

For a future together

**alliance
québec**

Vers l'avenir ensemble

***A Policy for
the English-Speaking
Community of Quebec***

May 30, 1982

alliance québec

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the English-Speaking
Community of Quebec*

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*Adopted at the
First General Council
of Alliance Québec*

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Respectfully submitted

Michael Goldbloom

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I. INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

We are almost one million English-speaking Quebecers. We regard Quebec as our home. Our community has participated in more than two-hundred years of Quebec's history. We have contributed to the building of one of the world's most stable, prosperous and culturally rich societies. We believe that the interplay of the influences of Quebec's French-speaking and English-speaking peoples has been mutually enriching.

The development of Quebec society over the last two centuries has been based in large part on an evolving "social contract" which recognizes the presence and legitimacy of both English and French-speaking communities, their institutions and cultures. As in any diverse society, there have been and will be conflicts which must be resolved, but the understanding that both English and French-speaking communities have a place here, a right to their institutions and a role to play in the building of this province will be abandoned at the peril of Quebec society as a whole. It is a credit to our society that differences have traditionally been addressed and resolved through open discussion.

There is a school of thought in Quebec today which has expressed itself in political action and legislation which implicitly if not explicitly holds that Quebec is a culturally homogeneous society of French-speaking people together with a variety of ethnic groups which are culturally enriching but essentially marginal. This violates the social contract in characterizing the English-speaking community as an ethnic group or cultural community.

The English-speaking community is a linguistic community with a distinct culture. Our community is neither homogeneous nor monolithic. We are made up not just of people whose mother tongue is English but also of people who use English by choice in their daily lives. Our community is composed of diverse ethnic, religious and socio-economic groups. We may be found throughout the province from the Gaspé to the Outaouais.

The English-speaking population of Quebec has made a significant economic, cultural and historical contribution to this province. We cannot accept a revision of history that eliminates us, our considerable contribution to life in Quebec, or our right to exist. Nor can we accept being made to feel anything less than full participants in Quebec. We are Quebecers.

As Quebecers we intend to participate as actively as we can in the collective life of Quebec. For this to happen the English-speaking minority in Quebec must feel that it has some security in terms of our institutions which we have worked hard and contributed generously to build and with which we so strongly identify. Similarly, we must feel security in our rights, our identity and our access to employment and services. In making these claims we share a determination with all Quebecers to maintain and build a society that is unique both in Canada and North America.

As Quebecers we take pride in the uniqueness of Quebec, and we know that this special quality does not derive exclusively from the existence of the French culture but arises from the contribution of our own history and culture as well. Maintaining the special character of our society within the context of the Canadian and North American reality is an exciting challenge and opportunity for all Quebecers. Young English-speaking Quebecers understand that to fully participate in today's Quebec they will have to be able to function in French, but they see no need to deny their own cultural background. The steady increase in the rate of bilingualism among English-speaking Quebecers and the dramatic growth in immersion course enrollments in the last 15 years is eloquent testimony to our commitment to active involvement in this society.

The English-speaking community is substantial. Montreal is Canada's third largest English city. The English-speaking population of Quebec is greater than the population of several provinces. Our numbers are considerable; our determination absolute. Quebec is our home. We have a continuing commitment to Quebec, and we intend to work to ensure that our place here is acknowledged, respected and preserved. We will strive to ensure that the

English and French-speaking communities of Quebec not merely survive but thrive and prosper together.

The Purpose of the Policy Papers

The Policy Papers have been prepared in order to provide English-speaking Quebecers with their first opportunity to join together in defining the concerns and establishing the priorities of the community.

Once the policies have been established, the Alliance will face the challenge and responsibility of communicating them to the government of Quebec, to all Quebecers and to all Canadians.

The Scope of the Policy Papers

The following five papers address in general terms the serious questions that face the English-speaking community. General observations are made about the situation of the community as a whole. These papers discuss the problems of the community and its institutions. They are not limited to those areas in which the Alliance might intervene directly but rather constitute an overview of all of the areas which must be addressed by our communities.

II. EMPLOYMENT / ECONOMY

II. EMPLOYMENT/ECONOMY

INTRODUCTION

This policy deals with employment and access to job opportunities for non-francophones in the light of apparently diminishing prospects. Clearly, the very essence of a community is directly related to the role its members can play in the labour market. In the last decade, economic development in Quebec has been strongly influenced by political and social phenomena. A high rate of "outmigration" of non-francophones and a low rate of "in-migration" have been unfortunate by-products of this development. With nearly a million non-francophones still committed to remaining within Quebec, however, it is necessary that Alliance Quebec address itself to the problems facing the minority of Quebec in the workplace.

Since 1969, Quebec has witnessed three major pieces of legislation dealing with a comprehensive linguistic policy. The fact that three different governments (UN, Bill 63; PLQ, Bill 22, PQ, Bill 101) have initiated such policies is symptomatic of a persistent malaise felt by a large portion of francophones in their quest for a more realistic linguistic equilibrium. As a result, the workplace in Quebec has undergone some rather significant changes with the formal recognition of French as the principal language in Quebec.

The effect of this has been directly felt by Quebec's non-francophones. Faced with the implementation of francization programs in the private sector and the application of Section 20 of The Charter of the French Language requiring a knowledge of French for any appointment, promotion and transfer within the civil administration of Quebec, the English-speaking population of Quebec is having to adjust rapidly.

Other concerns and issues in the workplace have arisen in recent years. Some of these concerns demand immediate and decisive actions. It is vital that we establish a firm and unequivocal position about our place within the Quebec job market. It is also vital that Quebec open its doors to outside labour markets especially in the areas of high-technology in order to maintain and develop major sectors of the Quebec economy.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES:

1. While the primacy of the French language in the workplace is acknowledged, there must be a willingness on the part of Quebec society as a whole to exploit its long-standing competitive advantage of being able to function in the two major languages.
2. Equal opportunity and fair access to employment for members of the English-speaking minority of Quebec.
3. Access to effective French language training and access to the French-speaking workplace for the same purpose.
4. Evaluation of French-speaking competence should focus on the ability to communicate within one's workplace.
5. Fair representation in the Quebec and federal (Quebec) civil service, the provincial government agencies and the parapublic sector.
6. Francization programmes in the civil administration must not eliminate the distinctive character of English-speaking institutions.
7. Quebec English-speaking students should have access to employment and career planning information that will assist them to meet the challenges of the Quebec job market.

1. While the primacy of the French language in the workplace is acknowledged, there must be a willingness on the part of Quebec society as a whole to exploit its long-standing competitive advantage of being able to function in two major languages.

Quebec is the only predominantly French-speaking society in North America. This fact is reinforced by the existence in Quebec of a large network of distinctive social and economic institutions. Quebec has held a competitive advantage in many fields because of the ability to function in French and in English.

1.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS there is a distinct English-speaking community in Quebec;

WHEREAS Quebec has always been able to operate in the economic field in both languages;

WHEREAS The Charter of the French Language has recognized the need to use English in some areas of economic activity;

WHEREAS the right to post a sign in English as well as in French would not threaten the French language;

WHEREAS the sign provision of The Charter of the French Language diminishes the visibility and therefore the viability of English business;

WHEREAS the disappearance of English from the public view will damage the tourist industry to the disadvantage of all Quebecers;

WHEREAS there will always be a small proportion of the population which does not speak French;

WHEREAS there is a substantial proportion of the non-francophone population which does not speak French;

WHEREAS this does not compromise French as a language of work;

WHEREAS the Quebec economy must take full advantage of its competitive edge of being able to function with economic partners and agents in both languages;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the Quebec government modify Section 58 of The Charter of the French Language regarding signs and commercial advertising to allow for bilingual signs;
- b) the Quebec government allow francization programs in the private sector to take full advantage of the economic context of North America;
- c) the Quebec government determine, in conjunction with the community itself, a policy of accommodation in the job market of the phenomenon of Quebecers who do not speak French.

