

Adoption of Seven Health and Social Services Access Plans: Too Little Too Late

Thursday February 4, 1999 - Alliance Quebec is not satisfied with the government's handling of the English-language Health and Social Services Access Plans. The seven access plans which were adopted by cabinet Wednesday affect just 8.6% of the English-speaking population of Quebec. Furthermore, in adopting only seven of the access plans, the Government completely ignored the recommendation of its own Provincial Advisory Committee whose role is to ensure the provincial government perform its duties according to the law.

The Committee, in a report entitled: Opinion Concerning the Process for the Approval by the Government of Quebec of Access Programs of Health and Social Services in the English Language, implored the Minister of Health and Social Services NOT to approve the plans in a piecemeal fashion:

1. that the Government proceed to approve the 16 access programs in a coherent and integrated fashion in order to ensure approval is complete and has meaningful effect;
2. that services of a supra-regional nature appear simultaneously in the decrees for Receiving Regions providing out-of-region services as well as for regions benefiting from said services, in order to ensure the entitlement of access has the same legal implication in all regions concerned;...

“The approval of only seven of the sixteen access plans is utterly meaningless,” stated Alliance Quebec President William Johnson.

“The access plans were ready long ago. This piecemeal fashion of adopting the access plans is unacceptable.”

Alliance Quebec will continue its legal proceedings in an effort to oblige the government to apply the law.