

## **School Board elections: AQ to government: Do it now -- but do it right!**

**MONTREAL, MAY 26, 1998** - Alliance Quebec called on François Casgrain, Director General of Elections to guarantee English-speaking voters every chance to exercise their right to vote in upcoming school board elections. President Constance Middleton-Hope called for more money, more promotion and an extended revision process to widen voter access for the June 14th vote. She condemned a suggestion that voters stay home on Election Day.

“There have been some reckless and divisive calls for a boycott of this vote,” Middleton-Hope noted, “and I want to urge all English-speaking Quebecers to ignore them. These elections are about building English school boards that will provide our kids with quality education across the province. They are the first chance for our communities to control and manage our own education system. I for one am not about to invite voters to throw away that chance.”

Alliance Quebec has requested an urgent meeting with M. Casgrain to demand immediate improvements to the voter registration process (see attached letter).

“This vote is going to happen; it’s got to happen,” Middleton-Hope said. “Calling for a boycott is calling for a cop-out. I’m not going to do that.

“Alliance Quebec is going to insist, however, that Monsieur Casgrain do his job right, however. That means getting the roadblocks out of the way. It means respecting the principle that access to the right to vote should be easy, transparent and accessible.”