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# The Monthly Report

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## COURTS CLARIFY BILL 101 IN THE WORKPLACE

Two recent legal judgments, clarifying Bill 101 in the workplace, have been welcomed by Alliance Quebec as encouraging signs for our English-speaking community.

In the first case, the court ruled that French is not the sole language permitted in the workplace; in the second, that language cannot be used to discriminate against employees. Both judgments are consistent with the position advocated by AQ over the last few years.

In the first case, the Quebec Court of Appeal ruled on Mar. 22 that Quebec employers can communicate with individual employees exclusively in English if both parties agree. However, employees can request exclusive use of French in documents which they receive. The Court of Appeal was backing an earlier decision by the Quebec Superior Court which had rejected the plea by Vivian Bromfield, an English-speaking employee of Miriam Home for the Retarded, that her dismissal in English was illegal because it violated Bill 101.

"The court is saying that making French the official language in Quebec, particularly as it applies to the language of work, does not imply making French the exclusive language of work. It means that while someone can request French at the work place, it does not alter the pre-existing rule which was that employees and employers have the freedom to communicate with each other either bilingually or in English if they so desire," Alliance Quebec President Eric Maldoff said.

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In the other case, Quebec Superior Court ruled in late March that the City of Lachine had discriminated against one of its employees, Maureen Barton, because of her language. She was denied permanent job status because her French was insufficient even though proficiency in the language was not needed for her work as a computer programmer. This case was the first one, based on language, filed by the Quebec Human Rights Commission, which also argued that the Quebec Charter of Human Rights takes precedence over the French Language Charter - and the court agreed.

"It is an encouraging judgment affecting access to employment for English-speaking Quebecers. This proves that we have a rightful place in the Quebec workplace and that the courts will not tolerate an unreasonable application of the language law," Mr. Maldoff commented. Previously, it had been assumed that since Bill 101 makes French the language of work, knowledge of French is, by definition, a necessary job skill. Instead, this judgment establishes that French is a necessary skill when a job specifically requires it.

#### NEW ROLE FOR GEOFFREY CHAMBERS

When Geoffrey Chambers began as Executive Director of the Council of Quebec Minorities, the staff totalled 4. That was in 1980. How the Council became Alliance Quebec and how the staff has grown to 34 are part of history - and Geoffrey has played a major role.

The growth has been breath-taking; the results, impressive. As President Eric Maldoff said recently to a group of Concordia University students, "We have begun to prove that through co-operation, settlements can be achieved which are acceptable to both the French and English-speaking communities."

When others had misgivings about holding a two-day founding convention in 1982, Geoffrey had the strength of conviction to urge that we go ahead despite the risks involved. As it turned out, the convention was a huge success, providing the impetus for the Alliance to forge ahead.

Geoffrey had the foresight to see the importance of building a broadly-based volunteer organization supported by a highly competent staff. He was instrumental in developing the definition of English-speaking Quebecers as a linguistic community.

"Geoff leaves behind him a solid network of chapters and associations which are growing, a clear commitment to continue building a strong community organization, and an energetic, professional staff. The Alliance now has a life and strength of its own - less than two years after it was founded," Vice-President Michael Goldbloom commented.

The volunteers and staff of Alliance Quebec wish Geoffrey as much success in his next endeavour as he has had with the Alliance. At the same time, we welcome Vaughan Dowie, former Community Development Programme Director, as the Alliance's new Executive Director. Geoffrey will continue working with AQ as a volunteer; he was named to the board last month.

ACTIVITIES IN CHAPTERS AND ASSOCIATIONS

On March 1, Outaouais Alliance held a very successful press conference to release the results of its summer survey. Excellent coverage was received from representatives of 20 different media.

The survey revealed that the English-speaking community of Aylmer and Hull is well established in Quebec, has good relations with its French-speaking neighbours and is rapidly becoming bilingual. There are problems which need urgent attention, including the alarming exodus of youth, lack of services, reliance on Ottawa for professional and social services, entertainment and employment. The English-speaking community is not represented in Quebec government or para-public agencies in any significant numbers. In fact, if this trend and the exodus continue, the English-speaking population of West Quebec faces extinction.

