

Housefather to Run for ISLAND OF MONTREAL CITIZENS' UNION in upcoming campaign-will step down as AQ President

Montreal, Thursday, July 19, 2001 - Alliance Quebec President Anthony Housefather announced today that he has accepted the challenge of running for the Island of Montreal Citizens' Union in the planned November elections and would be stepping down as AQ President following an orderly transition and the AQ Board of Directors' election of a new President.

“It has been a tremendous honour to have served as President of Alliance Quebec for the last year and as an Executive Member of the organization for the last six years, “ stated Housefather, “ I have consistently opposed the forced municipal mergers enacted in Bill 170 but in the event our appeal fails and they actually occur. I believe that it is necessary to elect a Mayor and Councillors committed to the decentralization of services and the assurance of English language services to all residents. I am confident that I have a real contribution to make at the municipal level over the next four years.”

AQ Mainland Vice-President JoAnne Fandrich stated that she was sorry to see Housefather step down as President but understood the importance of ensuring that individuals committed to decentralization of services were elected to Montreal City Council. “Anthony has been a dynamic and articulate President,” stated Fandrich, “ and I am very sorry that he will no longer be our spokesperson, however I am positive that he will be a great asset to our community in the municipal arena.”

Housefather informed the Alliance Quebec Executive of his decision at a meeting last evening and assured them of his continued commitment to the organization and its guiding principles. The Executive Committee will shortly convene a meeting of the Alliance Quebec Board to elect a new President.