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The Monthly Report

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SOCIAL AFFAIRS NETWORK IN DANGER

Alliance Quebec, representing the network of English-language social service institutions, will meet in the near future with the new Social Affairs Minister Guy Chevrette, in an effort to have those institutions recognized in law before the provincial reorganization plan is carried out.

With the energetic support of all the organizations providing social services to English-speaking youth, the elderly, the abused and the handicapped, Alliance Quebec has begun a public campaign to involve the entire English-speaking community in the fight against this very real danger to our social service network.

A freeze on the government's reorganization plan has been requested by Alliance Quebec until we have the chance to meet with the Minister and explain the consequences of the plan.

The public campaign is off to an encouraging start. The following is an excerpt from an editorial in The Gazette, Nov. 27 ...see next page.

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"The government plan to "sectorize" social services would require citizens to apply for services only at institutions within their residential zones, in conflict with every citizen's right to choose his or her institutions and professionals. But it could have especially appalling results for the English-speaking community... This unbelievably callous approach has no place in social services."

POPULATION DECLINE SLOWING

A new study commissioned by Alliance Quebec shows the declining trend in English-speaking Quebec - which was very pronounced between 1971 and 1981- could be slowing dramatically. The study, by University of Montreal demographer Jacques Henripin, suggests that by the year 2001, English-speaking Quebec could represent 10.4 per cent of the population if recent economic, social and political trends hold.

Alliance Quebec is concerned about any decline in an already fragmented minority community, but Dr. Henripin's projection suggests that the rate of decline for the periods 1981-1991 and 1991-2001 would be only half that of the period 1971-1981.

Importantly, Dr. Henripin also suggests that any marked improvement in Quebec's economy would translate into a demographically stable English-speaking community in the province at about 12% of the population in 2001. This would mean an increase in absolute numbers of about 4% from 1981.

Dr. Henripin's analysis supports what public opinion is suggesting: that English-speaking Quebec is in no way a demographic or cultural threat to French-speaking Quebec. Dr. Henripin has confirmed that in the long term the linguistic balance of the province will not be upset to the detriment of the French-speaking community. He does caution, though, that English-speaking Quebec is in a fragile demographic state.

Dr. Henripin's study was commissioned to accompany the Alliance Quebec Work Group on Demographic Trends' own brief to the Standing Committee on Culture of the National Assembly. The Committee hearings, scheduled to begin in November, were cancelled due to other events taking place in Quebec City.

ACTIVITIES IN CHAPTERS AND ASSOCIATIONS

The Townshippers' Association, in conjunction with the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, co-sponsored an Employment and Self-Employment workshop Nov. 10 in Richmond. Kevan Durrell, Co-ordinator of the Townshippers' Job Opportunities Committee, led the morning session on "Job Search Techniques". "How to Start a Small Business" was the focus of the afternoon session, led by Claude Desrochers and Charles Bernier of the Federal Business Development Bank. A second workshop will be held in Richmond on Jan. 19 on specific job search skills such as "Writing a Résumé" and "Interview Strategies".

The Association's Communications Committee has, over the last few months, revamped its tabloid newsletter, The Townships Crossroads, which is now mailed on a bi-monthly basis. A weekly Townshippers' column now appears in local A.Q.R.E.M. papers: "Keeping in Touch" appears in The Record, a daily; The Journal, a weekly; and a summary of the columns will appear in the monthly paper, The Townships Sun.

The Association is pleased to present its Executive Committee for 1984-85; they are: Marjorie Goodfellow, President; James Ross, Past President; David Mackenzie, Vice-President; Ron Creary, Vice-President; Douglas Smith, Treasurer; Della Goodsell, Secretary; and Peter Bishop, Harvey Catchpaw, and Stanley Neil, Members-at-large.

The Upper Laurentians Chapter's Employment/Business Committee will hold a series of workshops called "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs..." aimed at young unemployed people in the area. The workshops will focus on job search skills and will give tips on how to start your own business. The workshops are scheduled to be held on the evenings of Jan. 30, Feb. 6 and Feb. 13 at Morin Heights School.

The Chapter has just published a guide to cross-country ski trails in the Laurentians which has been distributed in most ski shops and dépanneurs.

