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1986 - A BUSY ALLIANCE AGENDA

The Alliance Quebec "meet the candidates" effort during the recent provincial election campaign was a huge success. Even chapter and regional associations with many constituencies in their area, managed to meet most of the candidates from the principal parties.

It was hard work to prepare the elections concerns document, organize meetings and make presentations covering local issues as well as general concerns of the English-speaking community. However, if anyone hoped the Alliance volunteers and staff would be able to "take a break" after the election, they have discovered quite the opposite is true. 1986 is shaping up to be our busiest year ever.

It will also be a year of expansion. The English-speaking communities of Val d'Or and Rouyn-Noranda expect to set up two new Alliance chapters on time for Convention '86.

At the chapter and regional association level, health and social services committees have been conducting surveys and preparing briefs on social service delivery at the local level for presentation to the Rochon Commission hearings.

At the same time, the chapters and regional associations are beginning to examine the impact of municipal services on our community in preparation for the hearings of the "Commission d'étude sur les municipalités".

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In addition, chapters and regional associations are involved in a range of activities specific to their area. For example, the Côte Nord Chapter is exploring the possibility of establishing an English-stream at the CEGEP de Sept-Iles.

Soon it will be time to start setting dates for Annual General Meetings. The Convention Committee is starting to meet more and more frequently. Convention '86 will be at John Abbott College in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, May 30 - June 1.

The Education Committee recently presented a brief to Education Minister Claude Ryan, outlining the educational concerns of the English-speaking community. Other committees, such as the Government Services Committee, have also prepared briefing documents or held meetings with new ministers to acquaint them with the concerns of our community.

Also, the Alliance has once again been invited to present a brief to the federal Standing Joint House - Senate Committee on Official Languages Policy and Programs.

The "signs" case will be heard by the Quebec Court of Appeal in March. In January, a legal briefing session was held for 40 merchants who have charges pending against them and who are represented by Alliance Quebec. The Alliance's legal factum has been submitted to the court and our legal advisors are now preparing for the hearing.

The Local History Committee has launched a province-wide history contest for primary and secondary students. The entries will be on display at Convention and awards will be presented to the winning classes at that time. In addition, the committee helped organize a launching at Paragraph Books of Brendan O'Donnell's Printed Sources on the History of English-speaking Quebec, published by the Eastern Townships Research Centre of Bishop's University.

A Community Development seminar is planned for early March and possibly an Education seminar.

The Cultural Issues Work Group will be presenting an interim report to Convention on the community institutions, organizations and groups that enhance "quality of life" for our community. They are currently developing a questionnaire which will be circulated through the chapters and regional associations.

Last but not least, the general fund-raising campaign will be held Saturday, March 8 to Saturday, March 22.

As we all prepare to meet new challenges in 1986, it seems appropriate to remember something Alliance Quebec President, Michael Goldbloom said at Convention '85:

"It is an old truism that nothing breeds success like success. It is equally true that nothing breeds work like success. Something is happening within the Alliance, and I suspect that many of you have begun to sense it. With each successful campaign, with each victory before the courts, with the creation of each new chapter, the demands our community is making upon the Alliance are increasing, not decreasing. They are increasing because we've proven that we can lead, that we can solve problems and that we will be there when our community calls."

ROCHON COMMISSION HEARINGS

In the wake of proposals by the Ministry of Health and Social Services to restructure the social affairs system in Quebec, the Provincial Government mandated the Rochon Commission in June of last year to undertake an independent study of health care and social service delivery across the province.

The Rochon Commission was originally mandated to study solely the functioning and financing of the social affairs system and to recommend improvements in these areas.

However, Alliance Quebec, the Task Force on Social Services and the network of English-language health and social service institutions asked the Commission in September to also explore the issues of linguistic accessibility and maintenance of English-language institutions.

Since then, the Rochon Commission has set up a mechanism of regional consultation and will be conducting regional tours in the course of the coming year, to consult with interest groups at the local level on problems, and to recommend solutions.