1.2 WHEREAS it is recognized that there is an English-speaking community in Quebec;

WHEREAS in order to remain competitive, employers frequently find it is necessary to transfer employees into Quebec or recruit for specialized posts from outside Quebec;

WHEREAS restriction of access to education is having a negative effect on migration into Quebec and on the health of the economy;

WHEREAS enrolment in English schools of the children of people who are transferred into Quebec does not pose any threat to the character of the province;

Be it resolved that:

greater access to English schools for children of employees transferred to Quebec be permitted.

2. Equal opportunity and fair access to employment for members of the English-speaking minority of Quebec.

It is important that the evolution of francization not result in discriminatory practices in the recruitment of English-speaking workers. It is essential that there be no violation of any human rights legislation or charter. French has become the principal language of work in Quebec. This means that the English-speaking minority should be able to function in French. No one, however, must be subject to discriminatory practices because of his or her name or any related characteristic. Neither should there be discrimination against a non-francophone applying for employment where French is not a requirement for the job.

2.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS the English-speaking community fully endorses the spirit of the Quebec Charter of Human Rights;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community considers that it must have fair representation in all of the public and parapublic sectors of Quebec;

Be it resolved that both levels of government:

- a) revise their recruitment practices within Quebec;
- b) provide information to the community about its hiring practices, its use of the non-francophone press and its activities on English-language campuses in recruitment;
- c) ensure fairer representation by immediately instituting corrective measures;
- d) make maximum use of advertising and contacts with minority organizations;
- e) publicize job opportunities in English in the English media;
- f) ensure that there are no discriminatory practices in hiring;
- g) provide easier access to appropriate on-the-job opportunities to learn French;
- h) encourage and hire persons proficient in English and familiar with the English-speaking community to act as recruiters.

2.2 WHEREAS the English-speaking community must be vigilant about hiring practices in both the public and private sector;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community must ensure that its members are not subject to discriminatory actions in employment;

Be it resolved that Alliance Quebec in concert with its member groups:

- a) monitor government hiring practices, its use of the press and its activities on English-language campuses regarding recruitment;
- b) monitor any discrimination reported in the workplace with respect to language and ethnicity and provide support to those who are victims of discrimination.

- 2.3 WHEREAS Section 39 of The Charter of the French Language which allowed Quebec-trained professionals access to temporary permits has expired;

WHEREAS professionals trained elsewhere may still practice on a temporary basis for up to three years;

WHEREAS anglophone educational institutions, insofar as they have had the resources, have tried to adapt to the need to provide adequate French language training;

WHEREAS Section 84 of The Charter of the French Language requires all graduates from secondary V to have a knowledge of French;

Be it resolved that:

the Quebec government extend the provisions of Section 39 indefinitely, pending further study.

- 2.4 WHEREAS The Charter of the French Language has made extensive provision for the development of francization programmes within the private sector;

WHEREAS the principle underlying such programmes is accepted;

WHEREAS business is complying with the provisions to develop such programmes;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community wishes to ensure that its members who are properly qualified are not discriminated against;

Be it resolved that:

- a) Alliance Quebec monitor the private sector to ensure fair and equal access to employment by members of the community and take appropriate actions where necessary;
 - b) Alliance Quebec investigate the job market within the private sector for English-speaking graduates, and assure that this information is available to the community.
3. Access to effective French language training and access to the French-speaking workplace for this purpose.

It is clear that knowledge of French is a major prerequisite for obtaining a job in Quebec. The Canada Employment Centre provides manpower benefits for those needing to retrain themselves; it has, however, yet to recognize French as a necessary job skill for non-francophone Quebecers.

In Quebec, a unilingual Quebec anglophone can lose a job as a result of a lack of knowledge of the French language and not be eligible for Unemployment Insurance if he takes French courses on a full time basis while searching for a new job.

3.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS French is, by law, the principal language of work in Quebec;

WHEREAS there are certain groups within the English-speaking community, particularly women, who at present lack sufficient knowledge of French and who may wish to reenter the job market;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the federal government, in collaboration with the Quebec government, reclassify French as a job skill and thus entitle those in need of French training for the workplace to Manpower benefits regardless of their length of residency in Quebec;
 - b) the Quebec government initiate steps, in collaboration with the institutions, professional orders and unions, to facilitate access on an interim basis by non-francophones to the French workplace and by francophones to English-language institutions;
 - c) private industry be strongly encouraged to establish in-house French language training programmes for workers in need of such.
4. Evaluation of French-speaking competence should focus on the ability to communicate within one's profession and/or workplace.

The nature of the Office de la langue française (OLF) French test continues to cause concern. The piecemeal and bureaucratic approach of the OLF indicates a need for a more flexible and equitable form of evaluation.

The OLF claims to have made a considerable effort to devise tests that are comprehensive and just. Serious concerns persist, however, as to whether an academic test is really a just and sufficient evaluation of the practical linguistic competence of a person in day-to-day job situations. With respect to testing, the Alliance position has been as follows: a) if there is to be testing, no one should be exempt; b) if there is to be evaluation, there should be methods other than just testing, and c) testing should be communication oriented, job-related and not academic. It is felt that the present system is inadequate and discriminatory.

4.1 Recommendations:

WHEREAS there is strong evidence that the present form of testing is inadequate, discriminatory and not job related;

WHEREAS Regulation 6 of the Education Act in effect since 1971 provided that no student could obtain a high school leaving certificate without having demonstrated a working knowledge of French;

WHEREAS Section 82 of The Charter of the French Language reaffirms this principle;

WHEREAS English-speaking Quebec recognizes the notion of individual responsibility to acquire adequate French second language skills;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community recognizes the responsibility of Quebec educational institutions to provide students with the means to become functional in French by the time they graduate from high school;

WHEREAS the Quebec government has recently reduced the teaching time of French as a second language in English schools;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the Quebec government abolish all forms of language testing for students who have obtained Secondary V certificates and go on to graduate from professional programmes in Quebec institutions and satisfy the requirements of membership in any of the thirty-nine professions recognized by the government;
- b) the Quebec government and the professional orders recognize that graduates having completed their professional training in a Quebec institution are competent to practice their profession in Quebec;

- c) the Quebec government provide the resources that will make it possible for students leaving high school to have acquired a real knowledge of French;
- d) any professional currently practising in Quebec be exempt from any further language testing;
- e) the Quebec government encourage all post-secondary institutions to ensure their graduates in all professional programmes have access to appropriate training in the French language;
- f) the decisions of the OLF be subject to appeal.

4.2 WHEREAS the law requires every professional to have a knowledge of French appropriate to the practice of his profession;

WHEREAS Quebec must be in a position to attract qualified professionals from outside Quebec;

WHEREAS many of the problems with the OLF French tests stem from the fact that candidates are intimidated by having to appear before a body which only examines and does not teach;

Be it resolved that:

the French language requirements for professionals from outside Quebec may be satisfied by taking and passing a course in an established educational or training institution at a level set by the government.