On March 18 Outaouais Alliance invited members of the English-speaking community and business leaders from the Outaouais to a "brunch" at the Palais des Congrès in Hull. Over 350 attended and heard Joseph Magnet speak about language minorities.

A successful St. Patrick's Dance was held in Buckingham on March 24. Outaouais Alliance sponsored the dance and Patricia Gratton, a board member from Buckingham, organized a dance committee. Cal Cummings, board member, and the 'Jug o Punch' Band supplied the music.

Health and Social Services, under Gail Hawley MacDonald is publishing a directory of Social Services available to the English-speaking community. It has taken longer than planned to put together but the target day is April 28 at "The Wrights of Spring" Festival. It is to be distributed to the entire English-speaking community.

Bob May and Carol Pritchard-Murtagh are co-chairing Festival Outaouais Alliance - "The Wrights of Spring" to be held again at Philemon Wright High School on April 28.

The East Island Chapter has generated a good deal of news lately. First, the Chapter has new offices. We are now situated at 6280 Sherbrooke St. East, Suite 1B. The Chapter is indebted to Trinity United Church, where meetings have been held for the last two years.

A major undertaking of the chapter currently is the March Membership Drive. The Chapter's goal is 300 new members by the end of the month.

The Health and Social Services Committee have been visiting the various CLSCs in the district, and have found that some CLSCs do provide services in English. The Committee organized a successful public meeting on Health and Social Services for the Elderly at St. George's United Church on March 13. Approximately 75 people attended the meeting and heard Rita Karakas, former Programme Director for Health and Social Services, and Thérèse D'Arche, of the Regional Council, speak on the subject. The talk generated many questions from a keen audience.

The St-Laurent Chapter's Employment and Business Committee participated on Feb. 28 with guidance counsellors in a career day held at Malcolm Campbell High School. Chapter members Mark Habib and Stephen Cross presented a basic outline of do's and don'ts relating to job search as well as tips on preparing resumés and job application forms. Another such event is planned for April 10 at Sir Winston Churchill High School.

The Health and Social Services Committee has been very active with the advent of two CLSCs in the region. Following two meetings it was decided that Committee Chairperson Jean Brooks would write to Lucien Albert, the Director-General of the Marigot CLSC in Laval, and André Lemelin, the co-ordinator for the St-Laurent CLSC which opens on April 1st. The Marigot CLSC has been mandated to set up the St-Laurent CLSC. Mrs. Brooks' letter invited both gentlemen to meet with the Health and Social Services Committee to obtain up-to-date information about the new CLSC and to sensitize them to the concerns of English-speaking residents of St-Laurent.

The Communications Committee has published the Chapter's first newsletter. A special vote of thanks goes out to our Animator, Greg James, for his very creative layout and the many hours of work it took to produce the newsletter in its final form.

The Membership Campaign has been underway for some weeks and Alan DeSousa and his Membership Committee have organized a number of events. On March 11, the Committee held meetings with parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Church where new members signed up and additional volunteers joined. A similar event is planned for April 1st at Transfiguration of our Lord Church with more such meetings to follow at some of the Protestant churches. A membership application form/flyer, attached to the newsletter, asked members to each sign up at least one new member. Tenny Street's Telephone Committee is going to make follow-up phone calls and has obtained the use of an office with a number of phones. A telephone blitz will take place on three successive Monday evenings beginning March 26.

On March 21, Chapter Chairperson Helen McLellan spoke at a meeting of the Sisterhood of Young Israel of Val Royal and signed up new members.

In the South Shore Chapter, the March Membership Drive is in full swing. Our newsletter, The Bridge, is ready and will be mailed out shortly. The Education Committee's article on access to English schools was published in many local papers, and it generated a number of inquiries.

