

press releases

AQ re-elects Hamelin, calls for full participation in Quebec society

Alliance Quebec President Michael Hamelin said Sunday that the province must accept full participation for all its English-speaking residents.

"We have been dealt some low cards this year, particularly by this separatist government," said Hamelin, elected to his fourth one-year term as president.

"They have made every effort to marginalize us and to misrepresent us as hostile to the aspirations of French Quebecers. That is profoundly unfair and decidedly untrue."

Hamelin said the Alliance must work harder to bridge Quebec's two linguistic solitudes. He added that the English-speaking communities of Quebec consists of anyone who chooses to use the language and said, "There are no exclusions to membership in this club."

He intends to take that message to Quebec City this week when a committee of the National Assembly will discuss proposed legislation on educational reform.

Alliance Quebec voted Sunday to focus its limited resources on national unity issues that are positive while recognizing the important role played by other organizations.

Constance Middleton-Hope, a community activist and educator, is the Alliance's new chair. Other members of the executive are Edina Bayne, vice-president, Bob Van Tassel of Val d'Or, mainland vice-president, Anthony Housefather, secretary, and Harold Chorney, Georgia Pagidas and Steve Laudi as members at large.