

Alliance Quebec Shocked at Landry's Refusal

Montreal, Wednesday, September 6, 2000 - Alliance Quebec is dismayed by Quebec Finance Minister Bernard Landry's decision yesterday to snub \$500 million (\$100 million over the next five years) slated for municipal infrastructure. Landry may refuse the money because of the federal government's conditions, which includes co-management and bilingual signage.

"Landry's decision is one that denies Quebec municipalities their share of federal funding," says Alliance Quebec president Anthony Housefather. "Municipalities have been lobbying for that money to repair local roads, highways and sewers, and now it is being taken away because unfortunately Mr. Landry feels threatened by the idea of bilingualism."

Landry has stated that his refusal is a message to Ottawa that Quebec can manage its own affairs. However, local cities will certainly be affected within the next few years when Quebec informs them that there is no budget for infrastructure programs.

Alliance Quebec fully supports bilingual signage throughout Canada, in order to show proper respect to both of Canada's official language communities. Says Housefather, "We cannot believe that the minister would make such a costly mistake. His refusal will hurt all Quebecers."