In preparation for the consultation process, Alliance Quebec chapters and regional associations have been polling local health and social service institutions on the availability of English-language services and documentation. They also have been surveying English-language users to determine satisfaction with service delivery at the local level. On the basis of information received from these surveys, the various task forces and committees are preparing briefs presenting a region by region profile and analysis of social service delivery to English-speaking Quebecers. The briefs will also contain recommendations for improvements to the system.

The common thread linking these presentations, each of which will outline a number of specific local concerns, is on the need for legislative guarantees and clear-cut policies and guidelines for: 1) access to services in English; and 2) maintenance of the institutions already serving our community.

Of particular concern is the inadequacy of services available to English-speaking Quebecers outside the Montreal area. Other concerns include, among others: inadequacy of emergency care services; lack of resources for our senior citizens; and coordination of services in CLSC territories across the province.

The Alliance's presentations will also stress the need for English-speaking Quebecers to be properly represented on the boards of health and social service institutions across the province, as well as on the staff of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Regional Councils and local institutions.

The position of the Alliance, as a grassroots organization, is that, through extensive and representative community consultation, an effective health care and social service system can be devised which benefits all Quebecers, wherever they live in the province.

To this end, the active participation of representatives from the Alliance's 21 chapters and associations, in preparing and presenting a detailed regional and local perspective, will ensure that the concerns of the English-speaking community will be well represented at the Rochon Commission hearings when it tours the province.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME UPDATE

In September of last year, the Government Services Programme was formed to lobby for increased changes from the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government in the following areas: access to services and documentation; access to civil service employment and representation for members of the English-speaking community of Quebec.

The Committee is chaired by AQ Vice-President Marjorie Goodfellow, and includes members: Irving Adessky, (AQ Board member); Craig Berger (AQ Board member and St. Laurent Chapter Chairperson); Neil Drabkin (Côte St. Luc/Hampstead/Snowdon W. Chapter); Marilyn Hellinger (Montreal Centre Chapter); Hubert McLelland (Outaouais Alliance); Glenn O'Farrell (President, Voice of English Quebec); and Michael Weil (West Island Chapter).

Access to Documentation and Services

At the federal level, the Committee will work closely with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages in monitoring availability of documentation and services in English from federal department offices in Quebec.

At the provincial level, the Committee has been conducting a letter-writing campaign lobbying Communication Québec to provide English versions of information guides. These include guides for seniors, youth, women and members of the general public. Lobbying efforts will eventually be expanded to canvass individual ministries on availability of documentation and services in English.

At the municipal level, the Committee is encouraging chapters/associations to conduct surveys on the availability of municipal documentation and services in English. These surveys will be followed-up by meetings with municipal officials.

Access to Civil Service Employment

Federal

The Government Services Programme has formed an Ad-Hoc Committee to address the problem of under-representation of English-speaking Quebecers in the Federal Civil Service in Quebec. The Committee is composed of representatives from the Federal Public Service Commission, Employment and Immigration, Alliance Quebec and the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages. The Committee's first initiative is the drafting of a questionnaire for use by chapters and associations in conducting a survey on employment opportunities in the federal civil service in Quebec.

Provincial

The Programme has also set up a Provincial Civil Service Sub-Committee. Strategies include sending weekly notices of provincial public service competitions to chapters and associations; encouraging outreach to local manpower offices, CEGEP and university campuses; establishment of a network of local committees; and maintenance of links with the "access to equality" programme of the office of Human Resources Department of the Quebec Government.

Access to Municipal Services

The Commission on the Future of Municipalities was formed this past fall by the Union des Municipalités du Québec to consult on the future of municipal government structures and services. The Commission will be touring the province in the coming months to receive briefs from interested parties and to hold public hearings.