5. Fair representation in the Quebec and federal (Quebec) civil service, the provincial government agencies and the parapublic sector.

The English-speaking community comprises close to one million Quebecers. Yet, the community is clearly under-represented at all levels of the civil administration.

5.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS it is recognized that the use of the French language is generally required in both civil services;

WHEREAS the Quebec government requires that candidates for civil service employment who are not exempt from OLF testing in accordance with The Charter of the French Language undergo a French language proficiency test after six months to get tenure;

WHEREAS there is an emphasis on a good knowledge of French in the federal civil service;

Be it resolved that:

- a) both levels of government ensure adequate training in the French language so that the employee can acquire the required second-language training skills for his/her job;
- b) the six month probationary period before language testing allowed by the Quebec government to a candidate for the civil service, be extended to 12 months for senior positions;
- c) if a government has a policy requiring language proficiency examination for employment, all candidates be required to take this examination.

5.2 WHEREAS it is acknowledged that the English-speaking community is under-represented within the civil administration;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community is under-represented in the Quebec region of the federal civil service;

WHEREAS it is recognized that the English-speaking community must fully participate at every level of Quebec society;

- a) the government of Quebec ensure fair representation within its civil service by immediately initiating corrective measures so as to begin to correct the present imbalance in the public service;
 - b) the federal government ensure fair representation within its civil service in Quebec by immediately initiating corrective measures so as to begin to correct the current imbalance in the public service;
 - c) each level of government guarantee that the community is fairly represented on its boards, agencies and commissions;
 - d) the government of Quebec ensure representation of the English-speaking population on bodies that serve a significant English-speaking population in any given area;
 - e) the English speaking community and its institutions do everything within their power to encourage English-speaking Quebecers to apply for jobs in the civil service in Quebec.
6. Francization programs in the civil administration must not eliminate the distinctive character of English-speaking institutions.

This is a particularly important principle in institutions with a temporary exemption to Sections 15 - 23 of The Charter of the French Language, under Sections 25 and 113F. Applied rigidly, Section 20 denies the pluralism which the Quebec government explicitly accepts and which the English-speaking community has always defended. This section refuses to accept the historical and social realities of Quebec and the distinctive institutions, especially English-language institutions, with which the English-speaking community identifies. Chapter four of The Charter of the French Language currently provides for severe restrictions in the language of internal and external communications and in signs. Section 20 states that no appointment, transfer or promotion will occur until evaluation of French language skills is made. The OLF has issued a directive under this section

which stipulates that the evaluation must be carried out by testing and further provides for the exemption of Quebecers educated in French schools.

6.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS Sections 14 to 29 (Chapter 4: The language of civil administration, The Charter of the French Language) provide for francization of the civil administration;

WHEREAS Sections 14 to 29 of The Charter of the French Language undermine the English language character of our institutions;

WHEREAS Section 113F of The Charter of the French Language provides for a list of English-speaking institutions deemed to be exempt from the application of this chapter until January 1, 1984 (Section 25);

WHEREAS these institutions have historical roots, are a social reality and are essential to the future and security of English-speaking Quebecers;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the Quebec government extend the provisions of Section 113F to include institutions serving a substantial English-speaking population;
- b) the Quebec government amend Section 25 so that institutions of a non-francophone character may continue to operate in their own language indefinitely while maintaining their obligation to provide services in the French language.

Be it further resolved that:

Alliance Quebec monitor the application of employment-related articles of Chapter 4 of The Charter of the French Language.

- 6.2 WHEREAS Section 20 of The Charter of the French Language allows for flexibility in the evaluation of language competence;

WHEREAS the OLF is insisting upon testing as the only means of evaluation;

WHEREAS it is vital that the English-language institutions maintain the principle of autonomy in their hiring, promoting and transferring practices;

WHEREAS the application of Section 20 is a direct interference with our community's institutions:

Be it resolved that:

- a) French language testing under Section 20 be abolished;
- b) evaluation be entrusted to the institutions involved;
- c) appropriate means of evaluation be developed;
- d) affected institutions coordinate their efforts to this end.

7. Quebec English-speaking students should have access to employment and career planning information that will assist them to meet the challenges of the Quebec job market.

A serious dearth of information on job opportunities available for English-speaking graduates in Quebec is having a detrimental effect on Quebec's English-speaking youth. Clearly, it is necessary that the

community produce qualified bilingual graduates and provide them with the information and counselling support to encourage them to consider Quebec as their first choice for job seeking.

7.1 Recommendations:

WHEREAS there is a lack of up-to-date career counselling information;

WHEREAS recruiters have not always devoted a fair and sufficient amount of attention to graduates of English institutions;

WHEREAS much of our youth has had the tendency to look "west" for employment;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the government of Quebec immediately institute a programme of public information specifically aimed at English-speaking youth designed to inform them of the job opportunities available in Quebec and to make them feel welcome in their home province;
- b) Alliance Quebec support the government efforts, for example, through the distribution of the Employment Opportunities Development Package.

III. E D U C A T I O N

III. EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

Every community relies on its schools to prepare its young people to take their rightful place in the larger society. In this history of our community, it is common to find that the school was the first institution established, even before a church or hospital was built. Therefore, the issues of access, control, quality, quantity and relevance to society's needs were, and continue to be, critical to the community's survival.

The English-speaking community in Quebec has always been concerned with access to quality schooling. Arising out of the essential parental responsibility to educate the children, the community has built a network of schools, colleges and universities to serve its needs. Naturally, the community expects that this system will be able to attract English-speaking people from other parts of Canada and the world as one of the benefits of living in Quebec.

Traditionally, English-speaking parents and community leaders have been directly involved in the control and development of their schools, post-secondary and continuing education institutions. Out of this tradition has come a system that prizes consultation and flexibility in responding to community wishes. This inherent flexibility has resulted in a structure that accommodates itself to the community. The belief that structures must adjust to the people, and not the reverse, is at the heart of the custom.

While remaining open to dialogue, the community has become increasingly concerned with massive changes being undertaken in Quebec's educational system. The tendency to ever-increasing centralization of power and to structural revision has left the community fearful that its needs will not be met. The essential element is clearly identified: the English-speaking community must regain control over the structure, staffing,

curriculum, support services and budgets affecting their schools. Naturally, this control must be exercised within the context of the common needs of all citizens of Quebec.

Post-secondary and continuing education are equally important to the development and flourishing of the English-speaking population in Quebec. The implementation of a quality network of collegial institutions has got to be completed for English-speaking Quebecers. Some locales still struggle for adequate facilities and services. Each of the universities serving the English-speaking population has responded with a unique blend of cultural, academic and technological studies. This development has not only served the English-speaking population but, indeed, the entire society. As adult education becomes increasingly important, it is critical that the community receive its fair share of the resources and control those programmes.

As the two linguistic communities within Quebec increasingly interact, the need for effective instruction in French as a second language has risen dramatically. Educational institutions have responded with a multitude of locally developed programmes. However, a comprehensive examination must be initiated with the view to ensuring that all English-speaking citizens, from pre-school age to senior citizen, have access to adequate training in French.

