

The Provincial Youth Commission of Alliance Quebec wants the Bouchard government to take seriously the concerns of minority youth in the province at the upcoming *Sommet de la Jeunesse 2000*

MONTREAL, Wednesday, September 1, 1999 - The Provincial Youth Commission of Alliance Quebec wants the Bouchard government to take seriously the concerns of minority youth in the province at the upcoming *Sommet de la Jeunesse 2000*.

The unprecedented youth exodus, continuing discriminatory loan policies, flagrant lack of human-resource training and access to bilingual services must be on the government's agenda when it begins studying youth issues.

"If the government is truly serious about extending its hand to all Quebecers, then they must take our concerns seriously," said Christina Meaker, president of the Provincial Youth Commission of Alliance Quebec. "If we had a sense that our provincial government was at least listening to our concerns, we would feel a lot more comfortable in our home province."

Meaker, 22, also said that the government must extend an invitation to as many minority youth groups as possible.

"If the Summit is perceived to be an event only for francophones, it will be very discouraging for linguistic and cultural minorities in the province who see this event as their best chance to make their concerns heard."

The Provincial Youth Commission of Alliance Quebec was founded in 1991 and represents youth members of the organization.