

PER  
A-850

**alliance  
québec**

# The Monthly Report

July/August, 1985

Vol. 3. No. 1

## REGIONAL COUNCIL HEARS COMMUNITY'S CONCERNS

Over 600 members of the English-speaking community attended the public general meeting on June 20 of the CRSSS-MM, the Regional Council on Health and Social Services of Metropolitan Montreal, to demonstrate their concern about access to services and to show support for the maintenance of the network of English-language social service institutions.

In spite of the timing of the meeting, Alliance Quebec members and supporters rallied to the cause and let the Regional Council know the English-speaking community is extremely concerned regarding the issue of social services. Busloads of people came from across Montreal Island, and there was representation from Chapters off the island (Laval/North Shore, Upper and Lower Laurentians, South Shore and St. Maurice Valley) as well as from CVESPA, the Chateauguay Valley English-speaking People's Association.

During the question and answer period, Marylee Kelley, Health and Social Service Committee Chairperson, told the Regional Council "We want it written in law that we are entitled to services in English and we want legislative guarantees to protect the network of institutions that we have now". Mrs. Kelley asked the Regional Council if it would support the English-speaking community's attempts to obtain these legislative guarantees.

To date, the Council has refused to take a stand on the issue, but has stated it is sensitive to the concerns expressed by the English-speaking community.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Social Affairs, Guy Chevrette, has delayed social service transfer plans again in the Montreal region and has indicated that he wants to work with Alliance Quebec to determine effective ways of ensuring that the needs of the English-speaking community will be met.

... continued

### *In This Issue*

*Bill 3 ruled unconstitutional..... page two*

*Activities in Chapters and Associations..... page three*

*AQ in Brief..... page ten*

The new deadline for decisions on social service transfers is August 21, and the Minister has offered to make available some of the Social Affairs Ministry's staff and resources to help in the consultative process. Although this second delay indicates that the Minister has taken seriously the concerns expressed by the English-speaking community through Alliance Quebec, Mr. Chevrette remains unconvinced of the need for legislative guarantees and states that administrative regulation can assure English-language services.

Furthermore, the issue of guaranteeing the full range of services in English in all regions of Quebec is unresolved and must be dealt with in the immediate future.

### BILL 3 RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

On June 29, Mr. Justice André Brossard of the Quebec Superior Court ruled that the education restructuring legislation, Bill 3, was unconstitutional and issued an injunction preventing the government of Quebec from implementing the law.

Bill 3 would have replaced the approximately 250 denominational school boards in the province with 150 linguistic boards. There would also have been improvements in the school board election procedure.

While supportive of Bill 3 generally - because of the potential for improvement in the education system through consolidation of English-language schools, increasing voter turn-out in school board elections and establishing a better advisory role for parents - Alliance Quebec had been among those recommending that the government submit Bill 3 to the Quebec Court of Appeal for clarification of its constitutionality.

The Bill 3 judgment has clarified the educational rights of Roman Catholics and Protestants given by section 93 of the British North America Act. Furthermore, in taking a broad view of the protections given by the Canadian Constitution, the case forms part of a growing Canadian judicial tradition. The judgment is significant in a number of ways, but the underlying problems in the current educational structure which created the impetus for change have not disappeared.

Issues left unresolved by the Bill 3 ruling include: Effective disenfranchisement of English-speaking Catholics, especially off the island of Montreal; insufficient voter participation in school board elections and parental frustration with the current means of participating in educational decisions and, finally, the sheer necessity - particularly given declining enrolments - of consolidation of the English-language school system.

As well, the judgment appears to prevent non-Protestants and non-Catholics from being candidates in elections for the PSBGM and CECM. This corresponds to the problem created by Bill 29, recent legislation adopted to conform to the Supreme Court judgment on School Board taxation. Bill 29 prevents non-Protestant and non-Catholics in Montreal from voting in School Board elections.

Before Bill 3 was enacted, there was a broad consensus that some sort of major changes were required and there must be a renewed effort to find the means to reflect that consensus. That effort must be started even though the government is appealing the judgment and the final decision of the Supreme Court of Canada could take as long as two years.