The uniqueness of Quebec allows for the recognition of the value of cultural co-existence. The English-speaking community recognizes the need to adapt its educational institutions. In order to remain a confident partner in Quebec society and to contribute the strength of our children, however, the English-speaking community must have a school system designed with its unique needs in mind. The educational system of tomorrow's Quebec can yet become the motor for all citizens to be full participants in our society.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

1. Access to quality English-language schooling.
2. Control and maintenance of elementary and secondary education systems.
3. Access to French-language acquisition opportunities.
4. Access to, control and management of, quality collegiate education.
5. Access to, control and management of, quality university education.
6. Need for adequate adult education services.

1. Access to quality English-language schooling.

1.1 Recommendations:

WHEREAS the English-speaking community has built and maintained its school system;

WHEREAS the quality of the education of the young has been of primary importance to the community;

WHEREAS the mobility of the English-speaking community to and from other Canadian provinces has been a feature of its behaviour and whereas this mobility has been to the benefit of the English-speaking community and of Quebec society in general;

WHEREAS the economy of the province would be greatly aided by accepting immigration from other English-speaking societies and that immigration from such societies is now, and is likely to remain, of such a scope as to be no threat to the French character or culture of Quebec;

WHEREAS the principle of popular education supported at the public expense is and has been widely accepted by the English-speaking community and by Quebecers in general;

WHEREAS parents, by virtue of their individual rights are the primary educators of their children, we are therefore committed to a system of education for the English-speaking community which:

- a) respects the moral and cultural values of those parents;
- b) contributes to the fulfillment of the intentions of those parents concerning the education of their children;
- c) children are guaranteed facilities and a high quality of primary and secondary education in either French and English accompanied by effective training in the second language;

Be it resolved that:

- a) members of the English-speaking community have access to English schools. This community would be made up of individuals:
1. who have English as a mother tongue, or
 2. who had at least one parent who received some English education anywhere, or
 3. who received some English education anywhere,

and further that:

any persons who came to Quebec prior to August 26, 1977 be entitled to select English schooling for themselves or their children;

- b) that pending any possible extension of access to English schools, Alliance Quebec strive to see that every resident of Quebec receives his full educational rights as authorized in the Constitution Act of 1982 and the previous Constitutional Acts.

2. Control and management of educational system2.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS the right of a community to control and manage its own educational institutions is vital to the quality and cultural content of the education available to its young;

WHEREAS the right to control and manage its own educational institutions is vital to the survival of a community;

WHEREAS Section 93 of the British North America Act guaranteeing confessional education was intended to protect the right to schooling of both the English and French-speaking communities;

WHEREAS there have been indications that these rights and practices may soon be threatened;

WHEREAS approximately 50% of the English community's student enrollment is in Catholic schools and consequently does not enjoy control and management of its education system;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the English-speaking community's approach to the educational system be guided by the following principles:
 1. it is preferable that education be organized along linguistic rather than religious lines;
 2. there must be adequate and effective Canadian Constitutional guarantees for confessionality;
 3. there must be adequate and effective guarantees that control and management of our permanent facilities and our educational system be in the hands of our community;
 4. boards of an English-speaking character democratically elected by universal suffrage, with power over school curricula exercised within overall provincial parameters, must exist between the government and the English schools;
- b) a constitutional guarantee be sought for the control and management of their school systems by the English community within Quebec and by the French-speaking minorities outside Quebec;
- c) the English-speaking community not accept any plan for restructuring education in the province of Quebec that would have the effect of reducing access to, control and management of and the quality of English education for English-speaking Quebecers;

- d) the English-speaking community not accept any plan for restructuring education in the province of Quebec that, directly or indirectly, would have the effect of further centralizing the education system and conferring more power on the Minister of Education and the government of Quebec;
- e) in the event of any attempt to diminish the English-speaking community's current control and management of its school systems, the community actively seek to prevent this diminution by challenging the constitutionality of the attempt by invoking the confessional guarantee under Section 93 of the British North America Act.
- f) that Alliance Quebec immediately request the government of Canada to put a reference case before the Supreme Court of Canada to determine the question of rights or privileges in education in the Provinces of Canada and, without limiting the foregoing, determine what rights or privileges affecting education are guaranteed in Section 93 of the British North America Act of 1867 and the subsequent Acts of Union and Sections 23 and 58 of the Constitution Act of 1982.
- g) that Alliance Quebec seek to improve the school board electoral process to encourage greater voter participation.

The Plenary Session of the Founding Convention of Alliance Quebec decided, by resolution, to adopt the preceding resolution as a whole and therefore, the different elements should not be considered in isolation.

3. Access to French-language acquisition opportunities

It is evidently to the advantage of all Quebecers that as many English-speaking members of the community learn French as possible. This means that opportunities must be found to give anyone whose French is not adequate the support he or she needs to improve his or her French.

Classroom teaching is only one of the methods that are effective. Contact with French-speaking people in social and work situations can be vital.

Responsibility for improving its language skills lies not only with the English-speaking community but also with the provincial government which has established a wide-ranging system of laws and regulations restricting access of English-speaking people to the job market. It therefore has a clear responsibility to devote the necessary resources to support the efforts of the English-speaking people to acquire the French skills they need.

3.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS the acquisition of French competence sufficient to work and participate as a citizen is essential to the survival of Quebec's English-speaking community;

WHEREAS the ways and means of developing French language skills are many and various and include learning of a skill, practice of that skill and use of the skill in every day situations;

WHEREAS the age of the learner of French as a second language will range from preschooler to senior adult;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the government of Quebec facilitate and assist in providing ways and means of acquiring French language skills appropriate to full participation in the work place and see that these opportunities are available to all Quebecers of whatever age and length of residency in Quebec;

- b) the community and our schools with the support and assistance of the government of Quebec ensure that students graduating from English schools in Quebec have a real working knowledge of French and, therefore, be exempt from any further French testing in order to work in this province (for further detail, see the Recommendation under 4. in Employment section, page 12).
- c) the Ministry of Education must allow school boards the curriculum flexibility to ensure that the level of French be improved;
- d) the Ministry of Education favor the inclusion of opportunities (including outside of classroom opportunities) to use and practice French language skills as bona fide activities of the school at all levels;
- e) the Ministry of Education assure to English-speaking adult learners and high school drop-outs the opportunities to learn the French they may need for their daily lives and in their employment.

4. Access to, control and management of, quality collegiate education

4.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS collegiate training is a vital element in the educational process as it has evolved in Quebec;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community has not always been well served in respect of allocation of resources in this sector, notable in the physical facility and the autonomy of Heritage Campus in Hull;

WHEREAS the principle of open access of all Quebecers to collegiate education in either English or French does not threaten the survival of the French language and enhances the opportunities available to all Quebecers;

WHEREAS the abovementioned principle was compromised by the CEGEP de l'Outaouais' rule in effect from 1972 - 81 depriving French-speaking applicants of access to its Heritage Campus;

WHEREAS in order to serve the needs and reflect the character of the English-speaking community, English colleges must be directed by boards that are drawn from that community and in order to properly serve their English-speaking students, French majority CEGEPs dispensing instruction in English (ex. Outaouais, Gaspé) must have English-speaking representatives on their boards.

Be it resolved that:

- a) adequate English collegiate services be provided for the population throughout Quebec by members of the English-speaking community and the system of English CEGEPs be fairly treated and provided with the resources necessary to function properly;
 - b) the principle of open access for all qualified Quebecers to both English and French language collegiate systems be adhered to and that this right be guaranteed in law;
 - c) the English-speaking community be proportionately represented on the boards of CEGEPs which serve the English-speaking community.
5. Access to, control and management of, quality university education.

