

## **Alliance Quebec Supports Challenge to Bill 104**

**Montreal, Tuesday, October 1, 2002** - Alliance Quebec President Brent Tyler will be holding a press conference tomorrow with parents to unveil Alliance Quebec's strategy to challenge the new restrictions on access to English schools in Bill 104. These restrictions purport to disregard private instruction and instruction received pursuant to a temporary authorization in the determination of eligibility for English instruction.

Alliance Quebec will publicly call upon parents who are Canadian citizens with a child who is currently receiving private English instruction in Grades 1 or 7 to make an application for a certificate of eligibility for all of their children. Such applications can be made to the private school in which their child is currently enrolled or their local English school board.

Alliance Quebec will seek the cooperation of private schools and English school boards in forwarding these applications to the Minister of Education's representatives. Under the new restrictions in Bill 104 these applications will be refused giving parents the right to appeal to the Administrative Tribunal of Quebec, before which Charter issues may be raised and in particular section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Mr. Tyler said, "Our goal is to obtain a speedy and effective remedy for these children, namely, a declaration that the new restrictions are unconstitutional before the next school year starting in September 2003. Given the short timeframe, we call upon the Minister to deal with these applications expeditiously."

Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Alliance Quebec Office, 1980 Sherbrooke St. W., Suite 830

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 within Quebec.