## ACTIVITIES IN CHAPTERS AND ASSOCIATIONS

### WEST ISLAND

The Annual General Meeting of the West Island Chapter on April 18, 1985 provided an opportunity to make a presentation to Alma Baker, thanking her for her devoted work to the chapter as animator over the past 2½ years. Alma will continue to serve West Island residents in her new role as co-ordinator in the Community Office at Beaconsfield High School.

The newly-elected Board of the chapter then had occasion at its first meeting in May to welcome Sheila Laursen as the new animator for West Island. Sheila has been active in community concerns for several years, serving most recently as Co-ordinator of the West Island Community Resource Centre. She is currently chairperson of the Board of Management of the West Island YMCA.

Health and Social Service concerns have been a major area of activity in recent weeks. People who had received services from the CLSC in Pierrefonds were eligible to vote for representation in a User's election in May. Then, community representatives for the Advisory Committees were voted in at open elections in the pre-CLSC regions of Dollard des Ormeaux and Lac St. Louis (Pointe Claire, Beaconsfield, Kirkland, Baie d'Urfé, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue and Senneville). Alliance Quebec West Island Chapter board members Janice Chuard and Michael Weil were elected to the DDO and Lac St. Louis Advisory Committees respectively.

Over 100 people from the West Island showed their support for English-language institutions by attending the Annual General Meeting of the Regional Council held in Montreal East on June 20th. The meeting was most informative, and the overwhelming attendance successfully conveyed the interest and concern of English-speaking Quebecers.

---

Education Committee chairman Bernie Silverman recently presented plaques to the three winners in the Chapter's local history contest for Grade 6 students.

First place winner Pamela Howard prepared a very interesting chronicle on the history and numerous activities of St. Thomas à Becket Church in Pierrefonds, which began as the English sector of Ste-Geneviève parish.

Heidi Bloomfield of Christmas Park School received second prize with her written account of the oldest house in Beaconsfield, situated on Thompson Point. This was supplemented by photographs and a taped interview with its present owner.

Andrea Mueller, of St. Edmund School, the third place winner, presented a fascinating account of Senneville's history, with a particular focus on daily life in the early 1900's.

Each entry displayed a great awareness and interest on the part of the students to the richness of the community. With projects such as the Local History contest, we hope to encourage and further develop that interest.

#### ST. LAURENT CHAPTER

The St. Laurent Chapter has hired three Vanier College students under its Challenge '85 program grant from the federal government. The students, all St. Laurent Chapter residents, are Bradley Tabac, Mistu Mukerji and Russell Yuen. Their research project involves documenting the history of English street names in the city of St. Laurent. This project also marks the first step by the St. Laurent Chapter towards an increased presence on the St. Croix campus of Vanier College.

The Chapter's Business and Employment committee is planning a public meeting for October 1 on the topic of the Official Languages Act and policy. The session will deal with rights of citizens under the Official Languages Act and with the complaints procedure. Guest speaker will be John Parisella, Quebec representative of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages.

The Employment and Business committee is preparing a questionnaire to circulate to local business people and is looking at the possibility of holding a seminar on Bill 101's business applications for the business community.

The next edition of the St. Laurent Chapter newsletter, Chapter News and Views, is being prepared for an early fall release.

CVESPA - CHATEAUGUAY VALLEY ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

CVESPA picked up a sixth place standing in the Ormstown Fair Parade on June 6. The CVESPA float depicted the various cultures that make up the English-speaking community in the valley. Twelve volunteers dressed in various national costumes were on a gaily decorated hay-wagon with the message "Ensemble-Together: Diversity is our Strength". CVESPA's booth at the fair was visited by over 300 visitors during the course of the three-day fair. New members were signed up and a number of T-shirts sold.

CVESPA will also participate in the Huntingdon Fair on August 8, 9 and 10, as well as the Havelock Fair on Saturday, September 14. Anyone visiting the fairs is invited to drop in and say hello and get a free ticket on the drawing of our 'Ensemble-Together' T-shirts.

