

Dans le cadre de l'élection albertaine du 23 avril 2012, voici un message personnel envoyé le 5 avril 2011 à tous les candidats de la circonscription Calgary–North West par Louis Grenier :

Hello,

In March 2011, Judge A.J. Brown ruled that French speaking Albertans have the right to not only speak in French before the courts, but also to be understood in French by the judge, the clerks and to be provided with the legal documents in that language. So far, the Crown has resisted the implementation of that judgement.

What is your stand on the subject?

Voici les réponses que Louis Grenier a reçues de Sandra Jansen (PC), Olenka Toroshenko (NPD) et Nick Burman (EverGreen) :

---- Original Message ----

From: Sandra Jansen <sandrajansenpc@gmail.com>

To: Louis Grenier <louiscoop@netscape.net>

Sent: Tue, Apr 10, 2012 7:17 pm

Subject: Re: French speaker's rights before the courts in Alberta

Dear Mr. Grenier:

Thank you for your note concerning French language services in the Alberta courts.

Let me start my reply by noting that Judge Brown is a judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta and consequently his rulings apply only in his court. As a case rises through the court system to the Court of Queen's Bench, the Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of Canada a ruling gets wider application. So in order for a ruling on language to apply to all courts in Alberta it would, at least, have to be a ruling by the Court of Appeals.

As you may be aware, the requirement for French language services in other provinces is the result of interpretation by the courts of French language requirements in the provincial constitutions.

My real concern with this issue is the cost of providing a fully bilingual court system. That being said, the flip side is our obligation as a community to ensure that people before the courts fully understand both what is going on before the court. I stand to be corrected, but are there that many Albertans who are unilingual French so that they require full translation services before the courts? The costs of providing French language services in all of Alberta's courts and with court materials would be enormous.

Or can we support the thriving Alberta's Francophone community by ensuring that individuals have the translation and interpretation services available on a personal case basis rather than bilingual services for every courtroom, case, and document that moves through the court system?

I am interested in your thoughts because I believe a fair justice system is only truly fair when participants understand that in which they are participating.

I hope my comments are helpful to you and look forward to seeing your thoughts.

Yours truly,

Sandra

----- Original Message -----

From: Olenka Toroshenko <otoroshenko@albertandp.ca>
To: louiscoop <louiscoop@netscape.net>
Sent: Tue, Apr 10, 2012 6:34 pm
Subject: French speaker's rights before the courts in Alberta

Dear Mr. Grenier,

Thank you for your question. The NDP supports the rights of French speakers in the courts in Alberta. The NDP is closely associated with such issues since an NDP MLA, Leo Piquette, made a stand for the right to speak French in the Alberta Legislature in 1987. We continue to work closely with Alberta's francophone community in support of the place of French in the province. Francophones have been an important part of the history of Alberta from long before the province legally existed and continue to make significant contributions to every aspect of life. Linguistic rights in key areas such as the courts are essential to recognize the constitutional reality of French as part of the Canadian reality.

Thank you again for your inquiry and we hope to see you at the polls on the 23rd!

----- Original Message -----

From: Party Information <information@evergreenparty.ca>
To: Louis Grenier <louiscoop@netscape.net>
Sent: Sun, Apr 8, 2012 8:35 pm
Subject: Re: French speaker's rights before the courts in Alberta

I apologize for the delay but we are swamped with requests. Admittedly we are not totally familiar with the situation but it seems that the law is the law and avoidance of implementing this ruling is clearly a breaking of the law.

N. Burman, President.