

Another Victory for Quebec's English-speaking Community

Montreal, Monday, September 20, 1999 – Joliette Crown Prosecutor Denis Paul Beaulieu has on this day agreed to release to Defence Lawyer John T. Pepper Jr. the specifics in the English-language of the supposed threats, which John Urichuck is said to have made to Mr. André Gauthier.

Prior to today, the Crown's position was that the evidence provided in French to Defence Lawyer Pepper was sufficient. The Prosecution changed its position when John T. Pepper Jr. indicated that Alliance Quebec was backing Mr. Urichuck's challenge of the lack of English services in the Joliette Court System.

"It would appear that Urichuck has won his point with today's decision by Crown Prosecutor Beaulieu to instruct the lead Detective to obtain, in the English-language, from complainant Gauthier, the specifics of his accusation against Urichuck," stated Mr. Pepper. "Prior to today, Mr. Gauthier's statement was in French and the Prosecutor would not go any further in his communication of the evidence to the defence, which he had limited to Gauthier's statement made in French."

Alliance Quebec wants to ensure that all accused in the province of Quebec have a right to a trial in the official language of their choice: English or French, as recently outlined in the *Beaulac* decision rendered by the Supreme Court a few months ago.