

Alliance Quebec Will Take Legal Action if PQ Reduces Guarantees of Access to English Health Services

Montreal, Tuesday, December 4, 2001-Alliance Quebec will take legal action if the PQ government takes steps to reduce guarantees of access to English health services. This violates sections 7 and 16 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. AQ took legal action in 1998 when the government refused to adopt access plans to English health services required by Bill 142.

” Access to health care is a fundamental human right that must come before anyone’s so-called right to work in French”, said Brent Tyler, President of Alliance Quebec, “Reducing English-speaking Quebecers’ access to health care would be a new low for the PQ Government.”

The Quebec government has declared in a human rights report to the United Nations, submitted on March 16, 2001, that the access to English services plans are “action taken by the Government of Quebec in application of the Convention (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination).”

If the Quebec government classifies access to English health services as the fulfillment of its international human rights obligations, it must also know that eliminating or reducing those services would be a violation of the Covenant.

Alliance Quebec strives for the promotion of human rights and minority language rights and is committed to the preservation and enhancement of the English-speaking communities and institutions within Quebec.