The Health and Social Services Committee held a public meeting on March 26 in Greenfield Park. The topic was "You and Your Health and Social Services". A panel of speakers, moderated by Dennis Lanquay of the Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee, explained the functions of the various health and social service centres in the area. The speakers were: Lise Bélanger, CRSSS Montérégie; Maurice Roy, Director General, CLSC Samuel de Champlain; Ian Davis and Miles Burgess, social workers, CSS Richelieu; and Elinor Whyte, nutritionist, DSC Charles LeMoine. The audience of 75 representatives from our Chapter and other community groups took part in the discussion period afterwards. A television crew from the South Shore Cable TV filmed the entire meeting for public airing at a later date. Congratulations to Dennis Lanquay, and his Committee for a job well done. A similar meeting is planned for the Beloeil area on April 30.

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The Townshippers Association is pleased to hear that one of the three Quebec women honored by La Commission de Toponymie for the 1984 International Women's Day, is Florence Louise Bradford, a heroic Sherbrooke nurse. For the fourth year in a row, La Commission de Toponymie has marked the occasion by naming three of the province's geographical entities after women who have made a significant contribution to Quebec society. The Commission chose a peak in Mount Orford Provincial Park to carry the name of Mount Florence Louise Bradford. In 1983, Mount Lily Butters, also in the Orford range, was named after the founder of a Townships residential centre for the mentally handicapped. Florence Louise Bradford was born in Glen Orford (now St-Elie d'Orford) in 1890. A graduate nurse, she opened a home in Sherbrooke for unwed mothers, which she operated until 1950. More than 8,000 women were welcomed at the home during this time period. Both Florence Louise Bradford and Lily Butters were names suggested to La Commission by the Townshippers Association, as their work had enormous impact throughout the Townships.

The Sherbrooke office of the Townshippers Association has moved to the following address: 2313 King St. West, Suite 308, Sherbrooke, Quebec - J1J 3W7. The phone number will remain (819) 566-5717.

The South-West Chapter's Employment, Business & Signs Committee has set up a team to scan local papers, particularly the Verdun and LaSalle Messengers, which are essentially bilingual. The team will watch for French-only ads placed by the federal government. The chapter has written several times to the appropriate authorities about their neglect in placing the ads in English as well, but there have been further incidences. The Committee has also initiated a research program to consolidate available information on job opportunities and retraining programs.

Chapter Animator Maria Mazzuca has persuaded the parent committees of several schools in the LaSalle area to publicize an AQ information meeting which will be held at LaSalle High School on April 10. A flyer will be sent to the parents via the children. Schools which have newsletters will include a notice of the meeting in their publications.

The Chapter will sponsor two tables at the forthcoming Arts & Crafts show and sale to be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Verdun on April 14. Members will be invited to exhibit their work at our next public meeting.

The Selby Campus of Dawson College has invited us to speak to students of Quebec society and politics who have completed a review of Bill 101 and now want AQ's point of view on recent changes. Tom Mulcair, Employment/Business Programme Director and Director of Legal Services, will be the guest speaker.

Approximately 850 membership cards were typed up and mailed in March with the assistance of Chapter members.

The recruitment campaign is well under way. Letters were sent to all members to enlist their help; about 40 members will be conducting telephone follow-up. Information booths will be set up at the Canadian Legion in LaSalle on March 24 and St. Thomas More Church on March 31. In addition, a number of members will conduct door-to-door canvass and a mail drop.



The Chapter held its March meeting on Nuns' Island with guest speaker Rita Karakas, former Programme Director for Health and Social Services, reviewing Bill 101 and Bill 57 vis-à-vis English-speaking institutions. Approximately 35 members attended the meeting with some representation from the Island. The Chapter's theatrical group repeated its presentation of The Adult Puzzle.

And the Chapter will officially move to its new office in early May. You'll find us at 501 5th Avenue in Verdun.

The Montreal Centre Chapter has mailed out a special newsletter, including a membership coupon sheet, to coincide with the March Membership Campaign. Each new member is requested to sign up at least one other member, thereby increasing membership two-fold.