Winter continues all summer in the Chateauguay Valley. The Federal Government Winter Works Project arrived late and there are now two people working until September on various projects. CVESPA has also received grants for three bilingual day-camps serving Hemmingford, Rockburn and Huntingdon. Approximately 130 children will attend over a two-month period.

International Youth Year is at last underway with the approval of grants from both the Federal and Provincial governments allowing for the hiring of a full-time youth coordinator; a general symposium of youth and community groups to develop and sponsor projects for the youth of the valley; and the establishment of a youth council.

CVESPA has also received a grant from the Office de la langue française to help improve the use of French by the English-speaking community, in advertising, etc.

Plans are being completed for a fall conference of the Board and committees at St. Anicet on September 6, 7 and 8. Alliance Quebec president Michael Goldbloom will be a special guest speaker. The conference will hear the fall programs developed by the six standing committees of CVESPA.

A cordial welcome is extended to all visitors to the valley this summer. Our office is over the Post Office in Huntingdon - Telephone number: - (514) 264-6618.

LOWER LAURENTIANS CHAPTER

The Lower Laurentians Chapter had a booth at the Lachute Fair held June 12 through 16 in Lachute. The Chapter gave out information about Alliance Quebec, signed up new members and sold AQ pins and coffee mugs. The booth was staffed by members of the Lower Laurentians Chapter board who renewed acquaintances with people throughout the area as they dropped by to chat and catch up on Alliance Quebec activities.

The Chapter would like to thank those who showed great interest and concern by attending the Regional Council on Health and Social Services - Metropolitan Montreal annual public meeting on June 21.

A very successful meeting was held by the three Chapters of Region 06B (Lower Laurentians, Upper Laurentians and Laval/North Shore) with the Director General, Michel Léger and the Information Officer, Guy Robinson, of the Regional Council on Health and Social Services in the 06B region. Another meeting is being planned for early autumn.

#### OUTAOUAIS ALLIANCE

Outaouais Alliance is once again sponsoring Camp Francofun - a day camp for English-speaking children to learn French through fun. As a result of grants from "Challenge '85" - the summer Student Employment Program of the Ministry of Employment and Immigration, Outaouais Alliance has hired seven full-time and one part-time student and is offering these camps in Chelsea, Shawville and Buckingham.

The camp is being offered to children between 4 & 7 years old every week day of the three weeks at a cost of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per week per child in Chelsea and Shawville and as an introductory offer for twenty dollars (\$20.00) per week per child in Buckingham. There are two three week sessions in each area July 2 - 19 and July 29 - August 16.

For further information call the Outaouais Alliance office at 1-819-777-0177.

Through another grant, this time a Canada Works grant, Outaouais Alliance has hired three people for a total of fifty-three work weeks to research Economic Development in the Outaouais. The purpose of this undertaking is to assemble developmental ideas and projects that the English-speaking community of West-Quebec can contribute to the economic development of the Outaouais. From this research a brief will be presented to the Regional Economic Summit to be held in our area in November by the Quebec Government.

This grant provides for an analysis of the future of the Hull-Maniwaki Rail Line and the Steam Train operation. As well, it provides for research into the economic viability and improved management of the rail line and the preparation of the Brief to the CTC by September 1, 1985.

Heritage Campus - CEGEP de l'Outaouais

Outaouais is hiring a co-ordinator to bring together all the interested parties in the quest for autonomy by the English-language CEGEP Campus. There is a feeling that the institution is close to successfully severing its association with the CEGEP de l'Outaouais but that there is a need for more than just a "volunteer committee" to see this project through. Outaouais Alliance would like to thank Alliance Quebec for both its moral and professional support.

MONTREAL SOUTH WEST CHAPTER

The Montreal South West Chapter will hold a picnic at Angrignon Park in Verdun on July 28, a Sunday. For more information, call the Chapter office at 765-3082.

There will be a youth meeting on August 7 in Lasalle, time and place to be determined. The meeting will bring together Alliance Quebec youth members as well as youth representatives from a variety of community organizations in the Chapter area for a one-day seminar.