The Lower Laurentians Chapter's Education Committee, under Carol Ann Paterson, who is also Chairperson of the School Committee of Laurentian Regional High School, and with the help of Chapter Animator Bernice Patterson (who is also Chairperson of the Parents' Committee of the Laurentians School Board and parent delegate from Laurentian Reg. H.S.) are mobilizing area residents around the proposed school board reorganization, Bill 3.

Patricia Garraway, Chapter Chairperson along with Bernice Patterson and other chapter representatives, met recently at AQ provincial headquarters with Wendell Sparkes, Off-Island Vice-President of Alliance Quebec, and Bill Floch, AQ Mainland Animator, to discuss chapter boundaries.

St. Laurent Chapter representatives Helen McLellan, Chairperson; Craig Berger, Vice-chairperson; and Chapter Animator Greg James were invited Oct. 25 to meet with Prof. Ostrovsky's English second-language class at the Université du Québec à Montréal. Brief introductions and an outline of AQ's history, role and objectives were followed by a spirited exchange. The two-and-one-half-hour session proved valuable as an outreach to the French-speaking community. The Chapter has been invited to send delegations to participate in future sessions.

The Board of Directors of Outaouais Alliance is pleased to announce the appointment of Margaret Buchinski as Executive Director. Mrs. Buchinski, a resident of Aylmer, has been active in the community as a member of School and Parents' Committees. For the past year, she has been the Administrative Secretary for Outaouais Alliance and since June, she has been acting Executive Director during the leave of absence of James Loken, the former Executive Director.

James Loken, a resident of Campbell's Bay, has been appointed Director of Research and Liaison. This part-time position will allow Mr. Loken to maintain his law office in Campbell's Bay.

Hubert McClelland, a director of Outaouais Alliance, organized an evening seminar on Quebec Stock Savings Plans. The idea for this seminar was originated at Dave Mulligan's informative display during the Festival of Spring in April. This is the first of a series of seminars on a variety of topics that Outaouais Alliance plans to offer to the English-speaking community of West Quebec.

The East Island Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee continues to monitor the set-up of three new CLSCs in the East Island. They will be located in Ville d'Anjou, Mercier East and Mercier West. The Committee also will write letters to provincial MNAs whose ridings fall within chapter boundaries. The purpose of this letter-writing campaign is to request meetings to discuss the impact of the government's social service reorganization plans and legislative guarantees for services in English. Letters requesting support of such guarantees also are being sent to churches, school and parent committees and local community groups. Finally, a total of 1,000 letters/questionnaires on CLSC development have been distributed throughout the community.

The Chapter's Employment/Business Committee has contacted two area high schools, Lester B. Pearson and Rosemount High, and will participate in their Career Days. Professionals from Alliance Quebec will speak about career opportunities in their respective fields and information kits will be given to the schools for use by their guidance counsellors. The Committee also continues to poll and lobby merchants to have their brochures distributed in both languages, and is working closely with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages to ensure that Federal government departments and agencies supply services and information in English within chapter territory.

The Communications Committee has just put out the latest issue of "The East Islander", the chapter newsletter.

The West Island Chapter recruited new members recently by way of a mass neighbourhood-wide distribution of The Quebecker, AQ's quarterly tabloid, ably delivered by the girls of the 5th Beaconsfield Girl Guide Company. During the weekend of Nov. 23 and 24, a membership and information booth was set up in Poirier's Provigo store. Seventy new members were signed up.

The Education Committee held a meeting Nov. 15 at Beaconsfield United Church Hall. Graeme Decarie, a Concordia University history professor, discussed ways and means of obtaining information to write local history. The committee is also exploring the possibility of sponsoring a local history project at the Grade 6 level in West Island elementary schools.

C.V.E.S.P.A. has moved to a new and larger office in the Huntingdon Federal Bldg. at 27 Prince St., Huntingdon, Que. - J0S 1H0. The new telephone number is: (514) 264-5386. A micro-computer has been ins-alled in the new office.

Following the Time Management Seminar held Nov. 3 at the Rockburn Cultural Centre, Carol Ann Fried, a work planning consultant from McGill University, will hold another workshop in January on planning effective meetings for those involved in community organizations.

On Feb. 3, C.V.E.S.P.A. will co-sponsor with the Adult Education Department of the Châteauguay Valley, a panel discussion focussing on the role of English-speaking Quebec from a historical perspective. Panelists will include Sister Marianna O'Gallagher, Director of Heritage and Cultural Programmes at the Voice of English Quebec; Graeme Decarie, of Concordia University's Centre for the Study of Anglophone Quebec; and Robin Burns, of Bishop's University's Centre for the Study of English-speaking Quebec off the Island of Montreal.

