

Quebec is a Long Way from Linguistic Peace

Quebec City, Wednesday, March 27, 2002 - Alliance Quebec President Brent Tyler said today that Quebec Premier, Bernard Landry, was badly mistaken when he claimed that Quebec has achieved linguistic peace. "The Quebec government is currently prosecuting people for having both official languages equal on signs. No other democracy on the planet does this and it is a violation of international human rights law. It is certainly not linguistic peace," said Tyler.

"If Mr. Landry wants true linguistic peace his government should implement international human rights treaties that Canada signed with Quebec's consent including: the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights, The International Covenant on Social and Economic and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child."

"The Quebec government is currently telling the UN that these treaties are being implemented when our courts interpret the Quebec and Canadian Charters of Rights in light of the treaties. At the same time the government is telling our courts to ignore the treaties because they have not been implemented by legislation."

"The Quebec government should end this deceitful game and implement the treaties by legislation. This would guarantee that all Quebec children would have equal access to all educational institutions and programs. It would also ensure that Quebecers would enjoy the same right to freedom of expression as the rest the democratic world," concluded Tyler.

Alliance Quebec strives for the promotion of human rights and minority language rights and is committed to the preservation and enhancement of the English-speaking communities and institutions within Quebec.