

Quebec Should End Discrimination in Education

Montreal, Tuesday, May 28, 2002 - Alliance Quebec President Brent Tyler commented today on the decision of Montreal Canadiens assistant coach Guy Carbonneau to leave Quebec. Last January the Quebec department of Education denied Carbonneau's daughter Kristina access to English school because of who her parents are and where they went to school.

"Denying a child access to a public service because of who their parents are is a form of caste system and a violation of their human rights," said Tyler.

The United Nations released General Comment 13 in 1999 which makes it clear that signatories to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have a binding obligation to make all educational institutions and programmes accessible to everyone without discrimination. Canada signed the Covenant with Quebec's consent in 1976. The Carbonneau situation is just one more reminder that Quebec is not respecting its human rights obligations.

Tyler commended Carbonneau for having the courage to speak out against this injustice to children. Tyler said, "It's time for Quebec to end its educational caste system and implement General Comment 13 along its other human rights obligations."