Alliance Quebec will present a brief to the Commission when it visits Montreal, and is coordinating with various off-island chapters/associations, encouraging them to present their concerns when the Commission tours their regions.

The Alliance position will highlight the need to ensure that English-speaking Quebecers receive services from their municipal governments in English. The brief will also stress the need for English-speaking Quebecers to be adequately represented on decision-making bodies at the municipal level.

The Alliance provincial office will present its brief to the Commission when it visits Montreal on June 11 and 12.

ALLIANCE QUEBEC LOCAL HISTORY CONTEST

This year, something new will be added to the roster of events featured at our annual convention. English-language elementary and secondary students from across the province will be illustrating the history of the English-speaking community in their region. They will be participating in The Alliance Quebec Local History Contest.

The contest, sponsored by the Alliance's Local History Committee (consisting of members Graeme Decarie - Chairman, Sam Allison and Kevin O'Donnell), is meant to serve as a complement to the various local history projects being carried out by a number of chapters and regional associations. The contest is a province-wide effort to paint the picture of the English-speaking community across Quebec as seen through the eyes of our youth.

Students have been invited, in a classroom project, to create a display/montage depicting the history of the English-speaking community in their area. Displays can contain any combination of photos, maps or sketches describing an interesting aspect of the history of a community, group or region. Entries will be judged according to the following criteria: visual appeal, human interest value, historical value, and originality of theme.

The contest is designed to involve our schools in the English-speaking population's growing awareness of itself as a community deeply rooted in this province and to make English-speaking Quebecers (and others) more aware of the quality of work our students are capable of producing.

In broader terms, the project will illustrate the many important contributions which the English-speaking communities of Quebec have made to the historical, cultural and economic development of the province. It will also demonstrate that English-speaking Quebecers come from a wide variety of racial, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

Finally, the project will serve to increase appreciation amongst our youth of the history of the English-speaking community, and will reflect various regions and local communities to one another.

Promotional material has been sent to the Curriculum Directors of all English-language school boards and to all English-language elementary and secondary schools (public and private, Catholic and Protestant, and immersion) across the province. In addition, follow-up at the local level is being conducted through our network of chapters and associations.

All contest entries will be displayed in a special exhibit at the Alliance Quebec Annual Convention in June. Trophies will be presented at Convention '86 to award-winning schools, and all entrants will receive certificates of participation. As well, samples of award-winning montages will be featured in the summer edition of The Quebecer.

The Local History Committee hopes for province-wide participation that will allow us to present an exciting display at Convention highlighting the talent of our youth and reflecting the diversity of the English-speaking community.

CHAPTER AND ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Voice of English Quebec has recently completed editing 23 hours of videotaped interviews of English-speaking senior citizens in the Quebec City area. The tapes have been edited down to three one-half hour segments divided between reminiscences of city and country life from 1900 to 1950. The project, entitled "Quebec as I Remember It", began as a Canada Summer Works project and ran from June 15 to November 15. Special thanks go to coordinator Marianna O'Gallagher, researcher-interviewer Meb Reisner, producer-technician Gilles Harvey, and film editor Scott Kingsland. The first official screening of the videos was held Sat., December 21 at the St. Lawrence Campus of Champlain Regional College. The videos were also recently broadcast on CKMI-TV, Channel 5, the English-language CBC affiliate in Quebec City. The videos are also available on loan by calling V.E.Q. at (418) 683-2366. V.E.Q. hopes to secure funding to create four or five more half-hour programs from the remaining unedited material. Topics for possible future reference include: the military presence in Quebec; the Tercentenary of 1908; the Great Depression, and Unions.

In other news, V.E.Q. is pleased to welcome Tom Reisner of Laval University to its Board of Directors. Mr. Reisner has been named Chairperson of the Heritage and Culture Committee.

In staff news, V.E.Q. welcomes Helen Meredith who began her duties this past fall as Programme Director of Community Animation and Development. Ms. Meredith is a native of Quebec City and has a degree in recreology from the University of Ottawa.