One of a series of public meetings was held in March at the Atwater Library. Invited speakers were John Parisella and Margaret Rudolf, Quebec representatives of The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages. They spoke on the subject: "You, Your Language Rights and the Federal Government". A slide show on certain aspects of the history of Montreal was also presented.

The N.D.G./Montreal West Chapter sponsored, as part of its membership drive, a slide show on the building of the Victoria Bridge on March 12 to the N.D.G. Senior Citizens Council. The audience was fascinated by this excellent audio-visual presentation which was kindly loaned by Kevin O'Donnell, Montreal Centre member. A short summary of the goals of Alliance Quebec as well as a description of the various programmes was ably delivered by Anna Clarke, a Chapter board member. One-third of those present signed up as members.

The N.D.G. Health and Social Services Committee will be presenting a written report of the findings of their recent survey on the community to the Chapter board meeting on April 3rd. The Committee was very pleased with the return of over 380 completed questionnaires out of a total of 2,000 distributed to households in the N.D.G./Montreal West area. Suggestions to the Board concerning methods of sharing the findings of the survey with other groups and organizations in the community include presentations of a summary of their report to the N.D.G. Community Council and to the DSC (community health department).

The West Island Chapter now has computerized its membership list and published its first newsletter. We expect to produce one newsletter every two months to keep members informed. Teams of volunteers are meeting once a week during March to call potential members. As part of a continuing series of travelling board meetings, another such meeting was held in Lachine on March 13. The speaker was Tom Mulcair, Employment/Business Programme Director and Director of Legal Services, who spoke on changes to Bill 101 and their affects on business. The Health and Social Services Committee met with Russ Williams, new Health and Social Services Programme Director, to review issues of concern.

The Laval/North Shore Chapter, Membership Committee, under the leadership of Chairperson Bernie Stock, has been very busy with the March Membership Drive. Information booths have been set up at local shopping centres, churches, as well as local club events. A telephone campaign is well underway with a team of 15 telephoners and seven recruiters to follow up the initial phone call through personal contact with prospective members. We owe a big "thank you" to the volunteers without whose help our membership drive would not have been possible. In conjunction with the Alliance Quebec ads in the local newspapers, articles are appearing in The Suburban, The Victory and Contact Laval West informing the community about our Chapter.

The Chapter Health and Social Services Committee Chairperson, Frances Rappaport, co-operated with St. Laurent Chapter in a speaking engagement to the Young Israel Sisterhood of Val Royal. It was a resounding success as several members of the congregation became AQ members. The most significant gesture came in the guise of a donation, known as "CHAI" or life by the Sisterhood Programme Director, Estelle Cytrynbaum. Frances was deeply moved as this is the ultimate compliment that one can receive in the Jewish faith.

The co-operative efforts of the two chapters have inspired the Laval/N. Shore Chapter to continue the trend on home turf.

The Saguenay Chapter held its official founding meeting on Wed., Feb. 22. The new Executive consists of Harry Surette, Co-Chairperson; Carol Ann Doucet, Co-Chairperson; Joe Nancoo, Secretary; and Donna Atwood, Treasurer. Special thanks go to Bernice Duffy, former Chairperson, who has done much to establish and develop the Chapter. Committees have been set up in all relevant programme areas as well as in Membership, Youth, and Culture & History.

The Chapter held a pot luck supper on Sat., Feb. 4th, attended by Wendell Sparke AQ Board Member, Doug McCall, Education Programme Director, and John Parisella of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages. The event was very successful indeed, with 65 people in attendance.

C.A.S.A. welcomed on March 20, Tom Mulcair, Employment/Business Programme Director and Director of Legal Services, and Nancy Kelly, Off-Island Animator, who spoke to regional mayors on the rights of municipalities under the Bill 57 amendments to Bill 101.

