

"AQ disagrees with those political leaders who state that Quebec has achieved a consensus on language over the last six years," AQ Vice President Anthony Housefather

Tuesday, November 2, 1999 - "Alliance Quebec disagrees with those political leaders who state that Quebec has achieved a consensus on language over the last six years," stated Alliance Quebec Vice President Anthony Housefather. "Every time I pick up a newspaper I see evidence to the contrary."

"The English speaking community strongly supports working with our French speaking neighbors to develop fair balances on issues such as access to education, access to health and social services, employment opportunities for English speaking people in the civil service, bilingual status for our institutions and language of signs," continued Housefather. "However when we wait 5 years for access plans to be passed, when our bilingual municipalities are threatened with loss of their status by amalgamation, when the minority has to be a majority to have bilingual signage and services in our institutions and when our rights as Canadians are threatened by a government promoting unilateral secession from our country, it is clear we have not yet achieved the desired consensus."

Alliance Quebec pointed out that the fact that there is no consensus in Quebec on language does not mean that our society cannot peacefully debate these issues in the courts, in the legislature or in society at large. "Our organization and our community has faith in the Quebec population," stated Housefather, "We are not afraid to raise issues of concern to our community because we know that the vast majority of Quebecers support a democratic airing of views. In the end we will all work together to achieve a consensus that strengthens the French language and culture without unfairly restricting the rights of the English speaking community and other language groups within Quebec."