Côte Nord Chapter's Education Committee, under Chairperson Brenda Bond, in conjunction with the Queen Elizabeth School Parents' Committee and the Littoral School Board, has conducted a study on the feasibility of opening an English-language stream in the CEGEP de Sept-Iles. The results of questionnaires mailed out to teachers, administrators and students indicate keen interest in such a proposal. A report on the findings of the questionnaire has been made to Octave Deraps, Director-General of the CEGEP de Sept-Iles. The CEGEP would be prepared, initially, to offer an English stream in the Pure & Applied Sciences and Social Sciences pre-university programmes, provided that a minimum of 20 students register in each programme. So far, 45 English-speaking area students have indicated their interest by applying into the programmes. The CEGEP is making a formal application to the Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Science et de la Technologie to obtain approval and funding for the proposal to allow for the opening of an English stream in September 1986.

The Health and Social Services Committee, chaired by Louise Jones, and assisted by Committee member Nicholas Vydykhan, is investigating with the Centre de santé de Port Cartier, the possibility of setting up a volunteer service for the local

English-speaking community. The Committee is also producing an English-language information pamphlet in cooperation with officials from L'Hôpital de Sept-Iles.

St. Maurice Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee has recently prepared a brief for submission to the Rochon Commission. Priorities identified in the brief include: home care for English-speaking seniors; nurses and social workers who can provide services in English to students in English-language schools; and emergency services in English.

In local history news, planning is underway for the creation of a museum in Trois-Rivières which will trace the history of the St. Maurice Valley region. The chapter will work closely with the museum planning committee to ensure that displays at the museum also reflect the contributions of the English-speaking community to the development of the City of Trois-Rivières and surrounding region.

C.A.S.A. (Committee for Anglophone Social Action) in the Gaspé is busy in a number of areas.

C.A.S.A.'s Health and Social Services Committee has applied for federal Canada Works funding to set up two training centres this spring, one in New Carlisle, and another in Gaspé, for mentally handicapped English-speaking area residents. The Committee has also drafted a brief for presentation to the Rochon Commission.

C.A.S.A.'s Heritage Committee is quizzing students on Gaspesian history and geography, landmarks and famous personalities, for the creation of a "Gaspé trivia game". Members of the Heritage Committee include: Cindy Patterson, Arthur Campbell, Gary Silvester, Margaret Day and Eleanor Hall. The Committee is also bringing in three touring theatre groups to area schools in the course of the year. These are: Geordie Productions (children's theatre from Montreal), Theatre New Brunswick (for elementary and secondary students), and Picardi Theatre (a marionette theatre from Montreal).

C.A.S.A.'s Youth Committee now broadcasts two hours per day of English-language programming on the French-language station, Radio Gaspé. The broadcast has been expanded to include interviews with prominent English-speaking Gaspesians.

C.A.S.A.'s Education Committee participated in the recent regional Estates General on the Quality of Education and will send delegates to the provincial conference in Montreal to be held April 2-5. The Committee has recently established a

Scholarship Fund for local high school and CEGEP students. As well, the Committee is supporting the efforts of Canadian Parents for French to introduce French Immersion programmes in area schools.

The **N.D.G./Montreal West Chapter** Community Profiles Work Group will shortly publish a statistical profile of the N.D.G./Montreal West community. The Work Group is chaired by Chapter Chairperson Brian Webber and includes members: Anne Usher, Myriam Greene, Paul Belshaw, Albert Bridgewater and Clarence Bayne. The project grew out of the Chapter's desire to become better informed about its constituency and to provide other community groups and organizations with an effective tool for planning and organizing.

In other news, the Chapter has moved to new headquarters at Rosedale United Church, 6870 Terrebonne, in N.D.G.; Tel.: 481-1774. The church is a beehive of community activity, housing as well the N.D.G. Senior Citizens' Council, a Daycare Centre, and a special YMCA community development project.

