



Alliance Quebec goes to court on referendum fraud

Montreal, Oct. 29: Alliance Quebec is asking Quebec Superior Court to grant access to all official documents relating to last year's referendum.

On Wednesday Oct. 30, Michael J. Hamelin, president of Alliance Quebec, and Michael Bergman, lawyer for the organization, will start proceedings to ask the court for what is known as an *order of mandamus*.

This court order would demand access to all documents relating to the Quebec referendum in October, 1995. Alliance Quebec wants a full inquiry on the way the referendum was administered.

"Among other things, we want to know why there were problems in deciding who had the right to vote, obstacles placed in the way of many who wanted to vote and questionable practices in the way votes were counted," Hamelin said.

Alliance Quebec went to court because Pierre-F. Coté, the Director-General of Elections has repeatedly refused to deal with the organization's requests for information.

The organization has, however, succeeded in its six-month campaign to save all documents related to the referendum. Mr. Coté has assured Alliance Quebec that he will not destroy any documents until after a final judgement by the Access to Information Commission which begins next month.

Last week Alliance Quebec presented a petition of nearly 17,000 names to the National Assembly calling for a full and open inquiry into allegations of referendum fraud. Another 2,000 names have since come in.

The hope is that such an inquiry would examine all relevant documents, question witnesses and make recommendations that would restore the faith of all Quebec citizens in the referendum process.

The alliance Quebec lawsuit is only one of several actions involving Mr. Coté that are before the courts. Others focus on the way election officials dealt with out-of-province

voters, the process leading to about 80,000 spoiled ballots, the right to vote of full-time Quebec university students whose parents live elsewhere in Canada and the right of Canadians outside Quebec to contribute to a pro-Canada rally in Montreal.

We welcome your [comments](#).

For further information, call Rob Bull, Director of Communications, Alliance Quebec, (514) 875-2771.