

ARANB News

Volume 2

March 4, 2016

Anglophone Rights Association of New Brunswick

Miramichi and Doaktown Meetings

Anglophone Rights Association of New Brunswick (ARANB) held their sixth community meeting at the Chatham Legion on November 14, 2015. We were gratified by the turnout and reception received, as the meeting start-time had to be delayed by 15 minutes in order to accommodate those still looking for parking.

Prior to the presentations, a moment of silence was held for the victims and survivors of the November 13 terrorist Attacks in Paris, France.

Attendees were welcoming and engaged, as well as clearly aware of the current challenges facing the English-speaking population of New Brunswick. They came prepared for action, and prepared to support one another in solidarity.

Mr. Kris Austin, leader of the People's Alliance Party of New Brunswick graciously accepted our invitation to attend, and was well received with his energetic speech and engagement with the community.

No other political representation was in attendance.

We were pleased to welcome 38 new and active members, as well as being overwhelmed by the generous financial donations.

In Doaktown, on January 23, 2016, ARANB was warmly welcomed by the community and by Councillor Wayne Fowler and his wife Karen, to their beautiful Atlantic Salmon Museum.

Once again, the meeting start-time was delayed in order to

allow all attendees to make their way in and be seated.

We would also like to thank Mayor Hawkes, of Blackville, Mayor Farris, of Chipman, as well as the Councillors in attendance for their warm welcome, positive reception, and for the invitation to their communities.

Mr. Kris Austin was again in attendance, and very warmly received as he announced his Party's pursuit of Intervention in the School Bus case before the Court of Appeals.

Mr. Jake Stewart, of the PC Party sent his regrets due to a prior commitment.

In Doaktown, we welcomed 30 new members, and once again support, both in activity, and financial, was overwhelming.

Update on Board of Directors and Chapter Leaders

In late November and early December 2015, we began considering candidates for position on our Board of Directors in order to fill the void left by outgoing President, Sterling Wright, and outgoing Director, Scott Jones.

We are pleased to announce that Larry Layton, and Earl Fawcett have both accepted our invitation to join the Board of Directors and continue to guide and support ARANB in its efforts.

Larry is a strong voice and advocate for our association, and brings many strengths—not the least of which is in the area of recruiting.

Earl is an energetic and en-

Upcoming Events:

Scheduling is currently being reviewed for meetings in the following areas:

Sunny Corner
Chipman
St. Stephens
Sackville
McAdam

Also upcoming:

First general members meeting
Annual AGM

Stay tuned for further information.

Recent Events:

Miramichi Meeting
November 14, 2015
Doaktown Meeting
January 23, 2016

Interview with MACLEAN'S
March 1, 2016
Publication date to be announced

Milestones:

Launched Facebook Page with Advertising
November 16, 2016
(now averaging 20,000 reached weekly with 3000 plus weekly engagement on posts)

Welcomed 400th member February 22, 2015
(Now 425)



Update to Board of Directors and Chapter Leaders (Cont.)

gaging advocate with strong ability to motivate and engage, and who will be invaluable to us. Earl has shown organizational skills that will be beneficial in setting up our network of Chapter Directors.

Saint John Chapter Leader, Doug Ellis, has been actively engaged in establishing the Saint John and area Chapter, and now has a strong network of engaged and active volunteers. Doug has also been instru-

mental in helping to improve and maintain our website, and we appreciate it so much!

Recent Headlines and Developments

On December 14, 2015, paramedics in Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John held demonstrations protesting Ambulance New Brunswick's new plan to meet imposed language requirements.

The new plan would see bilingual part-time or casual workers called for shifts first, followed by bilingual full-time staff on overtime. Only when shifts could not be filled, would it "resort" to calling unilingual employees, thus seriously impacting their hours, pay, and ability to provide for their families.

On January 28, 2016, the union representing paramedics announced that it had reached a compromise with Ambulance New Brunswick, but did not rule out carrying their fight into the courtroom.

The compromise will see casual and part-time unilingual move up the priority list, however bilingual part-timers and casuals will still be first in line, regardless of seniority.

On January 27, 2016, a Radio-Canada Acadie article identified that despite laws in place and a decision by the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick, many Franco-phone parents enroll their children in French Immersion in English Schools. In addition to the violation of law and policy, this practice could falsely inflate the statistics on bilingual graduates from the Anglophone School System.

On January 28, 2016, Minister of Education, Serge, Rousselle stated that he would intervene to ensure that Franco-phone students do not follow courses in French Immersion.

On December 4, 2015, Conservative MLA, Jake Stewart, introduced a motion calling for a study on making second-language education available in areas where it doesn't currently exist.

Stewart represents Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin, a riding which includes many communities where French Immersion is not available more than 45 years after the declaration of Bilingualism, and despite assertions from Commissioner of Official Languages, Katherine d'Entremont, that in New Brunswick it is mandatory for students to learn the second official language.

On January 22, 2016, a CBC article identified that half of exhibitors at a teaching job fair held at UNB were from outside of Canada, including 11 from the U.K. Only one of them was from New Brunswick.

Rhea Maltestinic of Hampton, who is working on her master's degree in education realizes that she may have to travel to find work after graduation. "It seems like you need French. It's a big thing," she was quoted in the article.

Kiera Stillwell, a final year education student from Keswick Ridge, was quoted as saying "Ideally, I'd like to stay here and work, but I'm not naïve to the fact that there are not many teaching jobs in this province and I'm not bilingual, so I'm definitely keeping my options open."