Each of Quebec's three English-language universities has a particular "educational project" and style of operation; this variety is necessary to meet the needs of the heterogeneous community that is English Quebec. It is important that Quebec universities' research and teaching be complementary. In order to ensure the maximum benefit for the province of Quebec, there must be a high degree of co-ordination among them.

5.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS the English-speaking community has held university education to be of great value and importance;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community has devoted a great deal of resources to the development of universities;

WHEREAS these institutions are of great value to Quebec as a whole;

WHEREAS the current open access of all qualified Quebecers to university is clearly to the advantage of both language communities;

WHEREAS the control and management of universities does and should rest with the community from which they emerged and which they primarily serve;

WHEREAS the mixing of Canadian and international students is of mutual benefit to both groups of students and to the societies they come from;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the control and management of English universities continue to rest with the English-speaking community;
- b) that open access to all Quebec universities of qualified applicants never be impeded;
- c) the Quebec government in its funding of universities accept the need of a reasonable admixture of foreign students with particular concern for those coming from the third world.

6. Need for adequate adult education services.

Adult education programmes exist to offer job training and interest courses to the individual and animation programmes to meet the needs of the community. This is difficult enough in the greater Montreal area, but outside of the metropolitan region it means doing more with less; off-island school systems are the primary, if not the only, purveyors of English culture, yet they have to serve a far-flung, thinly-spread population with the same teacher-student ratios for adult education as in the metropolitan areas. Clearly, they need extra resources to bring the arts to their communities and to help the people in those communities to organize to meet their own needs as seniors, youth, tenants, single-parent families or whatever. Furthermore, the teacher-student norms must be applied flexibly enough that classes can be organized to meet the needs of people in these areas.

6.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS education should be a lifelong process;

WHEREAS participating in this process is particularly difficult for English-speaking Quebecers outside greater Montreal;

WHEREAS these people have as great a need for courses and cultural and social action programmes as the rest of Quebec's English-speaking people;

WHEREAS the best way of guaranteeing that their needs will be met it to ensure their communities involvement in the agencies which provide adult education services;

Be it resolved that:

- a) English-speaking adults, wherever they may live, have access in their region to adult education services in English, including correspondence courses, for job-skill acquisition and retraining, for the enjoyment of culture and media in English, and for social action programmes that respond to the particular needs of their communities;
- b) English-speaking people be represented on the boards and the staff of the agencies and institutions which control the delivery of adult education services in English;
- c) adequate adult education services be provided for students who have been educated in special schools and Ministry of Social Affairs institutions.

IV. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

IV. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Since the early 1970's Quebec society has had access to a universal health and social service system which guarantees not only the individual's right to service but also to service from the institution of his choice. A series of major laws such as Bill 65, an act respecting health and social services, Bill 24, the Youth Protection Act and Bill 27, an act modifying health and social services legislation, have significantly alternated the expectations, involvement and roles of the government, the professionals and the beneficiaries. New establishments such as local community service centres have been developed and access to quality care have been broadened and equalized throughout the province.

Such major achievements have not been accomplished without difficulty for all parties concerned. The Ministry of Social Affairs spends more than 30% of the province's budget, it oversees more than 1,200 institutions, its services, legislation and policies touch the lives of all Quebecers from the moment of birth on.

The English-speaking communities of Quebec have throughout the history of the province, developed, maintained and nurtured a variety of health and social service institutions to meet the needs of their populations. Often viewed as models for other communities, these services have contributed to the development of the health and social service network within Quebec today. Such institutions or organizations as the Golden Age Associations, the Montreal Childrens' Hospital, and the MacKay Centre are all the products of dedicated professionals and community members who provide care and support to those in need. Throughout the years, such institutions have been a reflection to the English-speaking community's vitality. The

English-speaking community has greatly maintained and fostered its identification with health and social service institutions network which it traditionally developed and used. The institutions themselves share this identity and tradition with its community.

While today it is obviously impossible for any publicly funded health or social service institution to remain exclusively English-speaking in character, the English-speaking community must continue to have access to quality health and social services in English. Through these institutions, the English-speaking community must continue to participate in the ongoing, although restrained, development of the greater health and social service network.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

1. Access to services.
2. Acknowledgement of existence of English sub-networks.
3. Access to health services.
4. Access to social services.
5. Planning and policy making health and social services.

1. Access to services.

1.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS Quebec society has developed a universal, public and free health and social service system;

WHEREAS the spirit since the 1970's of health and social service reforms affirms the individual's right to services from the institution of his choice;

WHEREAS language is a fundamental tool in the delivery of health and social services;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the Quebec government guarantee and ensure the rights of all Quebecers to have access and to receive health and social services in English and French, and, whenever possible, in any other language;
- b) the Quebec government reaffirm, guarantee and ensure the rights of all Quebecers to have access and to receive health and social services from institutions of their choice, when this does not compromise the quality of their care.

2. Acknowledgement of the existence of English sub-network.

2.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS Quebec health and social service legislation promotes the close involvement of the institutions with their communities;

WHEREAS legislation and practice promote and recognize the importance of community participation in health and social service institutions;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community has developed and supported a large number of health and social service institutions which are linked to this community and each other by contractual, traditional and usage ties;

Be it resolved that:

the Quebec government acknowledge and assure the existence of an English-speaking network within the greater Ministry of Social Affairs (MAS) network of health and social services, and:

- a) that it ensure the development of such a network within guidelines jointly established by itself, the English-speaking community, its institutions and all other public institutions serving English-speaking people;
- b) that it acknowledge, assure, foster and guarantee the role of the English-speaking community in providing leadership to its health and social service institutions;
- c) that it use ministerial authority at all opportunities to ensure representation by the English-speaking community specifically in appointments to boards of directors, not only of English institutions, but also of all other public institutions serving English-speaking people to reflect interest in and concern for the clients and institutions rather than political orientation;
- d) that institutions of an English linguistic nature which have traditionally been a network of sources of health and social services in providing continuity of care and protection, continue their traditional relationships beyond territorial or sectoral boundaries;

- e) that the MAS take necessary action to ensure that English language services are developed and maintained where required by an English-speaking clientele.

Be it further resolved that:

the English-speaking communities of Quebec promote, encourage and facilitate the participation of English-speaking representatives on boards and committees within the health and social service public network throughout Quebec.

3. Access to adequate health services.

3.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS any legislation modifying the spirit of Quebec's recent health reforms touches the lives of all individuals;

WHEREAS health institutions such as hospitals remain primary resources for the delivery of health and social service care;

WHEREAS major legislative changes are not immediately reflected in spontaneous changes in the population's attitudes or habits;

WHEREAS there must be consultation between the Quebec government and the English community;

WHEREAS The Charter of the French Language disallows the posting of information in the English language;

Be it resolved that the Quebec government:

- a) take all necessary measures to communicate with the English-speaking community on a continuing basis to explain and clarify its modifications, decrees, legislation, policies and regulations;
- b) the Quebec government automatically make available and distribute all communication tools explaining its available services and network of resources in English as well as in French;
- c) the Quebec government consult both with the English-speaking institutions and its community through representatives designated by them prior to modifying existing legislation, regulation and/or policy in any way that affects the delivery of services to people.

3.2 WHEREAS the Ministry of Social Affairs consumes more than 30% of the government's annual budget;

WHEREAS restructuring of services due to budgetary restraints is a continuing reality;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community is faced with a possible erosion of its health services.