The **T.M.R./Outremont/Côte-des-Neiges/Snowdon East Chapter's** first priority for the year is the setting up of a Government Services Committee, chaired by chapter board member Maria Wichers. The Committee held its first meeting on February 4th.

Under the coordination of Edith Bauer, the chapter will hold a phone-blitz membership recruitment drive the week of February 11-20. The chapter will concentrate its drive in the Côte-des-Neiges area. The purpose of the campaign is twofold: to increase the general membership and to augment the chapter's core of active volunteers.

In other news, Chapter Chairperson Peter Hechtman has been invited to sit as the Alliance Quebec representative on the Côte-des-Neiges Community Council which held its founding meeting February 4 at Van Horne School.

The **South West Chapter** is busy promoting its local history project in local high schools, enlisting young people to conduct tape recorded interviews of senior citizens. The chapter plans to publish the tapes and to maintain an archives of recorded material.

In other news, the chapter held its first public meeting of the year on January 22nd, at Ville Marie Social Services Center in Verdun. The meeting featured a lively presentation on the "History of the Health and Social Services Institutions in Montreal", a lively account by Sam Allison, South Shore Chapter member.

The South Shore Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee, under the direction of Jim Carter, has prepared a brief for submission to the Rochon Commission. The brief was prepared in consultation with representatives from the West Island Chapter, the Townshippers' Association, and the Châteauguay Valley English-speaking Peoples' Association and reflects the interests of the 160,000 English-speaking people living in Region 06-C.

Paul Jones and Margaret McKeown of the Government Services Committee are surveying 22 area municipalities on the availability of services to the English-speaking population.

Chapter representatives Jim Carter and Barbara Robyn have been invited to sit on a planning committee looking at expanding English-language programming on community television on the South Shore. The planning committee consists of representatives from a wide range of community groups and has been set up by South Shore Cable TV which is seeking community input into program planning.

In other news, chapter board member Fred Weisman has been invited to sit as the English-speaking representative on the St. Bruno Library Committee.

Townshippers' Association's newly formed Welcome Committee, staffed by Gail Clinck, is producing a brochure and regional directories outlining community resources to new employees transferred into the Townships and to potential investors. The brochure will display the assets of the Townships region, while the directories will outline cultural, recreational and social services and activities which are offered in English, or bilingually. The material will be distributed to trade commissions, municipalities, individual companies and institutions, and government bodies. As well, welcome committees are being formed in a number of Townships communities.

The Association's Small Business Committee, chaired by Vladmir Odstrcil, is organizing Entrepreneurship Days at local high schools, a Future Millionaires' Club, a Speaker's Bureau of local business people and a Symposium on Entrepreneurship. The purpose of these activities is to encourage entrepreneurship amongst Townships youth and to provide information on local job opportunities. At the same time, the Association continues to sponsor a series of workshops on Job Search Techniques in local communities.

In staff news, Townshippers' bid a fond farewell in early January to Ann Louise Carson who has been with the Association for close to three years, first as Job

Opportunities Programme Coordinator, and then as Community Development Programme Coordinator. Staff and volunteers wish her all the best in her new role as presse attaché to Provincial Agriculture Minister Michel Pagé.

Representatives of the Upper Laurentians and Lower Laurentians and Laval/North Shore Chapters, who form the Health and Social Services Task Force for Region 06-B, have been busy over the past two months lobbying the CSSSLL, the local governing body for health and social services. The CSSSLL has included in the "Guide des droits des bénéficiaires", a guide to health and social service delivery for area residents, a section stating that a person is entitled to receive services in their language. In cooperation with the CSSSLL, the Task Force has distributed a questionnaire on availability of English-language services to the 70 health and social service institutions covered in Region 06-B. The Task Force and the CSSSLL are in the process of setting up a "Comité provisoire" (Advisory Committee) which will include representation from various sectors of the community. The Task Force has also prepared a brief for submission to the Rochon Commission.

