



Montreal, March 14 -- The Task Force in Linguistic Policy has made a significant impact in its injunction against the Quebec government's further implementation of Bill 96 and other initiatives, not yet announced. On February 20, 2024 the Attorney General of Quebec asked the Court for clarifications and more details on some of the of the constitutional questions posed in the Task Force's Bill 96 case. On February 20 the Court allowed for certain clarifications, but denied the Attorney General of Quebec the rest.

The matters raised by the Quebec Attorney-General and rejected by the judge were the Task Force's demand for a definition of who is a Québécois and of what makes up the "Quebec Nation." The judge asked the AGQ to provide a clear definition of both, as Bill 96 provides neither.

Andrew Caddell said, "I am pleased the Court has supported us on this matter: the lack of a definition of who is a Québécois or what the "Quebec nation" consists of is a huge flaw in the legislation. I believe this ambiguity is deliberate, because the Quebec government does not want to be seen as ethnocentric. What is even more satisfying is the judge's comment that our points are reasonable and understandable."

The judge allowed for minor clarifications requested by the AGQ of the Task Force: its reliance on constitutional conventions and traditions, and the connection between minority rights and so-called "collective rights." Me Bergman says "these clarifications will be easy to provide, as they go to the heart of our system of justice."

On another matter, Quebec opposed testimony by Task Force President Andrew Caddell, the lead plaintiff in the case. Maître Michael Bergman, acting on behalf of the Task Force, felt Mr. Caddell's testimony would illustrate the damage caused to the English-speaking community by the Legault governments language policies. The judge will accept a detailed affidavit from Mr. Caddell. Caddell was satisfied with the outcome: "I am pleased to say we have drawn first blood on the Attorney General, which is a clear sign of the success of the principled stand we are taking against Bill 96."

The next hearing will be determined by the lawyers, who must agree on a common schedule and a hearing date.

The Task Force on Linguistic Policy was formed in June of 2021. It boasts thousands of subscribers and social media followers and depends on donations from the public to finance its efforts. Learn more at www.TheTaskForce.ca.

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