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PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO CANADIANS

October 25th was certainly a momentous day for Canada. Canadians agreed to put the past behind them and begin working to build a better future for their country. When I reached the podium on election day, I couldn't help but think of all the people who supported the Liberal Party. Your support helped bring the Liberal Team to victory. And for that, you have my sincerest thanks. It is now time to move ahead; we must rebuild shattered dreams, and show Canadians and Quebecers that this government is their government, and that together we can create a future of hope and prosperity.

SPEECH BY DR. VICTOR C. GOLDBLOOM:

Within his speech he delivered four objectives that were to be established. The first objective is to defend and protect the linguistic duality of this country. The second objective is that the minorities must have the resources, and particularly the institutional resources, which make it possible for them to live and function and grow as communities. The third objective is to strengthen the minority communities, which are faced with losses of numerical strength. The fourth objective is that all issues requires governmental support. That governmental support is spelled out in the Official Languages Act. The Commissioner's Office is in the process of carrying out an evaluation of the application of Part VII of the Official Languages Act, notably Sections 41 and 42.

ULTRAMAR ISSUE:

Requested to investigate this issue, as there is a possibility that the Ultramar stations may be closing on the Coast. Received no confirmative information, it was decided that it is an issue for the municipalities and we would strongly support it.

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QUEBEC'S SIGN LAW CHANGES:

On December 22, 1993, Quebec's charter of the French language, commonly known as Bill 101, and its regulations, have been changed to allow English and other languages on most commercial and public signs. The 1988 Supreme court decision upheld the rulings that while the National Assembly could require French, it could not ban other languages from public signs and commercial advertising in Quebec must be in French, other languages are now also allowed under certain conditions. On public signs and commercial advertising, French must be "markedly predominant" having a much greater visual impact. On health or public safety, cultural, scientific, or educational signs or advertising, French must appear "as predominantly". Personal (non-commercial & non-professional) and political signs, may be in the language of choice.

AQ APPLAUDS HIGH-CALIBRE MEMBERSHIP OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENGLISH HEALTH SERVICES:

Alliance Quebec applauded the appointment of a strong and representative committee to advise the government on English-language health and social services. This committee will play a crucial role in promoting access to services in English across the province. This committee will be called on to comment on regional access plans outlining where and how

English-language health and social services are to be delivered. The members may also offer recommendations on other issues of concern in the health-care sector.

"YOUR LISTENING TO CJAS"

An application was submitted to the Secretary of State for the printing of the book entitled "Your listening to CJAS, the best little radio station in town." This book was produced approximately five to six years ago by Janet Torge, a freelancer from Montreal, with the assistance of Cornella Maurice, who was the manager of the CJAS radio station at that time.

PROVINCIAL YOUTH COMMITTEE:

Alliance Quebec launched a Provincial Youth Employment Services Committee which will focus on youth and youth employment in their efforts on behalf of the English-speaking community.

MAXIMUM WEEKLY BENEFIT FOR 1994:

The weekly maximum insurable earnings for 1994 will be \$780, an increase of \$35 from 1993. To qualify for a premium reduction, a wage loss of replacement plan must provide a benefit level of at least 47% of the employee's insurable earnings. The maximum weekly benefit for 1994 is therefore \$445, that is 57% of \$780.

CANCER AGENCY:

Community organizers of the CSBCN is attempting to establish a system of financial help for cancer patients on the L.N.S. Their objective is to organize a local organization offering financial support to these patients and their escorts. Their expectations from the Coasters Association were to administer this organization; determine who qualifies for financial assistance and how much; screen the applicants and determine acceptance or refusal and disperse the financial assistance to the applicant. The Coasters Association felt that they could not take on such a task but they would support their initiative.

PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The members selected from the Montreal region were: Mr. Ron Creary, Mr. Archie Deskin, Mr. Vaughan Dowie, Mme. Marylee Kelley, Mr. Eric Maldoff and Mme. Janet Steer. Other members were: Mme. Sheilagh Murphy from Outaouais, Mme. Marisa Tessier from Estrie, Mr. Richard Walling from Quebec, Mr. James Warbanks from Laurentides and Mme. Darlene Johnstone from Gaspé. No representative from L.N.S.