Be it resolved that:

- a) the Quebec government make the legislative amendments necessary to allow English-speaking community institutions to serve properly their clientele in their own language;
- b) Section 113F of The Charter of the French Language be amended to allow continued legal existence of these institutions of an English linguistic character;

- c) these institutions be permitted to retain their present linguistic character through continuing to communicate internally in English as well as in French while assuring services in both languages;
 - d) all legislation impeding the recruitment and selection of persons able to practice their profession or perform their job function within the health field and using the English language be removed.
- 3.4 WHEREAS Bill 27 restricts access to Quebec research funds by non-franco-phone health professionals;

Be it resolved that:

the Quebec government remove all barriers to allocation of research funds on a linguistic basis.

4. Access to social services.

4.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS health and social service legislation guarantees the individual access to the institutions of his choice;

WHEREAS English-speaking communities outside region 6-A (Greater Montreal) have limited or no access to social services in English;

WHEREAS both professionals and governments recognize the critical nature of language and milieu as a mechanism of therapeutic intervention;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the Quebec government, in co-operation with the community and its institutions redress immediately this problem by encouraging the staffing of CLSCs, CSSs, and DSCs with professionals of English-language capabilities and knowledge of the milieu in areas of Quebec where English-speaking populations exist. Where requirements for more specialized psycho-social services or reception centre treatment services are required, region 6-A (English-speaking network) should provide these required services when requested so that by means of an inter-regional agreement, the English-speaking network in region 6-A is given financial recognition by the Ministry of Social Affairs;
- b) the Quebec government encourage the development of inter-regional service contracts to assure access to English-speaking social services to communities outside region 6-A.

4.2 WHEREAS administrative structures have been developed which link the Ministry, the institutions and the community called Regional Councils for Health and Social Services (CRSSSs);

WHEREAS the government has discontinued the completion of the planned CLSC network, especially in region 6-A (Greater Montreal);

WHEREAS in region 6-A as throughout the province, greater budgetary restraints have been imposed upon all institutions of the network other than CLSC's;

WHEREAS institutions such as CSS's and DSC's have been instructed to transfer personnel to the CLSC's region 6-A;

Be it resolved that:

- a) within existing budgetary constraints, the Quebec government continue to develop the network of CLSCs and other appropriate means of service provision, especially in the west-end of region 6-A and regions 6C, 01, and 6:
- b) this development not be done at the expense of existing institutions such as CSS's;
- c) the English-speaking community participate with the government in the development of such community-based organizations as CLSC's.

5. Planning and policy making Health and Social Services.5.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS administrative structures have been developed which link the Ministry, the institutions and the community;

WHEREAS the Regional Councils of Health and Social Services are mandated to co-ordinate budgetary and service planning procedures;

WHEREAS the powers ascribed to these Regional Councils have been increased repeatedly not through a legislative process but through orders in Council;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the Quebec government assure that the Regional Council's Board of Directors and all administrative and consultative structures reflect the linguistic composition of its region and ensure that there is English-speaking representation on the boards of all

institutions serving English-speaking people to make for the broadest community participation;

- b) the Regional Councils use all means available to communicate their mandates, powers and available resources to the English-speaking communities in their region;
- c) the Regional Councils mandate, within each of their departments, liaison officers (especially in communication and community services) to work with the English-speaking communities in their regions.

5.2 WHEREAS all policy decisions affect the operation of Health and Social Service institutions and community life in general;

WHEREAS there exists a significant under-representation of English-speaking people within the Ministry of Social Affairs itself;

Be it resolved that:

the Ministry of Social Affairs, in consultation with the English-speaking community and its Health and Social Service institutions, undertake to increase the number of English-speaking employees at all levels of the Ministry.

V. CULTURE & MEDIA OF MASS COMMUNICATION

V. CULTURE AND MEDIA OF MASS COMMUNICATION

INTRODUCTION

Culture is what makes a people distinct and creates a cultural identity. Language is an integral part of a peoples' culture and identity. With its long tradition of cultural diversity, the English-speaking community in Quebec has developed a rich heritage deriving from many sources. This blending and overlapping of cultures has resulted in a unique character which is reflected in its architecture, place names and the establishment of cultural and social institutions. The diverse number of cultural institutions - theatres, music, literary and historical societies, libraries, museums - and the development of an educational system, health and social services and church support groups are expressions of this cultural identity.

In many respects, the historical, cultural and institutional framework in which the English-speaking community exists is peculiar to Quebec. While this community has cultural ties with the rest of Canada and the English-speaking world, it remains culturally distinct, shaped largely by the "bi-cultural" reality of Quebec's history. Thus its expression, perspectives, orientation and needs are often different from those of English-speaking Canada as a whole. Furthermore, the English-speaking community in Quebec is marked by distinct "city" and "rural" cultural perspectives, each with different needs and concerns. The English-speaking community rejects the notion that there is only one culture in Quebec and that culture ought to be primarily defined and shaped by government policy. This is particularly important in the domain of libraries, museums and theatres.

The notion that "collective" culture can or ought to be exclusively defined and shaped by government policy is alien to the English-speaking community. Its tradition of individual involvement and private support

for cultural, educational and religious institutions leads it to view government participation with a mixture of apprehension and resistance.

For example, the very real fear to this community of losing its school boards as a result of proposed legislation shows the extent to which the English-speaking community sees educational institutions as having a role beyond a purely educational one.

Commendable private initiative has given both the on- and off-island English-speaking population cultural programmes and facilities which have served the community well for decades. Indeed, these were developed long before government considered it either necessary or advisable to involve itself in these fields. The time has come to encourage the groups involved with these programmes and facilities to take advantage of the considerable resources available through a variety of government services.

The English-speaking community believes that local cultural organizations should continue to be autonomous and that government and regional bodies should exist to give support. Therefore, it believes that the government must act as a supporter, rather than a director, of cultural institutions and their affiliated organizations and structures.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

1. Necessity to protect and support cultural institutions.
2. Necessity to support universities in their cultural role.
3. Need for adequate media services.
4. Need to support cultural industries.
5. Right to use the English language in all phases of life.

1. Necessity to protect and support cultural institutions.

All levels of government should give equitable treatment to the English-speaking community in respect of financial support for cultural activities and institutions. If, as we insist, the English-speaking community has a legitimate place in Quebec cultural life, it must be adequately represented on government cultural funding boards and regulatory commissions.

1.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS Quebecers enjoy a variety of cultural institutions that have been developed and supported by members of all language groups in Quebec;

WHEREAS among other cultural institutions, theatre organizations, museums, libraries and historical societies depend in large measure on government funding or subsidization for their continued survival;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community of Quebec should continue to be encouraged to support Quebec's cultural institutions both those that transcend language barriers (eg. the MMFA, the MSO), and those connected with English-language culture (English theatres, historical societies and libraries);

WHEREAS a framework of support should be maintained for artists and writers since Quebec society is enhanced by the development of aesthetic and cultural expression of its members, whatever the language of expression;

Be it resolved that:

- a) both the federal and provincial governments and community support and encouragement be given to the continued presence in Quebec of national cultural institutions (e.g. the National Film Board, the CBC, the National Theatre School, etc.);
- b) public and semi-public institutions such as museums, galleries and orchestral groups, and government agencies, cultural councils and historical commissions have substantial representation on their boards and in their organization from the English-speaking community;
- c) the cultural institutions of the province of Quebec be encouraged to communicate in at least the English and French languages to encourage support and participation from all of its audience;
- d) the provisions of The Charter of the French Language relating to the language of advertising and publications not apply to cultural activities in Quebec;
- e) consideration be given to the creation of a cultural inventory to facilitate access to information on sources of funding, available resources, and English-speaking cultural centres in the province;
- f) federal and provincial governments and the community support existing and developing English-speaking theatre and other cultural activities in the province;
- g) the Quebec government be called upon to expressly commit itself to the protection and development of the cultures of the non-francophones of Quebec.