In other association news, C.V.E.S.P.A. is pleased to announce the addition of two new staff members: Sheryl Cullen and Lillian Laurin, who have been hired under the Career Access Program of the Federal Government and the Travail-Québec program.

The South-West Chapter has concentrated its efforts since the month of November on health and social services. Three CLSC elections were held in the first week of Dec. and English-speaking representation has been ensured on all three advisory committee boards. The Chapter mobilized its membership in promoting the election of the following Alliance Quebec members: Bill Owens - Verdun; Alex de Greef - Verdun; Jean Franklyne - LaSalle; and Robert Dobie - Ville Emard/Côte St. Paul.

Laval/North Shore Chapter Chairperson and Health and Social Services Committee Chairperson Frances Rappaport has been contacting various health and social service institutions. Mrs. Rappaport and committee members met recently with Yvan Jean, Co-ordinator of the Table de Consultation for the Cité de la Santé Region. This organization co-ordinates health and social service needs for the area. A meeting will take place in the New Year between the Table de Consultation and the chapter to discuss English-language services in the region.

In other chapter news, Ludmila Pergat, Chapter Animator, is formulating an outreach approach to various cultural communities in the chapter area. Joanne Iacono, a new chapter member, has been appointed Laval/North Shore representative to the Provincial Community Liaison network which is involved in outreach to cultural communities.

The chapter has received feature coverage in three Montreal area weeklies: The Suburban, Contact/Laval and The North Shore Journal. The chapter will also publish an article in the January issue of The Quebecer, written by Eli Tylbor, and focussing on the chapter's successful attempts to lobby for the launching of a new community English paper, The North Shore Journal.

With the enthusiasm and information gained from the Communications Workshop at McGill University, the chapter is planning to launch a new community English paper, The North Shore Journal.

C.A.S.A. has written letters of concern to various local MPs as well as to Pierre Juneau, CBC President, concerning cutbacks of the CBC budget. C.A.S.A. hopes the cutbacks will not affect the radio reporter covering the Gaspé.

On Nov. 17, the local C.A.S.A. chapter organized a Golden Age night in Douglas-town. On Dec. 11, C.A.S.A. held an information night in Barchois. This meeting was to promote the new chapter in this area. As well, early in 1985, C.A.S.A. will hold an information night in the Escuminac area. The association also will organize a regional talent show in February 1985. C.A.S.A. will also embark on a membership drive in early 1985.

In the last two months, Montreal Centre Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee has been meeting with the Directors-General of the CLSCs in the area (St. Louis-du-Parc, Guy Metro, Centre-Ville) and will meet with official from Ville Marie Social Services Centre to gauge how these institutions expect to be affected by the proposed provincial government reorganization of social services, with a view to guaranteeing English-language services. The committee is studying the composition of the boards of these institutions, with a view to future involvement at the board level, and is contacting community groups and resource centres in Montreal Centre to enlist support.

The chapter's Employment/Business Committee will focus in the New Year on the following areas: 1) youth employment; 2) bilingual signs and information; 3) public service; and 4) small business. In the area of youth employment, the committee will help local schools organize career nights and will develop a guide for job searchers, providing information about future opportunities and job creation.

The N.D.G./Montreal West Chapter has just been recognized by the Regional Council on Health and Social Services as a socio-economic group. This status allows the chapter to recommend people for nomination to the boards of local health and social service institutions and entitles the chapter to be kept informed of the Council's affairs. The Chapter has also been invited to join the NDG Community Council. This will involve the chapter even more in community issues and will provide closer ties with other community organizations. The chapter's two voting delegates to the Council are Anna Clark, chapter board member and telephone committee co-ordinator and Paul Belshaw, a chapter volunteer.

Fred Anderson, chapter Animator, spoke Nov. 27 to 70 members of the Nathanya Chapter of Montreal Women's ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training), a Jewish group which operates trade schools around the world. His talk focussed on the role of the chapter in the community and how it can interact with community agencies such as ORT.

In response to requests from members to be better informed on issues and activities within the chapter, the Communications Committee has started a newsletter. It will provide an NDG/Montreal West perspective on happenings in our district and throughout the province that relate to the goals of Alliance Quebec. A contest is being sponsored to choose a name for the newsletter, the first issue of which is being distributed before Christmas.