C.A.S.A. - COMMITTEE FOR ANGLOPHONE SOCIAL ACTION ON THE GASPE COAST

CASA has been involved this summer in encouraging local businesses on the coast to hire students for summer jobs. As well, four grants under the federal government's Challenge '85 program have been received. The grants provide jobs for students at a volunteer service centre in Barachois, work as monitors on a program for the handicapped at New Richmond and New Carlisle; as a monitor at the race track in Haldimand and a secretarial position in the CASA office in New Carlisle.

A Canada Works project grant has provided a further 13 jobs in Douglastown on a community improvement project. In other projects, CASA is carrying out a survey of regional facilities for the mentally handicapped and is also producing a Career Access Education Manual.

CASA's Annual General Meeting will be held Saturday, September 28 at the New Carlisle High School. Planning for workshops and speakers is underway. On the same weekend, CASA is sponsoring a concert by the Family Brown, a popular country group, at the Bonaventure Polyvalente on Friday, September 27. Tickets are \$7.50. CASA also continues to sponsor local talent shows to encourage performers on the Gaspé coast.

On May 4, CASA sponsored a small business information session in Chandler. About 100 business people attended the session which included

presentations from federal and provincial government representatives. As a result of the May 4 session, the decision was taken to form a Small Business Association on the Gaspé coast. Meetings will be held in September to decide on guidelines and objectives for the new association.

Representatives of Alliance Quebec and the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages also spoke at the May 4 session.

#### TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

The Townshippers' Association presented a brief to the Special Senate Committee on Youth at a public hearing in Montreal on June 17th. Representing the Association on this occasion were: president Marjorie Goodfellow, executive director Cynthia Dow and five youth members who were instrumental in preparing the brief: Wendall Hughes of Melbourne, Leanne DeGuire (Dunham), Edwin Smith (Noyan), Scott Lowd (Bulwer) and Kevan Durrell, coordinator of the Townshippers' Job Opportunities Program.

Senator Jacques Hébert, chairman of the Special Senate Committee on Youth and five of his colleagues listened attentively to the Townshippers' presentation which outlined economic, social, family and educational problems English-speaking youth face in the Eastern Townships. Recommendations were made to the Senate Committee in each of these areas. The final report of the hearings, held in all 10 provinces, will be available in November 1985.

One of the main concerns outlined in the Townshippers' brief is the lack of information available in their language to youth about the services and resources available to them. This gap will hopefully be filled to a slight degree in the Townships, as the Townshippers' Association have hired two summer students to compile a directory for youth. Lois Miller of Hatley and Wendall Hughes of Melbourne will spend the summer identifying people and services in the Townships which are available to youth in the fields of job search, career counselling, social services and other youth related areas.

A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend the 6th Annual Townshippers' Day, to be held Saturday, September 21st in Sherbrooke. Townships talent will be plentiful with many singers, dancers, entertainers, magicians and artisans on hand to share their skills. Townshippers' Day is also an opportunity for members of our community to review the activities of the Townshippers' Association by attending the Annual General Meeting.

The 1985 Organizing Committee has many special events planned for Townshippers' Day, one of which is a performance by the Black Watch Association Pipe Band. More details will be available close to the date, but meanwhile, circle September 21st on your calendar and plan to join us at Howardene Park and Sherbrooke Elementary School!



LAVAL/NORTH SHORE CHAPTER

The Laval/North Shore Chapter took part recently in a meeting with the Regional Council on Health and Social Services 06B Laurentide-Lanaudière, along with the Upper and Lower Laurentians Chapters. The meeting, on June 19, served to lay the groundwork for an on-going process of dialogue between the regional Council and the English-speaking community. The Laval/North Shore Chapter was represented by Janice Napp Marchand, Treasurer and Ludmila Pergat, Animator.

The Chapter would like to congratulate Sue Quarles and Janice Napp Marchand on their election to the permanent committee of "Vers un service socio-culturel" in Rosemère.

The residents of Fabreville, headed by teacher Thomas Donlan, collected over 1,000 signatures on a petition asking for English-language books in the new Gabrielle Roy Library. Initially, no provision had been made for an English-language section. Mr. Donlan approached the Laval/North Shore Chapter for support and as a result, a meeting was scheduled at Laval City Hall with Fabreville City Councillor André Boileau. A letter of support was presented and the outcome of the meeting was a promise to the English-speaking community that 2,000 English-language volumes will be provided at the library which will open in August.

