



Alliance Quebec supports linguistic school boards

Alliance Quebec supports linguistic school boards but disagrees with the way the provincial government plans to bring them into effect, AQ President Michael J. Hamelin said Wednesday.

“We insist that the fundamental right of individuals to choose the community to which they belong should be respected,” Hamelin said at a hearing of the National Assembly’s Education Committee.

The committee is studying Bill 109, an act to amend the Education Act, the Act respecting School Elections and other legislative provisions.

The bill would place severe restrictions on the right of many members of Quebec’s English-speaking communities to participate in their school system in any meaningful way.

Hamelin said the government should create linguistic school boards immediately and provide clear guarantees to enable members of the province’s English-speaking communities to control and manage their own school system.

He added that children of all English-speaking people should be allowed to attend these schools.

Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard has said Quebec’s English-speaking residents should have no more legal rights than French-speaking Canadian citizens in other provinces.

“If the Quebec government goes ahead with its approach as planned, the rights of English-speaking people in Quebec will be more restricted than those of French-Canadians anywhere else in the country,” Hamelin said.