#### CAMPUS MEETINGS HELD

Several meetings have been held recently on university campuses as part of the Community Development Youth Outreach Program. President Eric Maldoff addressed Concordia students during the university's "Community Politics and the Law" conference in March. He described the successful strategy Alliance Quebec has used since its founding two years ago to bring about social and political change in the province. His involvement in the conference was co-sponsored by the T.M.R./Outremont/Côte-des-Neiges/Snowdon East Chapter and the Community Politics and the Law Program.

Earlier in the month, the N.D.G./Montreal West Chapter sponsored an address by two authors of "The Anglo Guide to Survival in Quebec". Victor Dabby, Canadian Press News Editor, and Graeme Decarie, Concordia University History Professor, gave their humorous interpretation of the theme, "English culture is alive and well and living in Quebec".

Employment/Business Programme Director and Director of Legal Services, Tom Mulcair discussed Bill 101 with Concordia University business students in March. He urged them to understand the law completely before going into business on their own, saying many misconceptions surround the language law. The meeting was sponsored by the T.M.R./Outremont/Côte-des-Neiges/Snowdon East Chapter.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

April 18 is the opening date of the Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of Alliance Quebec's chapters. The following is an almost complete chronological listing:

<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
APR. 18, 7:30 pm	SAGUENAY	(T.B.A.)	
APR. 24, 7:30 pm	EAST ISLAND	Centre Buffet Antique	6080 Sherbrooke St. E. (La Veranda Hall)
APR. 25, 7:30 pm	ST-LAURENT	St. Andrew's-Norwood United Church	1600 de l'Eglise
APR. 29, 1:45 pm	N.D.G./MTL. W.	Ste. Monika Church	6405 Terrebonne, N.D.G.
APR. 30, 7:30 pm	T.M.R./C.D.N./ SNOWDON EAST	Centre Communautaire Juif	5480 Westbury Avenue
MAY 1, 7:30 pm	LAVAL/N. SHORE	Western Laval H.S.	5075 de Souvenir, Chomedey
MAY 1, 7:30 pm	ST-MAURICE	(T.B.A.)	
MAY 2, 7:30 pm	UPPER LAURENT.	St. Joseph Elem. Sch.	491 Ch. Ste-Marguerite, St-Adèle
MAY 7, 7:30 pm	COTE ST. LUC/ HAMPSTEAD/ SNOWDON W.	Davis 'Y'	5700 Kellert
MAY 7, 7:30 pm	SOUTH SHORE	St. Francis of Assisi School	163 Cleghorn, St-Lambert
MAY 8, 7:30 pm	MONTREAL CENTRE	Concordia University	1455 de Maisonneuve W., Hall Bldg., Rm. H937
MAY 8, 7:30 pm	WEST ISLAND	Cedar Park United Ch.	204 Lakeview, Pte. Claire
MAY 9, 8:00 pm	LOWER LAURENT.	Orange Hall	Robert St., Lachine
MAY 10, 8:00 pm	SOUTH WEST	St. John Brébeuf Ch.	7777 George St., LaSalle



A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AT THE CENTAUR

Over 300 members of Montreal's cultural communities and representatives of their media attended a special performance of "The Seagull" by Anton Chekhov at the Centaur Theatre on March 12. They had been invited by Alliance Quebec to the play, sponsored that evening by Consolidated-Bathurst Inc.

The event was held so that members of various cultural communities could meet each other while also enjoying the play. Refreshments were served in the theatre lounge following the performance. Special guests attending were Eric Maldoff, President of Alliance Quebec; Maurice Podbrey, Artistic Director of the Centaur Theatre; Grigori Ziskin, a Russian Director; and members of "The Seagull" cast. The event was organized by Sophia Skiadas, Alliance Quebec Community Liaison Animator.

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"Nickel", a play about the French-Canadian, Ukrainian and Italian miners in Sudbury, Ontario, will be presented April 17-28 at the Salle Fred Barry, 4353 Ste. Catherine St. E. in Montreal. The performance will be given by the Théâtre du Nouvel Ontario, the first Franco-Ontarian theatre troupe to come to Montreal.