2. Necessity to support universities in their cultural role.

2.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS post-secondary institutions in Quebec provide, apart from their educational function, a rich source and variety of individual artistic expression in many media;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community has created, through its post-secondary institutions, an institutional framework for providing cultural services to the public in both language groups, including theatre, music and museums;

WHEREAS these cultural services to the community and to Quebec society have been inhibited by lack of funding as education budgets are cut back (eg. McGill's Redpath museum, now closed to the public, which houses a fine natural history collection);

Be it resolved that:

- a) post-secondary institutions continue to be supported by the community in their cultural role;
- b) governments at both levels recognize the opportunities for cultural development provided by the existing institutional framework in the post-secondary institutions. In practical terms, this recognition should mean government funding from its cultural affairs budgets of the various post-secondary institutions, theatre, music and museum projects.

3. Need for adequate information and media services.

3.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS it is a clear obligation on the part of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to provide adequate and appropriate television and radio broadcasting services to the French and English-speaking communities throughout Quebec;

WHEREAS Radio-Québec is supported by tax dollars of all Quebecers and therefore it should provide facilities and opportunities for English language programming;

WHEREAS the Quebec government has expressed its intention to prohibit the distribution in Quebec of English language Pay T.V. programmes by organizations which have not previously made available such services in the French language;

WHEREAS Radio-Québec should provide facilities and opportunity for English language programming and broadcasting by English-speaking community groups throughout Quebec but has heretofore broadcast almost exclusively in French;

WHEREAS both levels of government and their regulatory agencies should acknowledge their particular responsibilities vis à vis off-island and rural English-speaking communities in Quebec;

WHEREAS local English-language newspapers throughout Quebec provide a continuing local source of information to their audience and merit government support;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the CBC maintain its English-language services throughout Quebec and improve its services to English-speaking communities off the island of Montreal, broadcasting a full-time Quebec-based service;
- b) Radio-Québec give more encouragement to English-speaking community groups in developing community media at the local level in English;
- c) support and encouragement be given by all levels of government and their regulatory agencies for the development of local cable systems and other new broadcast technology at the local level;
- d) all levels of government give active support to local English-language newspapers throughout the province by, among other things, advertising in English papers in the English language;
- e) the newspapers of Quebec be encouraged to provide a comprehensive approach to the issues (culture, language and economics) that are of concern to the English-speaking communities;
- f) the Quebec government refrain from any action that would restrict the availability of English language Pay T.V. in this province.

3.1 WHEREAS government information about services and programmes offered by the various ministries, boards and commissions or government organizations is indispensable to the furtherance and development of many of the cultural activities and institutions of the English-speaking community;

Be it resolved that:

Communication-Québec and other information agencies of the government of Quebec ensure the dissemination of current information from all government departments to the English-speaking community in the English language in order that its members may benefit fully and equitably from government programmes.

4. Need to support cultural industries.

4.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS Quebec enjoys broadcasting, motion picture, cinema recording, book publishing and marketing industries that provide services to both language groups and economic support for Quebec artists;

WHEREAS the Société de financement des arts (SOFIA) is a government agency designed to aid and promote Quebecois literary creativity and provide subsidies to authors, and

WHEREAS the Société de développement des industries culturelles (SODIC) is a government agency designed to aid and promote Quebecois graphic arts, book and periodical publishing, distribution and bookstores and audio-visual arts;

WHEREAS these agencies discriminate in favour of French language companies, authors and artists of Quebecois origin and totally ignore the promotion of other Quebecois linguistic cultural creativity, publishing, distribution, bookstores and visual arts;

WHEREAS the Institut Québécois du cinéma provides loans and investments to French language Quebecois filmmakers but has a stated policy not to provide assistance to English language Quebecois filmmakers;

Be it resolved that:

- a) English-speaking Quebecers be ensured fair and equal access to Quebec government funding programmes for the promotion and development of cultural industries and that government agencies such as the Société Québécoise du développement des industries culturelles have adequate representation on their boards from the English-speaking community

- b) any financial assistance, loans and guarantees be made to any and all linguistic communities in the province that request it, where allocations are made on a pro-rata basis, consistent with the size of the linguistic communities;
 - c) the Quebec government withdraw from its proposed legislation respecting the cinema, any and all provisions which directly or indirectly preclude, restrict, deny, inhibit, or otherwise discourage the access to, or availability of films, the original versions of which are not in French;
 - d) that the Institut Québécois du cinéma provide financial assistance to English language Quebecois filmmakers on a non-discriminatory proportionate basis.
- 4.2 WHEREAS Bill 51 establishes retail prices for imported books and periodicals in terms of prevailing currency exchange rates and published prices in the country of origin;

WHEREAS Bill 51 does not take cognizance of purchase margins, thus eliminating many books that do not offer sufficient purchasing discounts to permit importation and distribution;

WHEREAS Bill 51 obliges schools and libraries to make all purchases exclusively from government accredited bookstores at retail prices;

WHEREAS Bill 51 eliminates previous government rebates to said institutions;

WHEREAS Bill 51 tends to increase the net cost of books to the institutions;

Be it resolved that:

Bill 51 be abrogated thus eliminating price control and re-establishing free competition in the sale of books to these institutions.

5. Right to use the English language in all phases of life.

With respect to the language of signs, the visible presence of the English-speaking community is vital to its acceptance as a full participant in the cultural life of Quebec. Government must not discourage or prevent evidence of the English-speaking presence from manifesting itself, even in a legitimate attempt to promote the French language.

5.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS the English-speaking community has participated fully in the life of this province for 200 years and contributed considerably to its economy, culture, etc.;

WHEREAS the use of other languages on signs when French must be used by law would present no threat to the French language or culture;

WHEREAS Section 58 and other sign provisions of The Charter of the French Language represent a denial of the cosmopolitan character of the city of Montreal and a unilateral abrogation of a social contract in effect in Quebec for more than 200 years;

Be it resolved that:

- a) in Section 58 of The Charter of the French Language the word "solely" be omitted and that all other provisions of the law which regulates the language of signs be amended to allow signs to be posted in French as well as other languages;
- b) the term "commercial advertising" in Section 58 of The Charter of the French Language be defined as being limited to public commercial advertising within the province of Quebec.

VI. GOVERNMENT SERVICES

VI. GOVERNMENT SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

When the government of Quebec wants to ensure its revenue from the pocketbooks of Quebecers, it finds the means to provide services and information in English and French. However, in almost all other cases it has been reluctant to communicate with the English-speaking population in English. There is the example of the English licence forms. For a government which has strongly and vigorously adopted the legal argument of acquired rights in defending its own position before the courts of Canada, it pays lip service to the rights of the English-speaking population of Quebec. The stated goals of Communications-Québec and of the government in its "action plan for the Cultural Communities" (March 4, 1981) must be translated into positive action. The language of work is primarily French; providing government services and information in English does not negate that reality. It merely responds to the presence and legitimate existence of an English-speaking population in Quebec. Furthermore, it is unacceptable that the elderly, who are amongst those who require the greatest government assistance, should be the most penalized.

