with interest.

On the issue of access to English language schools, Alliance Quebec has been consistently emphasizing the imperatives of equal minority language rights. In its brief presented to the Estates General, Alliance Quebec urged the Government of Quebec and the National Assembly to abide by the provisions of Section 59.2 of the Canadian Constitution and allow the English-speaking Quebecers to benefit from the provision of Section 23.1 of the Canadian Constitution as the French-speaking communities do in the rest of the country.

Another aspect of the issue of access to English schools concerns the plight of English-speaking children forced to attend French language schools where many of them are falling behind their peers academically. At the Press Conference held on April 18, 2001, Alliance Quebec unequivocally stated its

position in support of these children. Should the French language schools concerned fail to fulfill their educational obligations in respect to these children, Alliance Quebec would litigate.

Traditionally, and this year is no exception, Alliance Quebec has been active in helping parents whose applications for eligibility of their children to receive English language instruction have been turned down. Invariably, many of these parents are assisted through the entire appeal process, and in some cases, through the courts (Administrative Tribunal, Superior Court). There are a few cases involving (a) requirement of major portion of elementary instruction of parents, and (b) application of section 23.2 of the Canadian Constitution.

Interestingly, in many of these cases a new element is being heightened. It refers to the human rights of children as stipulated in Article 33 of the Quebec Civil Code, which requires that every decision concerning a child shall be taken in light of the child's interests and the respect of his/her rights.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGMENTS

CASE 1. The Court to declare paragraph (2) of Section 73 of the Charter of the French Language which requires the major part of the elementary or secondary education is inconsistent with Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; consequently, therefore, paragraph (2) of Section 73 of CFL is inoperative.

The Honorable Danielle Grenier, J.S.C. rendered a declaratory judgment allowing the petitioners' motion. But, the Quebec government has decided to appeal.

CASE 2. The French speaking parents' case basically contends that refusal of access to English language schools because of the parents' language of instruction runs counter to article 522 of Civil Code of Quebec, according to which all children have the same rights and obligations, regardless of the circumstances or nature of their birth.

The Honorable Maurice Laramee, J.S.C. dismissed the motion stating that Quebec is not engaging in discrimination. On the contrary, it is fulfilling its constitutional obligations. Further more, that the language of instruction of the parents has neither the purpose nor the effect of discriminating on the basis of the child's civil status. Its purpose and effect are to link the child with a collectivity.

As a province wide volunteer-based community organization, Alliance Quebec is committed to Community Development. Our objective is to ensure that every sector of Quebec's English-speaking community is a vital and appreciated part of the "raison d'être" of Alliance Quebec. The organization achieves its goals through Provincial initiatives as well as through the direct work of its Chapters.

The work of Community Development is carried out through the Community Development Department team which consists of Community Organizers, the Director of Community Development and skilled consultants. In addition to the staff resources provided by the organization, the organization's objectives would be difficult to achieve if it were not for the valuable and resourceful volunteers who donate thousands of hours of their time and energy. Through co-ordinated team efforts of organization building, communication, training and networking, the promotion of local action and empowerment of the communities we serve is achieved.

The heart and strength of Alliance Quebec is contained at the grassroots level, within its eleven (II) Chapters plus the Provincial Youth Commission. Through the dedication and commitment of our many valuable volunteers, and staff members, we have been able to develop and implement initiatives that advance the organization's policies and principles both at the local and provincial levels.

The following are some examples of the organization's accomplishments over the past year.

Provincial Health & Social Services Committee:

The Committee undertook to provide the community with a much-needed public information session focussing on the proposed McGill University Health Centre and its impact on the English-speaking community. The Committee organized a successful evening where a panel of six speakers, three of which spoke in favour of the Centre and three who spoke against the project. The panel addressed the issue of

the proposed MUHC project and entertained questions from the audience.

Community Action Committee:

The Committee, with the valuable contribution of the Community Action Coordinator, undertook to provide the community with public information sessions to address the forced municipal mergers. One meeting took place in the Metropolitan Montreal area and the other meeting took place in the West Island area. The Committee invited representatives from the Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments to discuss/debate the issue and take questions from the audience.

In addition to the public information sessions mentioned, this Committee also organized a very successful lobby day whereby representatives from Alliance Quebec travelled to Ottawa and spent the day meeting with 40 Members of Parliament for the purpose of presenting issues that face our English-speaking community to these MP's.

The Director of Communications, Community Action Coordinator and Director of Community Development also collaborated in the writing of the Alliance Quebec Brief to the Estates General on the status and the future of the French Language in Quebec.