EMPLOYMENT/BUSINESS PROGRAMME

Harvey Yarosky, a lawyer and member of the Alliance Quebec Board of Directors, appeared in court March 19 to enter a plea on behalf of Kenneth McKenna of McKenna Flowers and Oscar Goldstein of Masson Tailor who have been charged by the Quebec Justice Department for posting bilingual signs. The hearing was postponed to await judgment by the Quebec Superior Court in another case put forward by these two merchants along with three others, Morton Brownstein of Brown's Shoes in Pointe Claire, Agostino Frangella of National Cheese in Ville LaSalle and Valerie Ford of Les Lainages du Petit Mouton in Pointe Claire. The court is being asked to rule on the validity of the Bill 101 signs provision. The five merchants are receiving legal assistance from the Alliance.

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Three meetings organized jointly with the Education Programme were held during March with representatives of schools, school boards and teacher unions. The discussion centred on Bill 57 and its effect on the education system. Several follow-up meetings with individual school board officials followed. A series of pamphlets is being prepared by Alliance Quebec to explain Bill 57 and its implications to the English-speaking community.

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Similar meetings were held with municipal officials to discuss Bill 57. Employment/Business Programme Director Tom Mulcair and Off-Island Animator Nancy Kelly visited mayors of Gaspé coast municipalities having an English-speaking majority. Pamphlets similar to those being prepared for school boards will be produced for municipalities so they can understand Bill 57 and meet their obligations.

Bill 57 was also the topic of a speech given by Tom Mulcair to the West Island Chapter during a recent meeting held in Lachine.

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The Chairman of the Employment/Business Committee, Hugh Mitchell, made a thorough presentation to the Alliance Quebec Board of Directors on March 22, describing the committee's activities in the past year and setting forth plans for the future.

#### HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMME

Throughout Quebec, Regional Councils for Health and Social Services are seeking nominations for the voluntary group representative on the Board of Directors of Quebec's health and social service institutions. These include Local Community Service Centres (CLSC), Reception Centres (CA), Hospitals (CH), and Social Service Centres (CSS) as well as the Regional Councils for Health and Social Services (CRSSS). It is through these boards that our communities can participate in determining the quality of health and social services.

Alliance Quebec encourages active participation on these boards by English-speaking Quebecers. Community groups involved in social affairs are urged to contact their local Regional Council and nominate a volunteer representative. It would be a good idea also to contact other community groups so that a nomination supported by several groups in the community can be submitted.

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The original plan to reorganize social services, involving a widespread transfer of services and staff from social service centres to CLSCs is presently being revised by the Social Affairs Ministry. With the recent ministerial change at the Social Affairs Ministry, there are some questions as to whether the reorganization will develop within the timelines scheduled.

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The Task Force on Social Services held a successful consultation meeting March 28 with community organizations and volunteer groups to bring them up-to-date with the work of the Task Force over the past year and to discuss the principles of guaranteeing health and social services for the English-speaking community. Those attending represented a wide range of institutions from within the community.

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Health and Social Services Programme Director Russ Williams has been visiting AQ chapters and associations to meet members and become familiar with their programme activities. He recently met with the Voice of English Quebec and Outaouais Alliance.

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A work group has been set up to develop the information and documentation kit presented at the recent AQ Health and Social Services seminar. The work group will focus on how chapters can be trained to use the kit. The goal of the project is to enable chapters to document complaints and concerns about services in order to improve the delivery and quality of such services. The project will be developed on a province-wide scale and will enable the programme to undertake a thorough analysis on difficulties surrounding service delivery. \*\*\*\*\*

A public meeting highlighting access to local social services was attended by approximately 75 people on March 26 and was organized by AQ-South Shore. Representatives from Richelieu Social Service Centre, CLSC-Samuel de Champlain, DSC-Charles LeMoynes and Montérégie Regional Council of Health and Social Services presented information about the services and fielded questions from participants. This was the second public meeting held by the South Shore Chapter and gave the community the opportunity to meet directly with the institutions providing service locally.