A major step in providing adequate services and information in English is proper representation of the English-speaking population on government agencies and in the civil service. In health and social services, those dealing with the public must have a knowledge and a genuine understanding of the people they serve.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

1. The right of Quebecers to receive government services in French or English and the constitutional entrenchment of this right.
2. The right of English-speaking Quebecers to just and fair representation in the civil services of the federal government (Quebec region), the provincial government and municipal governments.
3. The right to provincial and municipal laws, regulations and court proceedings in English as well as in French.
4. That any reorganization of municipal or county administration (eg. MRCs) accommodate the traditional boundaries of Quebec's English-speaking communities.
5. That needless government spending on unnecessary language-related areas be stopped.
6. That for hearings under the Youth Protection Act, there be English-speaking lawyers available and that the written judgments be simultaneously available in English and in French.

1. The right of Quebecers to receive government services in French or English and the constitutional entrenchment of this right.

1.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS a substantial proportion of the population of Quebec uses English as its language of communications;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community in Quebec has contributed immensely to the patrimony of Quebec;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Revenue of Quebec and Loto-Québec have always found the means to provide information and services in French and in English;

WHEREAS it is a recognized objective of the Quebec government to provide government information and services in a language understood by the persons it serves;

WHEREAS the English-speaking population of Quebec has a moral and historical right to government grants and programmes because the English version of the information concerning them often arrives too late to permit application;

WHEREAS The Charter of the French Language provides for the right for individuals to receive communication from the Quebec government in English, and

WHEREAS this government and other public bodies have repeatedly failed to uphold this right, instead issuing documents only in the French language, withdrawing previously available bilingual documentation and providing obstacles to individuals attempting to exercise this right;

Be it resolved that:

- a) all federal and provincial government services and information be available in French and in English;
- b) where demand exists, municipal services and information be available in French and in English;
- c) whenever a government department or agency advertises, it do so in the language of the medium;
- d) all government programmes be announced simultaneously in English as well as in French;
- e)
 - i. Resolutions a) to d) above be immediately brought to the attention of the three levels of government involved;
 - ii. Alliance Quebec and its member groups monitor the implementation of these recommendations by the three levels of government;
 - iii. for any government departments or agencies which have neither implemented them nor shown any good will towards implementing them by December 31, 1982, a strategy be developed for pressuring them to do so.

2. The right of English-speaking Quebecers to just and fair representation in the civil services of the federal government (Quebec region), the provincial government and municipal governments.

2.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS a substantial proportion of the population of Quebec is English-speaking;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community has a legitimate right to exist and survive in Quebec;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community is grossly under-represented in the civil services and on government agencies serving the people of Quebec;

WHEREAS the public and parapublic institutions cannot be sensitive to the needs of the people they serve unless representatives of those people participate in the formulation of policy and in the dispensing of services;

Be it resolved that:

- a) every government board, commission and agency, public or parapublic, federal, provincial and municipal, have an equitable representation of members from both the French and English-speaking communities;
- b) both the French and English-speaking communities have a fair and just representation in the federal, provincial and municipal civil services.

3. The right to provincial and municipal laws, regulations and court proceedings in English as well as in French.

3.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS Chapter 3 of The Charter of the French Language, which stipulates that all Quebec laws and regulations be adopted only in the French language, has been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada;

WHEREAS despite this ruling, not all Quebec laws and regulations are available in the English language at the same time as those in the French language;

WHEREAS despite this ruling, the right of the English-speaking defendants and plaintiffs to have court proceedings conducted in English and to have an English translation of testimony and judgment given in French is not always respected;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the texts of all Quebec laws and regulations be available to the population in both English and French simultaneously;
- b) English-speaking defendants and plaintiffs be able in practice to have court proceedings conducted in English and to have an English translation of testimony given in French.

4. That any reorganization of municipal or county administration (eg. MRCs) accommodate the traditional boundaries of Quebec's English-speaking communities.

4.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS the creation of MRCs (Regional County Municipalities) removes the effective control of English-speaking institutions by English-speaking Quebecers;

WHEREAS the process of consultation leading to the establishment of the MRCs, although very extensive, did not involve or meet the needs of the English-speaking communities;

WHEREAS the creation of MRCs was to handle problems of land use, garbage disposal, tax bases, etc., it seems likely that these same boundaries will be used in School Board Restructuring plans and Health and Social Service reorganization and that this would adversely affect the English-speaking communities;

Be it resolved that:

in as much as the MRC boundaries would affect the well-being of the English-speaking community in Quebec, the government reopen consultation with this community before proceeding to make any changes which would affect its institutions.

5. That needless government spending on unnecessary language-related areas be stopped.

5.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS we are in a situation of great economic stress which requires much more careful administration of public administration and public sector finances;

Be it resolved that:

we denounce the wasting of the Quebec taxpayers' money on programmes directed against our community at no advantage to the French-speaking majority: eg. the replacing of STOP signs with ARRÊT signs.

6. That for hearings under the Youth Protection Act, there be English-speaking lawyers available in Aide juridique cases and that the written judgments be simultaneously available in English and in French.

6.1 Recommendations

WHEREAS in the Youth Protection Court there is a significant percentage of those facing trial for delinquency matters or are heard for protection matters whose mother tongue is English;

WHEREAS although private lawyers are available, in reality 90% of the families of these young offenders use legal aid lawyers;

WHEREAS there are no English-speaking lawyers on the Aide juridique staff;

WHEREAS the francophone bilingual staff are more comfortable pleading in their mother tongue;

Be it resolved that:

- a) the Legal Aid Service and the Crown Prosecutor's office hire English-speaking staff;
- b) the text of all written judgments rendered through the court be simultaneously available in English as well as in French and this, at the cost of the court. This is not a privilege but a matter of right for equitable service.

VII. CONCLUSION

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In what was widely acclaimed as an historic moment, not just for English-speaking Quebecers but for all of Quebec society, Alliance Quebec held its founding convention for three days in May 1982. For the first time in the history of the English-speaking community of Quebec, elected delegates from its major institutions, and from the Gaspé to the Outaouais, gathered together to elect the leadership of a province-wide organization and to hammer out the policy contained within these pages.

Guided by the conviction that the English and French-speaking communities of Quebec can continue to thrive and prosper without diminishing each other, the delegates engaged in a demanding process of discussion and compromise from which a consensus ultimately emerged. It was stated at the outset that Quebec is our home, and the clear message emanating from the convention was that it is time that Quebecers joined together to create internal order and harmony in that home so that they can meet the challenge of using Quebec's unique human and material resources to achieve prosperity for the entire society.

We are convinced that after the protracted and arduous debate over language issues which has preoccupied the province for so long, Quebecers may finally be on the verge of a consensus. We remain committed to ensuring that the French language and culture survive and flourish. We are convinced that we are dealing with goals that are common to both communities, and we believe that as a society we can meet the challenge. Quebec society has changed dramatically in a very short time, and we, as English-speaking Quebecers, are determined to stay, to preserve our institutions, to help our community grow and to continue to contribute as visible and active members of Quebec society.

The English-speaking community in Quebec is not unified by religion, ethnic background, cultural tradition or economic condition. What it has in common is its language and the commitment of its members to ensure that the community remains a strong and active contributor to Quebec society. We are firmly committed to Quebec. We have adopted these policies with the firm conviction that there is a bright prospect for a future together.