QUEBEC NCARP CLIENTS WHO SELECTED TRAINING:

NCARP clients whose income replacement rate is above \$225 and who are not fishing experience exempt are required to participate in an approved

training program to maintain all monies above the minimum of \$225/week. On the "Declaration of Intent" form sent by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, they stated that they wished to participate in an approved training program to maintain their higher income replacement rate. However, it has been brought to the attention of the Human Resources Development that they have either refused to participate in a training program or have quit the agreed training without just cause. As a result of this action, their NCARP rate will be reduced to \$225 per week effective immediately. Further information can be obtained by contacting their office at (709) 772-3552.

HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER:

A letter was written by A.Q. and all the Associations to request a meeting with him to bring to his attention some of the critical situation that our communities are facing.

A letter was written by A.Q. and the Associations to our Prime Minister asking for a clarification of a letter that was brought to our attention referring to "Canadians and Quebecers", which gave us the impression that the two terms are mutually exclusive.

POLP NEWSLETTER:

A newsletter was received from the promotion of official languages program which

explained the following subjects: Program rationale, Achievements of objectives, Impacts and effects, Effectiveness and equity, Client satisfaction, Alternatives, Information on the 2nd meeting held by the Advisory Committee and the Results presented at annual consultations.

CSBCN NEWS RELEASES:

The Board of Directors has decided to end subsidized taxi transportation between Old Fort, St. Paul's River and Blanc Sablon, as well as in Chevery. These services shall cease as of December 15th. 50% of the cost of transportation between the Blanc Sablon airport, the wharf and the hospital shall be assumed by the Centre de Sante. The transport service shall reimburse the concerned person half of the cost, upon presentation of receipts. Any questions, contact the transport service at 1-800-463-4962.

The CSBCN presented the measures they intend to follow in order to balance the 1993-1994 budget. These measures have taken effect as of November 23rd, 1993. They are moving towards a deficit of \$325,000. These cuts will mainly affect support services and more directly administrative services. There was a considerable increase in airline ticket prices. These factors will have a direct impact on transportation cost for staff, beneficiaries and members of

the Board. The CSBCN is also spending more on salary insurance than was expected. The position of the person responsible for domestic services has been suspended. The recall list will also be used at a minimum. Most of unfilled positions will not be replaced before March 31, 1994. The number of working hours for most attendants working in the clinics will be reduced. No position have been cut up to this point. The base budget will be revised by management.

The "Maison d'accueil Richelieu" opened officially on December 6th, in Sept-Iles. This house is built for people from the LNS as well as other regions that have to go for treatment. There are four (4) rooms and four (4) studios. It costs \$15. for a room and \$20. for the studio per night. In order to have access to the house you must be receiving medical services from the Sept-Iles hospital. Request for access to the house must be made through the transport service at the CSBCN.

The CSBCN adopted the procedure for studying the complaints from the users. This procedure provides that a user may lodge a verbal or written complaint to the attention of the person responsible, Mrs. Nicole Berube, Director of nursing.

MEMBERSHIP:

A few new members joined us in the past few months.

INTERVIEWS:

Cornella had an interview with CJAS and CFBS to give information of the Board meeting and to furnish an update of the Coasters happenings since the destruction of the office in January/92.

SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION:

First-timers have to pay a fee of seventy odd dollars and the renewers have to pay a fee of fifty odd dollars.

MEETINGS:

Minutes of the 3rd H.S.S. provincial committee meeting held on October 1st at Alliance Quebec is accessible. Due to our funding restrictions, we are unable to attend such meetings; nonetheless, we do receive all information.

Minutes of the provincial off-island committee held on November 2nd by conference call is also accessible upon request. Albert Patterson represents us on this committee.

PROJECTS:

An application for program funding was submitted to the new Secretary of State, Mr. Dupuy, along with a letter to inform him of our objectives and activities.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY:

An amount of \$500. was

received from Mr. Denis Perron M.N.A. and \$200. from Jules Goodman, St. Paul's Salmon Fishing Club. Our request for donation to the Citadelle Foundation was refused due to the financial assistance they provide to our students each year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- ▶ Newspaper (Volume III - Coastar)
- ▶ Organization of a Youth Committee
- ▶ Engineering study contract
- ▶ Job postings
- ▶ Commencement of the A.G.M.

PLEASE NOTE THAT C.A. IS CLOSING ITS OFFICES FROM DECEMBER 17 TO JANUARY 3. I WILL TALK TO YOU AGAIN IN THE NEW YEAR. HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!



Cornella Maurice
Executive Director

Let's
Talk!!

/CM

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