In other news, the Upper Laurentians Chapter congratulates former Animator Mary Lou Kelley, her husband Peter and son Richard, on the birth in December of their daughter, who weighed in at 8 lbs., 6 oz. Congratulations to the happy family!

West Island Chapter members have responded well to the Chapter's request to send out letters to the provincial government requesting versions of various government guides in English. These include guides for seniors, women and youth.

Stuart Steventon, a member of the Business/Employment & Signs Committee, is lobbying municipal officials for bilingual warning signs at MUC blasting sites for public works projects.

Kevin Saville, Regional Liaison Officer for the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages in Montreal, spoke at a recent board meeting on Language Reform & Rights. A lively exchange followed on the role and responsibility of the federal government and the Commissioner's office.

In other news, the Chapter's Business and Employment Committee, chaired by Rick Smyth, is planning a career night for CEGEP and Grades 10 & 11 high school students.

Montreal Centre Chapter held its first board meeting of the year on January 14th in chapter offices. At that meeting, Government Services was identified as a chapter priority, and a committee was struck consisting of Lawrence Jackson

(recently nominated to the chapter board), Alicia Hugessen and Ross Clark. The first goal of the Committee is to heighten awareness of career opportunities in the Provincial Civil Service amongst CEGEPs and university graduates.

Baie-Comeau Chapter representatives have successfully lobbied officials in the Baie-Comeau municipal library to purchase English-language children's books. Statistics on use indicate that English-speaking area residents are availing themselves of this new service.

Outaouais Alliance's Heritage Autonomy Committee has been conducting opinion surveys over the past few months on the campaign to ensure the autonomy of Heritage Campus, the English section of the CEGEP de l'Outaouais. The results of polls canvassing students from area high schools and members of the general public indicate strong community support for the issue. The Heritage campaign is being coordinated by Susan Taylor of Chelsea, a former board member of the Outaouais Alliance. The Heritage Autonomy Committee is represented by Ed Trembath, President of Outaouais Alliance, and Margaret Buchinski, Executive Director.

Outaouais Alliance will sponsor, in conjunction with Heritage Campus and regional high schools, a West Quebec Youth Career Festival on February 11 at Heritage Campus. The purpose of the event is to give high school and CEGEP students the opportunity to discuss career opportunities with representatives from a wide variety of vocational fields. The event will also provide an opportunity for high school students (and their parents), being bussed in from across West Quebec, to tour the Heritage Campus facilities and to become better acquainted with the programs of study offered. Outaouais Alliance Board member, Karen Lochhead, chairs the Youth Career Festival Organizing Committee.

In staff news, Outaouais Alliance is pleased to announce that Carol Pritchard-Murtagh has joined the Association as Community Liaison Officer. Carol is not new to Outaouais Alliance, as a member of its first Board of Directors and as one of the founding members of the English Cultural Resource Centre. Carol's enthusiasm and energy, and her familiarity with West Quebec will be a great asset to the organization.

The **Côte St. Luc/Hampstead/Outremont/Snowdon West Chapter** has, in addition to the various provincial programme initiatives being implemented at the local level, been involved in outreach to community organizations. Chapter Chairperson Rosemarie Mavrokefalos was a guest speaker recently at The Golden Age Club of the Kellert YM/YWHA, the Young Pioneer Women's Association, and the Friendly Club of Shaare Zion Synagogue.

In other news, the chapter published in December the latest issue of its newsletter, Horizons.

The chapter also hosted a meeting in December of the Youth Sub-Committee of the Provincial Community Development Programme Committee.

The **St. Laurent Chapter** once again held a successful end-of-year International Holiday Pot Luck Supper. The event attracted over 150 community representatives, including election candidates, (notably Thérèse Lavoie-Roux, MNA for Lacadie and present Minister of Health and Social Services), pro-mayor Shirley Maheu, city councillors, provincial and federal government representatives, and members of several ethnic communities, including the Bangladesh, Armenian, Italian, Polish and Hungarian communities of St. Laurent. The evening featured Hungarian and Bangladesh dancers and a special performance by the Mount Royal Operatic Society, and by Theatrix, a local theatre troupe.