The South Shore Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee, under Chairperson Dennis Languay, was successful in having the chapter granted status as a socio-economic body by the CRSSS Montérégie. In late November, Mr. Languay and other members of the 6C Task Force, met with the Director-General of the CRSSS to discuss ways of improving services to the English-speaking community. The group has been assured of further meetings in the near future.

On the business and employment scene, chapter member Fred Weisman, who is also with the English-Speaking Parents' Network, has been asked to speak at the next meeting of regional high school guidance counsellors in order to determine how best the Chapter can help with Career Nights, providing speakers and compiling a directory of local businessmen who would be willing to hire students.

In the Côte St. Luc/Hampstead/Snowdon W. Chapter, Jonathan Herman, Chairperson of the chapter's Community Development Programme Committee, has been named Chairperson of the Youth Sub-Committee of the Provincial Community Development Programme Committee. Mr. Herman has also been selected to be the Youth Representative on this Provincial Committee.

Employment, Business and Signs Committee members have been contacting all merchants and store owners in the area to inform them of their right to distribute bilingual publicity. Another project of the Committee is to set up Career Nights in local high schools and colleges. The goal of the project is to introduce students to professionals from different fields and teach them job-search skills.

The Communications Committee released the first issue of The Horizon, the chapter newsletter, in late November. Special thanks to Rosemarie Mavrokefalos who did an excellent job!

The Membership Committee conducted a phone blitz to remind members to renew. As additional reminders, articles appeared in The Suburban, The Hampstead Journal, The Monitor and The Canadian Jewish News during the first week of December.

St.-Maurice Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee has been contacting all health and social service institutions in Trois-Rivières and environs in order to make an inventory of available services and of responses to the needs of the English community.

The Education Committee has selected two projects for the coming year: an information seminar on the Régime Pédagogique and a Career Day for the senior secondary students in the two local English schools. Sylvia Brisoux, Chairperson of the Trois-Rivières Reading Council, spoke at the chapter's November meeting. Members were made aware of the availability of the Laubach literacy program to English-speaking people in Trois-Rivières.

December's board meeting was an excursion into the unfamiliar territory of our municipal library. A fairly well stocked English section is little used by our community. Head librarian, Mr. Allard, assured us of his cooperation and encouraged us to submit names of books that could be purchased to supplement and update the present collection.

With the enthusiasm and information gained from the Communications Workshop at AQ, the chapter has decided to undertake the publication, early in the New Year, of a newsletter.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

"The whole is greater than the sum of the parts." That was the theme of keynote speeches at the opening session of the Community Development Programme's leadership training seminar held in December.

The tone for the weekend was set by Programme Director Babo Leibovitch who said the future of the organization depends on leadership development and active participation at the local level.

The two-day seminar brought together approximately 70 participants from all of Alliance Quebec's 21 Chapters and Associations across the province. The opening session on Friday evening included an explanation by Research Director Royal Orr of both the contents of the Demographic Work Group brief and the special study of the English-speaking community by demographer Jacques Henripin. Mr. Orr also offered to explain the findings to any interested Chapter or Association at a local meeting.

The Saturday session featured interesting workshops on a variety of topics. Participants chose from workshops dealing with: youth involvement and outreach (with guest speakers John Parisella, Quebec Representative of the federal Commissioner of Official Languages, and Jean-François Viau, Liberal MNA for St-Jacques and the youngest member of the National Assembly); cultural community outreach, leadership skills, chairpersons workshop, community profiles and effective grantsmanship (or where to find funding and how to make sure you get it!). The participants were challenged to examine what role they would play, as Alliance Quebec members, in influencing the type of future they desire in Quebec.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Bill 3 Update

Following presentations to the National Assembly by approximately 20 groups, the Bill is now being given a second, clause-by-clause reading in the house. According to public reports, the government intends to make some 200 amendments while continuing to state that the legislation must be passed before Christmas. About two-thirds of the amendments proposed by Alliance Quebec were included in the last-minute changes to the legislation.

E.S.P.N.

The founding convention of the English-Speaking Parents' Network was attended by over 200 delegates from across the province. Allan Hollywood was elected president of the organization and the executive consists of: Hugh Carmichael and James Fulford, Vice-presidents; Mina Cipriani, Secretary; Fred Weisman, Treasurer; and Alice Beaucoin and Lorraine McKee, Members-at-large. The 25-member Board of Directors includes representatives from all regions of the province. The network is developing a program of activities for 1985 aided by Executive Assistant Ross Clark.