The Chapters:

Laval Chapter: This Chapter prepared and presented an excellent Brief to the Estates General on the French Language. As well, they have been active participants in the on-going electoral fraud case launched by Alliance Quebec after the 1995 Quebec referendum. The Chapter is dedicated to promoting working relationships with other local organizations for the betterment of the English-speaking community in their region.

Rouyn-Noranda Chapter: This Chapter has been working intently on building and supporting relationships with many local community



organizations including local school boards and CLSC's. Over the past year, they have successfully organized numerous activities for their community. As well, this Chapter submitted 4 project proposals to Canadian Heritage.

Val d'Or Chapter: This Chapter is continuing to be involved in the development of the Community Access Centre by having two of its members participating on the Committee. The Chapter has been successful in the organizing of several community-based events. As well, this Chapter submitted 2 project proposals to Canadian Heritage.

South Shore Chapter: This Chapter organized a very successful and well-attended Bowser & Blue fundraising event. The Chapter has been, and will continue to be, a participant in a collaborative effort with more than 50 community organizations located on the South Shore. This Chapter submitted one project proposal to Canadian Heritage.

Saguenay Chapter: This Chapter continues its determination to meet the many challenges it faces and continues to address the needs of its community. They have networked into the community and have begun building working relationships with the nearby Bagotville Air Force Base. The Chapter has sponsored numerous successful local community events and activities and has regularly published newsletters for distribution to their membership.

Upper Laurentians and Lower Laurentians Chapters: Both these Chapters have determined membership recruitment to be a prime focus. As well, these Chapters continue to support their local community organizations and associations. They participate on many Provincial Committees as well as sit on the Executive Committees of other community organizations.

West Island: This Chapter has been an active participant in the on-going electoral fraud case launched by Alliance Quebec after the 1995 Quebec referendum. As well, in response to the PQ Government's recent

tabling of Bill 170, they successfully mobilized their membership and community to support their local municipalities and MNA's in their efforts to stop the forced municipal mergers.

Montreal Regional Chapter: This Chapter has identified Education as its priority and focus for the current year. In an effort to promote understanding of the current issues facing English-speaking children, parents, teachers and school boards, volunteers in this Chapter are attending local school board meetings on a regular basis. This Chapter has been actively outreaching to other community organizations. As with the West Island Chapter, the MRC successfully mobilized its membership to support local municipalities and MNA's in their efforts to stop forced municipal mergers. To that end, on behalf of the English-speaking community in the Montreal region, the Chapter successfully prepared Briefs and presented them at the organized public hearings on this issue. As well, this Chapter is an active participant in the on-going electoral fraud case launched by Alliance Quebec after the 1995 Quebec referendum.

East Island: The focus for this Chapter is a Canadian History Project, which will continue on into the coming year. Local High Schools and local community groups are being approached to partner in this initiative.

St. Maurice: This Chapter is determined in maintaining their relationships with other local groups and organizations.

Provincial Youth Commission: The Provincial Youth Commission has reached out to the universities and CEGEPs and has been given official status by the Student's Society of McGill University as a McGill University club. The PYC is ever committed to encouraging our youth to see they have a bright and successful future in Quebec.