The chapter met January 17th with Robert Bourassa in his St. Laurent riding office. Chapter representatives reviewed the history of the chapter and discussed issues of concern to English-speaking residents of St. Laurent. The chapter was honoured at this opportunity to meet with the Premier, who was most receptive to the chapter delegation.

The Board of Directors of **The Châteauguay Valley English-speaking Peoples' Association (C.V.E.S.P.A.)** held a planning conference January 3, 4 & 5 at Mont l'Immaculée in St. Anicet, Quebec. At this meeting, board members approved program strategies for the coming year. They also introduced the Task Force model to provide a new framework for volunteer participation in C.V.E.S.P.A. activities.

C.V.E.S.P.A.'s Radio Committee Task Force has recently received the results of a survey, distributed to businesses, community groups and members of the general public, demonstrating the feasibility of opening an English-language radio station in the Châteauguay Valley. The Task Force will make a formal application to the CRTC early in March. Members of the Task Force include: Maurice King, Chairperson; H. Gordon Green - Ormstown; J. Dawson - Rockburn; K. Aldridge - Ormstown; M. Anderson - Rockburn; Iain Miller - Adult Education; Barry Campbell - Quebec Farmers' Association; and K. Hamilton of St. Anicet.

The Board has appointed a Task Force of four to develop a proposal for publishing the taped recollections of senior residents of Hemmingford. The Task Force consists of Chairperson Jolene Robinson, Susan Heller, Justin Fryer and Stanley Kennedy.

C.V.E.S.P.A.'s Education Committee, chaired by Donald Ednie, and assisted by Concordia Educational Consultant Riva Heft, is conducting a Parent Attitude Survey to determine support for French Second-Language learning programs for children. The results of the survey will be distributed to a number of groups, associations and individuals in the Châteauguay Valley.

C.V.E.S.P.A. continues to hold a series of workshops, in Ormstown, in cooperation with the Adult Education Department of the Châteauguay Valley Regional School Board. Workshop themes include: "How to work with your local newspaper and other media" (Jan. 11th); "The options for helping your child learn French" (Jan. 21st); "Early/Late Immersion in French"/"French Language Learning Programs" (Feb. 25th); "How to do the work of an officer in a Volunteer Association or Group" (March 8th); and a talk by representatives of Canadian Parents for French (March 11th).

In other news, the Association is pleased to announce that long-time Valley resident, author and educator Leigh Coffin has joined the staff as Communications Coordinator for special projects. Other C.V.E.S.P.A. staff members include: Maurice King - Chief Executive Officer; Janet Hicks - Executive Director; Laurie Forget - Clerk/Typist; Janice Kirkey - receptionist; and Shirley Watson - Typist.

AQ IN BRIEF

The Alliance bids farewell this month to Jeff Polenz, Associate Director of Education and Economic Development. Jeff will continue to work closely in matters of concern to the English-speaking community of Quebec, in the field of education, as a political attaché to Education Minister Claude Ryan.

The Alliance also bids farewell to Laval/North Shore Animator Ludmila Pergat who has assumed her new duties as a political aide in the office of Vice-Premier and Cultural and Linguistic Affairs Minister Lise Bacon.

The Alliance welcomes Marie Murphy aboard as Director of Research. Marie comes to the Alliance with nine years experience as a researcher with the Quebec Human Rights Commission. She also teaches at Concordia University's School of Community Politics and the Law.

The Alliance also welcomes Russell Copeman, who has been hired on a contract basis to coordinate support to chapters/associations in the Education and Health and Social Services dossiers. Russell comes to us with a Masters degree in public policy and administration as well as broad experience in the field of education.