University Funding

Due to the priority given to Bill 3, the Quebec government has postponed further discussion of university funding until January. The Education Committee has approved a series of principles which will serve as the basis for the Alliance Quebec brief on University Funding.

Rural Education

The Rural Education Committee is developing a questionnaire to identify educational needs of rural regions. The document will be reviewed at a workshop involving the Regional Education Committees in early February and will be followed by a series of local Chapter/Association meetings.

Local History

The Local History Work Group is developing a network of interested groups and individuals to encourage local initiatives. The Work Group's Chairman, Graeme Decarie, will also develop a series of articles to appear in The Quebecker. Submissions or suggestions are welcomed.

English-language Presence in the Ministry

The Treasury Board has approved the creation of the new service for English schools to be established within the Ministry. Public announcement of the service should be made shortly.

EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

The Community Legal Self-Help Conference at McGill University on Nov. 17 brought together over 100 community groups from both the English and French-speaking communities.

The conference sought to bring the law closer to the people and the people closer to the law. Among the topics dealt with in the workshops were: rental and consumer legislation, class action suits and pleading for oneself before a commission or tribunal. The workshops also dealt with the preparation and presentation of written briefs for government commissions.

Alliance Quebec played a leading role in organizing the conference which marked the first time both English- and French-speaking community groups had been brought together in such a forum. As a direct result, representatives from English-speaking community groups were able to inform Justice Ministry officials in attendance of the lack of materials in English. This led to an official saying there was a possibility the Ministry magazine, Justice, might eventually be published in English.

Alliance Quebec continues to actively follow up the conference, working towards the establishment of a permanent central agency to act as a clearing house for community legal information and to maintain the consultative process.

LEGAL AFFAIRS - Cases

The Duncan McDonald case will be heard Dec. 18 in the Supreme Court of Canada. Alliance Quebec will intervene on behalf of Mr. McDonald in the case which involves the language of court documents.

The Government of Quebec has asked the Supreme Court for leave to appeal the Nancy Forget ruling on French-language testing. Alliance Quebec argued against granting leave to appeal and is waiting to hear the result of this latest development in the Forget case.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMME

The Future of English-language Social Service Institutions

On Nov. 22, Alliance Quebec held a press conference on the issue of English-language social services. Joined by representatives of 15 institutions serving our community, AQ president Eric Maldoff expressed grave concern about the effects of the government's reorganization plans on access to social services for members of our community and the weakening of our social service institutions.

The institutions include: Ville-Marie Social Service Centre; Central Council for Consumers of Social Services; Elizabeth House; English-Speaking Catholic Council; Father Dowd Memorial Home; Good Shepherd Centre Inc.; Les Promotions Sociales Taylor-Thibodeau; Montreal Extended Care Centre; Montreal Joint Hospitals Institute; Mount St. Patrick; Shawbridge Youth Centre; St. Margaret's Home; West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped and Youth Horizons.

The press conference began a public campaign to heighten community and government awareness of the crisis our community faces. Legislative guarantees for English-language social services and guarantees in law for our institutions are the fundamental issues of the campaign. The campaign continues at various levels, at the Regional Councils province-wide and in the government, especially. We must all work together to preserve our social services.

Region 6-C Task Force

An initial meeting was held Nov. 23 between the Task Force and Jean-Bernard Guindon, Director-General of CRSSS de la Montérégie. Discussion regional concerns on behalf of the Task Force were: Dennis Languay, Chairperson, and members Cynthia Belisle, Elizabeth Kater, Marylee Kelley and Russell Williams. Bi-monthly meetings with the Regional Council have been set up to continue the dialogue. The next meeting will take place at the end of January.

Regional Council Training Sessions

The Regional Council of Metropolitan Montreal will offer two training sessions in English in the New Year. One course, giving an overview of the provincial health and social services system, will be given by Zeny Bryniawski, Director-General of Les romotions Sociales Taylor-Thibodeau. The other course, dealing with the laws affecting health and social services, will be given by Dan Phelan, Legal Advisor to CSS Ville-Marie. Further details to follow.

Other Notes

Due to the tremendous amount of information sent out for the Health and Social Services Programme over the past few months, Bill Floch, Mainland Animator, has compiled a list of the memos sent out. Chapters and Associations may request copies from Bill or the Health and Social Services Programme.