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Russell Williams addressed the West Island Senior Citizens Educational Resources (WISCER) on March 17 on the subject of community services, participation and volunteers.

#### EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The report of the government caucus which is discussing Bill 49 has gone to legal counsel. The new Education Minister, Yves Bérubé, has been meeting with major education leaders in the French-speaking community. Alliance Quebec has communicated its position to the Minister, reiterating viewpoints expressed during the Parliamentary Commission.

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AQ information meetings are being held to describe the changes to Bill 101 brought about by Bill 57. Doug McCall, Education Programme Director, and Tom Mulcair, Employment/Business Programme Director, have met with the Quebec Association of Protestant School Boards, the Directors General of the Protestant School Boards, the Assistant Director General of the CCM, and administrators in the Baldwin-Cartier School Board.

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The fee increase for students from other countries and other Canadian provinces may discriminate against the English-speaking community. AQ has met with student associations, university officials and multi-cultural groups to form a coalition which would oppose the increase. Meetings will continue in April to pressure the government into changing its plan.

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The government recently announced changes to re-organize adult education services. The concerns of the English-speaking community centre on a possible loss of control and the lack of recognition of the need for intensive French second-language

training for English-speaking adults. AQ has met with groups such as the Quebec Association for Adult Learning and the Institut Canadien pour l'Education des Adultes to develop a common strategy. The Alliance is aiming to develop a coalition of groups to influence the development of government policy.

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The government has announced a new Cegep régime pédagogique (curriculum) which requires several compulsory courses. Restrictions in the regime may make it more difficult for English-speaking students to follow French second-language training.

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The AQ Regional Education Committee met Mar. 14 and the next meeting will be held Wed., April 25. The Work Group on French Second-Language continued gathering information to call for French second-language education in Cegeps and universities. Fran Riley, Education Programme Assistant, is compiling information to be submitted soon to the Work Group. The committee, which is chaired by Alan DeSousa, studied the research proposal for federal funding of minority language and French second-language education as well as continuing its work on the French second-language kit for chapters and associations.

The Local History Work Group has prepared a brochure on how AQ chapters/associations can become involved in local history. It continues encouraging chapters to do local history projects.

The Work Group on Youth Attitudes will examine the attitudes of young people and find ways of encouraging them to stay in Quebec. How communities and institutions can become involved in the study is also being discussed. AQ is approaching school boards and Island Council of Montreal to fund the study.

The Rural Educational Services Work Group, chaired by Kevin Drysdale and Wendell Sparkes, has submitted its questionnaire to the Regional Education Committees for discussion. The questionnaire probes the needs of the English-speaking communities of rural areas. If services are lacking, the Alliance will lobby the Education Ministry to provide them.

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The AQ Education Programme staff has been assisting parents plan the April 14th conference on parent participation which will include workshops and a discussion of a network to link Quebec English-speaking parents. The conference will be held in Hull at D'Arcy McGee High School.

Preparation is underway with the McGill University Faculty of Education to sponsor a conference on the Régime Pédagogique in primary and secondary schools. The date set for the conference, which will involve representatives from across Quebec, is May 26 at Concordia University.

COMMENT IN THE FRENCH PRESS

Commenting on the Commissioner of Official Languages Annual Report, Lise Bissonnette of Le Devoir, on Mar. 22 says that the machinery put in place by the official languages law to achieve bilingualism has come to a halt. Bilingual federal services barely exist beyond Ottawa and Montreal, even though it is the smaller groups of Francophones which really need these services; Francophones remain under-represented in the upper echelons of the federal civil service; and French is not a working language in the federal civil service. Canada has created an expectation around bilingualism which is not being met, she states.

Now that the Manitoba French language rights case has gone to the Supreme Court of Canada, it has the power to throw Manitoba into a state of legislative chaos, Michel Roy writes in La Presse on Mar. 14. It could rule that all laws passed since 1890 are illegal because they were passed only in English, thus requiring that they be translated and adopted in both languages. Perhaps the threat of this ruling hanging over Manitoba will make the province find a legislative solution during the months it will take for the court to reach a decision. However, this will not be achieved if political parties worry about majority feeling in the province. The only thing that would make it possible is to create a new social consensus among Manitobans. Until this happens, Franco-Manitobans must not back down, he writes.

