

Quebec Government Continues Harassment of Ethnic

Montreal, Thursday, May 16, 2002-Alliance Quebec President Brent Tyler will hold a press conference Friday, May 17th, with Yvonne Friedman at her store on Sherbrooke Street to protest against the continuing state-sponsored harassment of ethnics. Mrs. Friedman has been threatened with prosecution by Quebec's language police for not speaking French well enough.

This comes just two weeks after Quebec's language police threatened to prosecute Pieros Karidogiannis for making mistakes when he speaks French to customers in his Park Avenue dry-cleaning shop. Diane Lemieux, the minister responsible for the language police was unable to justify their threats against Karidogiannis when Liberal MNA, Pierre-Étienne Laporte asked her whether this was discrimination during question period on May 1. Instead of answering the question the minister filibustered to the end of question period.

Rahman Saifur Pervez Khan, an immigrant from Bangladesh, sold his store and fled Quebec when faced with a similar threat of prosecution for imperfect French two years ago.

Tyler said, "Alliance Quebec will defend Yvonne Friedman vigorously if she is prosecuted for not speaking French well enough. Every Canadian should be ashamed that this is happening in their country no other democracy on the planet does this."

Date: Friday, May 17, 2002

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: 5133 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal

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.