Congratulations to new CLSC advisory committee members in the South-West Chapter: Bob Dobie - Côte St-Paul/Ville-Emard; Bill Owens and Alex de Greef - Verdun; and Jean Franklyne - LaSalle. Well done!

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

The CRTC licence renewal hearings for CBC's French and English-language TV service - scheduled to begin Dec. 10 - have been postponed due to the recently announced CBC budget cuts.

An Alliance Quebec Work Group, co-chaired by Ron Silverson and Wendell Sparkes, had prepared a written brief for the hearings which was submitted to the CRTC. But, as the rumours of cutbacks became fact, the hearings were postponed. And on Dec. 11, CBC President Pierre Juneau told Canadians that the \$75-million budget cut decreed by the federal minister of communications, Marcel Masse, would mean a loss of 1,150 jobs across the country. That includes 30 of 225 staff positions in the Quebec Region - English Services Division.

Alliance Quebec has stated that attempts to make the CBC more efficient should not occur at the expense of programming to the official language minorities across the country, including the English-speaking community of Québec. English-speaking people across the province have come to depend on the CBC for high-quality information and variety programming. In many areas outside the Greater Montreal region, CBC radio and television are the only available English-language broadcast media. In these areas, the CBC is a lifeline for the minority community, playing much the same role as the French-language network fulfills for French-speaking minorities outside Quebec.

AQ's Communications Programme staff is monitoring the situation, and has been in touch with the Fédération des francophones hors Québec concerning joint strategy.

If you are concerned about the potential deterioration of the national broadcasting service, write a letter to your MP stating your concern for the well-being and continued ability of CBC to fulfill its mandate.

All concerned Canadians should be involved in the public debate about any possible review of the CBC's important role in Canadian society.

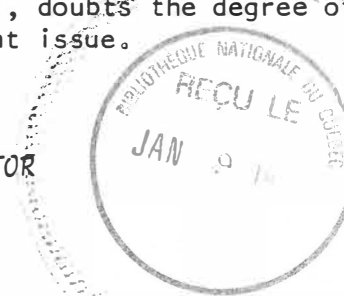
COMMENT IN THE FRENCH PRESS

Because of the many resignations in the Parti Québécois over the past month, editorial comment has concentrated heavily on issues of sovereignty and independence and has paid minimal attention to linguistic affairs. Criticisms from the Conseil Supérieur de l'Éducation on the state of second-language education in Quebec, however, prompted an editorial from Lise Bissonnette in Le Devoir, Dec. 5.

In her editorial entitled, "Against a Taboo", Ms. Bissonnette praises the courage of the Conseil for "breaking the ice of hypocrisy which has coated this dossier for too long." She is most impressed with the preamble to the Conseil's recommendations which "reaffirms the utility of individual bilingualism, a notion which previously was resisted as a carryover from colonial days." To illustrate this point further, she quotes from the Conseil's past president, M. Claude Benhamin, who astutely called the ability to speak English a "trump card from which no attachment to Quebec's official language can justify us depriving our youth."

Referring to Alliance Quebec's recent demographic study, Ms. Bissonnette expressed concern about the discrepancy in levels of bilingualism, which for anglophones is 53% and francophones only 29%. "Such a level of individual unilingualism," she writes, "can soon become a collective disadvantage." Solutions to the problem of second-language education in Quebec would involve, according to Ms. Bissonnette, an overhaul of the existing "antiquated" system. However, she, like the Conseil, doubts the degree of energy which would be given by the Ministry to this important issue.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I would like to take the opportunity to wish you and your loved ones all a very happy holiday season.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the important work you have all contributed to your Chapters and Associations during the past year. It has perhaps become cliché to say so, but those efforts are the foundation upon which the success of Alliance Quebec is based.

At the recently held Leadership Training Seminar, I had the chance to talk to many of you at one of the plenary sessions. I spoke of the transition Alliance Quebec is undergoing and the growing emphasis on community development. This is not to suggest that all the battles have been won, but it does seem clear that the organization is entering a new phase of development; one in which the importance of expanding the grassroots base and increasing outreach becomes even more critical.

So, it's with anticipation that I look forward to the challenges of the New Year and to seeing you all at the next provincial event.

BEST WISHES AGAIN FOR A MERRY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Vaughan Dowie,
Executive Director.