Fundraising and Membership

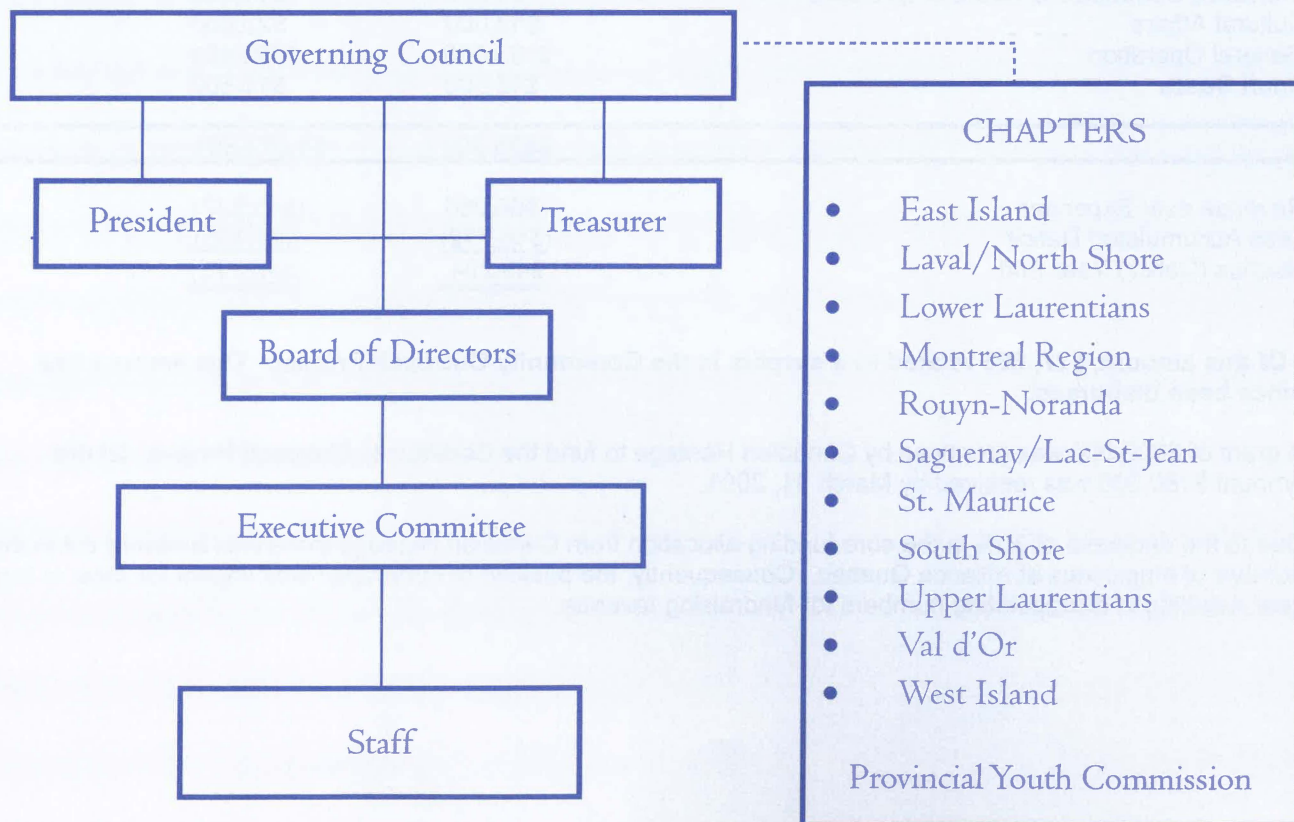
Fundraising and Membership represent the lifeline and the future of this organization and the work we have undertaken is beginning to bear fruit. Membership numbers are steadily increasing. A renewed volunteer effort at the Chapter level is starting to have an impact on the trend of increasing membership. We must continue to see our membership grow and develop.

Many of Alliance Quebec initiatives depend on the long-term stability of our finances and the strength of our membership. That is why these two concerns have become top priorities in 2001. A direct mail campaign blitz for fundraising is

being launched as this Annual Report goes to print. In celebration of Alliance Quebec's 20th Anniversary, pioneering supporters, past contributors and potential new donors are being contacted in the hope of enlisting or re-enlisting their interest and support of our endeavors, and our efforts are literally beginning to pay off.

2001 will be a remarkably productive year for Alliance Quebec and for the communities Alliance Quebec serves. Securing more funds – and more people – will ensure that the coming years bring continued success.

Organizational Structure



Statement of Operations For the Year Ended March 31, 2001

	2000-2001	1999-2000
Revenue		
Government Grant, Canadian Heritage	\$634,534	\$922,300
Community Outreach Grant	\$180,000	-
Donations from Fundraising	\$36,062	\$72,806
Convention Revenue	\$19,624	\$23,694
Municipal Tax Refund	\$15,136	\$21,224
Other Revenue	\$16,610	\$22,000
	\$901,966	\$1,062,024
Expenses		
Education	\$54,000	\$67,000
Health and Social Services	\$52,000	\$64,000
Community Action	\$55,000	\$71,000
Community Development	\$310,000	\$339,000
Annual General Convention	\$35,900	\$39,700
Communications	\$72,000	\$83,000
Fundraising and Membership	\$51,000	\$72,000
Executive Committee & Board of Directors	\$8,500	\$11,000
Cultural Affairs	\$18,000	\$23,000
General Operation	\$163,000	\$296,461
Court Cases	\$16,500	\$11,500
	\$835,900	\$1,077,661
Revenue over Expenses	\$66,066	(\$15,637)
Less Accumulated Deficit	<u>(\$16,772)</u>	<u>(\$1,135)</u>
Surplus (Deficit) Year End	* <u>\$49,294</u>	<u>(\$16,772)</u>

*** Of this amount, \$27, 885 related to a surplus in the Community Outreach Project. This amount has since been disbursed.**

A grant of \$300,000 was promised by Canadian Heritage to fund the Community Outreach Project. Of this amount \$180,000 was received by March 31, 2001.

Due to the decrease of 30% in the core funding allocation from Canadian Heritage there was a severe cut in the number of employees at Alliance Quebec. Consequently, the position of Fundraiser was vacant for most of the year resulting in disappointing numbers for fundraising revenue.

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