VEQ - THE VOICE OF ENGLISH QUEBEC

VEQ held its annual general meeting on June 8 at the Holland Elementary School. Congratulations to David Cannon, newly-elected President of VEQ and also to Doug Seward, Vice-President; Ann Gauvin, Vice-President; Bill Boden, Treasurer; and Bill Whitehead, Secretary.

VEQ has just issued its first handsomely printed Annual Report for 1985. The report includes messages from out-going President Glenn O'Farrell and Executive Director Kevin Saville as well as a summary of VEQ's achievements and accomplishments in the past year in the areas of Community Animation and Development, Communications and Liaison, Heritage and Culture; and Health and Social Services.

AQ congratulates VEQ Executive Director Kevin Saville on his appointment to the position of Liaison Officer with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages in Montreal.

EAST ISLAND CHAPTER

The East Island Chapter sent more than three busloads of people to the public meeting of the Regional Council on Social Services at the Institut Dominique Savio.

In CLSC user elections, two candidates proposed by Chinese Family Services, Grace Moore and Jenny Yap, were elected as User Representatives to the CLSC St. Louis du Parc. They were supported by the East Island Chapter as was Luc Bélisle, a chapter member who stood for election at the CLSC Rosemont. The Chapter will also support the following candidates in the upcoming user elections: Al Sullivan for Mercier Ouest, Patricia Camacho for Mercier Est and Geneviève Zielinski for Anjou.

The most recent issue of the Chapter newsletter, the East Islander, has just been published and includes convention coverage and photos as well as a special article on a goodbye concert at Rosemount High School for retiring music teacher Helen Hall.

#### SOUTH SHORE CHAPTER

The approximately 35 members of the South Shore Chapter who participated in the June 20 meeting of the Metropolitan Montreal Regional Council on Health and Social Services agreed not only that the effort had been worthwhile, but they had enjoyed particularly the company members from other Chapters.

The South Shore Chapter will have a booth at the Montreal Highland Games in St. Lambert on August 4. An annual event, the Games attract some 15,000 visitors and the South Shore Chapter is there every year to sign up new members and renew old acquaintances. If you are planning to attend, please stop by the Chapter booth and say hello.

#### COTE ST. LUC/HAMPSTEAD/SNOWDON WEST CHAPTER

The Côte St. Luc/Hampstead/Snowdon West Chapter was represented at Convention 1985 by: Rosemarie Mavrokefalos, Jonathan Herman, Neil Drabkin, Angela Tsafaras, Patsy Vlahos, Neil Rabinovitch, Vera Dowie, Vernon Dowie, Charles Cooke, Leslie Beck and Elisabeth Colson as delegates; Michael Colson and Mitchell Brownstein as youth delegates; and Gerry Hamburg and Irving Adessky as alternates. Congratulations to Irving Adessky who was elected to the provincial Board of Directors.

On June 17, the Chapter's new board of directors met for the first time and elected the following people to the following positions: Mitchell Brownstein, Treasurer; Vera Dowie, Vernon Dowie and Patsy Vlahos - members of the board; Neil Drabkin, Employment Business and Signs Committee Chair; Rosemarie Mavrokefalos, Communications Chairperson; Jonathan Herman, Health and Social Services Chairperson and Patsy Vlahos, Membership Chairperson.

The board began planning a variety of activities for the coming year, including the next edition of the Chapter newsletter, The Horizon.

#### AQ IN BRIEF

The following staff members have left Alliance Quebec since the Annual Convention. We wish them much success in the future. Tom Mulcair, Employment, Business and Legal Affairs Director; Bill Floch, Mainland Animator; Mary Lou Kelley, Upper Laurentians Chapter Animator; and Barbara Jekkel, Alliance Research and Education Institute Secretary.

The Alliance welcomes Kathleen Weil who has joined the organization as Legal Affairs Director on a part-time basis and also Brenda Major as the new Alliance Research and Education Institute Secretary.