The issue of minority language rights has swept across the nation, drawing in contenders for the Liberal leadership race. John Turner's recent comments "made him slip on a banana peel," Jacques Dumais writes in Le Soleil on Mar. 22, predicting that the only winner ultimately may be Brian Mulroney. Lise Bissonnette, writing Mar. 21 in Le Devoir, accuses Mr. Turner of being ignorant of the Franco-Manitoba situation. If he keeps beating around the bush, his credibility will be permanently damaged. Michel Roy's words are equally harsh in the Mar. 23 La Presse: "Turner has let English-Quebecers and Francophones outside Quebec down. His supporters now include Gary Filmon and Gérald Godin - all he needs now is Gilles Grégoire!"

Mr. Turner, however, reversed his original stand on linguistic minority rights, saying on Mar. 23 that there is no doubt Ottawa must intervene at times to protect existing minority rights. "Parliament must remain vigilant in the protection of the rights of minorities everywhere in Canada," he said.

AQ IN BRIEF

Alliance Quebec welcomed its new Executive Director, Vaughan Dowie, who assumed his duties March 19. Vaughan joined the Alliance last year, after almost a decade of service primarily in community relations, with The Ville Marie Social Service Centre. Throughout the late 60s and 70s, Vaughan worked tirelessly for a wide variety of causes, primarily involving disadvantaged social groups. Since coming to the Alliance, as programme director of community development, Vaughan has won the respect of colleagues and staff, as well as of member chapters and associations. Mr. Dowie is one of 11 commissioners of the Commission des Droits de la Personne and is a former member of the Boards of Centraide and Ville Marie Social Service Centre.



New appointments made within the Alliance Quebec staff include Doug McCall as Director of Programmes, while continuing as Education Programme Director; Tom Mulcair as Director of Legal Services, while continuing as Employment/Business Programme Director; and Babo Leibovitch as Interim Community Development Programme Director. Maureen Carey and Deborah Roytenberg are Interim Part-Time Community Development Programme Assistants as well as Chapter animators.

John McMaster has resigned as animator for the Upper Laurentians Chapter and has become a member of the Chapter's Board of Directors. New animators at Alliance Quebec are Marlene Baran for Côte St. Luc/Hampstead/Snowdon West and Karen Schafer for T.M.R./Outremont/Côte-des-Neiges/Snowdon East.

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#### CONVENTION '84

Convention '84, to be held June 1-3 at McGill University, will be both a reflection on the future of the English-speaking community and its institutions, as well as a celebration that we do have a future together.

Alliance Quebec is entering a new phase in its existence. Some of the immediate crises facing the community have been resolved. Through AQ and its member groups, the community has found an effective voice to express concerns. Furthermore, networks linking the institutions of the community have been established. The focus now turns to strengthening the links between the institutions and the community, as well as consolidating the community-based leadership which has emerged through the regional organizations of Alliance Quebec.

Within this context of renewed optimism and community development, Convention '84 will address a number of issues facing the English-speaking community.

The programme will include guest speakers from the national and provincial level. Workshops will have several high-profile leaders from the community and its institutions who will examine various issues and will provide delegates with an opportunity to discuss those concerns with the established leadership of our community.

The tentative schedule has registration opening Friday, June 1 at 3 p.m. followed by a reception at 5 p.m. A keynote speaker will be heard that evening, followed by the business meeting then a wine and cheese party. Speeches by candidates for the Executive Committee and policy workshops will be held Saturday morning, followed by a keynote speaker at lunch. Elections for the Executive Committee will be held early Saturday afternoon, followed by the issues workshops and entertainment in the evening. Sunday morning will feature board elections for the Board of Directors, followed by the plenary. Another keynote speaker will address participants at the closing luncheon on Sunday.