On January 29, 2016, The Telegraph Journal published the rumored confirmation that students from the U de M in Moncton had been hired to conduct "language audits at Horizon hospitals."

Even though the Office of the Commissioner



"If you don't stand up when it matters, then don't expect it to matter when you decide to stand up."

Recent Headlines and Developments (Cont.)

of Official Languages for New Brunswick only received three complaints about the Horizon Network's inability to provide care in the language of a patient's choosing for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, senior executives within the regional health authority know that it has a legal mandate to ensure access to service.

According to Horizon's top executive, John McGarry, few people actually file complaints. "Most people don't complain. They will convert to another language. But the fact is the law in New Brunswick is the law. We strive to live within the law of New Brunswick. Frankly, we can't answer for that. It's the law. We must do it. We can't make a decision not to".

McGarry said he knows that may be an unpopular answer, noting that many New Brunswickers find that policy is frustrating. "I would say—talk to your lawmakers. I would say, we have so much to do—we can't be involved with trying to argue our way out of the law of New Brunswick. Argue with lawmakers," he said.

On February 5, 2016, Global News reported that "New Brunswick's Horizon Health Network is using "mystery patients" to ensure that staff is greeting people in both official languages.

***Calls made by ARANB confirmed that currently there are no plans for similar audits to be conducted on Vitalite Network hospitals.*

On February 16, 2016, the hearing on the bilingual bus issue began in the NB Court of Appeal.

Chief Justice, Ernest Drapeau, had some concerns.

Drapeau told a courtroom packed with lawyers, journalists, and citizens that the attorney general is expected to be independent of government on legal questions.

The government plans to argue that the answer should be "yes", but Drapeau threw a curveball when he asked "is the attorney general not supposed to be independent of the government, and is he not, because of that independence, duty-bound to present all arguments, both pro

and con the position of the government?"

Drapeau also hinted that, given the province has put this issue before the courts, it may be expected to pay the bills for everyone. He said he didn't want to see a situation where a range of francophone groups argue for a "yes" against the "no" interveners (who may lack the money to mount their best legal argument).

Kris Austin, leader of the People's Alliance Party of New Brunswick, said that such a decision would be "huge" for them. The only party currently seeking status as an Intervener in the matter, Austin says that unlike the big, established political parties, his party doesn't have the money to hire constitutional law experts. "It would certainly help us develop a strong case going forward."

Marni Soupcoff, Executive Director of the Canadian Constitution Foundation published a piece in the National Post on February 23, 2016, drawing attention to NB's struggles and calling into question the legal durability of a dual busing requirement.

On March 2, 2016, Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick, Katherine D'Entremont, released a report on her investigation of security services at government buildings, which are handled by the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires under a third-party contract.

This investigation was prompted by d'Entremont's encounter with Fredericton commissioner, Wayne Grant in the spring of 2015—an encounter that led to Mr. Grant having his hours cut and being assigned to a parking lot over his inability to offer service in both official languages at first point of contact.

In her report, d'Entremont is calling on the provincial government to require that all commissionaires who deal with the public be bilingual.

d'Entremont's opinion is that service is not "equal" if service is offered immediately and in-person to an Anglophone

client while a francophone client may have to wait for someone able to assist them in their language.

On March 3, 2016, following the release of her report, d'Entremont was interviewed by Terry Seguin on CBC Radio. During the interview, Seguin asked "Ok, speaking of rights, doesn't an Anglophone New Brunswicker have a right to work for the provincial government?"

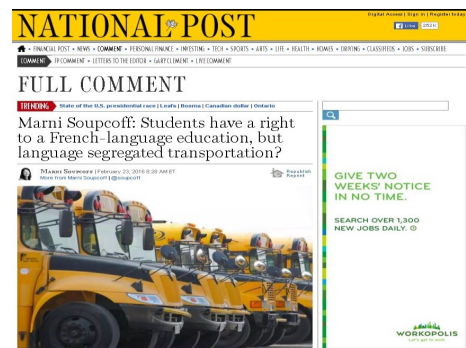
d'Entremont responded "No, no, absolutely not ..."

People's Alliance leader, Kris Austin, issued a statement shortly afterwards indicating that he was shocked by her comments.

Austin also took exception to d'Entremont's suggestion that she was "disappointed" that the fact that she herself made complaint in 2015 was leaked to the public.

Mr. Seguin asked her directly "You noted that a complaint was received, so why not just say that I (d'Entremont) initiated an investigation? By saying otherwise, that's not really telling the truth, is it?"

d'Entremont's response was to reiterate her position that "information was made public and should not have been".



Message from the Board

It has truly been an amazing ten months, gosh, has it only been that long? Look at what we've accomplished!

Our members now number more than 425 and we have held seven successful community meetings around the province with several more in various stages of scheduling. Our first General Member's Meeting is being planned, and it will soon be time for our AGM. Advertisements have been published in many community newspapers, and our advertised Facebook Page is now seeing results with more than 20,000 people reached each week, and an average of 3,000 weekly engagements with the page. New Brunswick's language situation has made national news more than once over the past 10 months, and last week, I had the pleasure of sitting down with MACLEAN'S Magazine for a wonderful and engaging conversation.

As always, none of this would be possible without the endless hours and efforts by our amazing team of volunteers and active members, and by the financial generosity of our supporters—we couldn't do it without you!

Your donations of both time and financial have allowed us to accomplish a significant amount in a short time, thank you. Please continue to support us in our efforts to advocate for a fair and balanced approach to language laws and applications in order to achieve a brighter future for our

Our Mission

Anglophone Rights Association of New Brunswick Inc. is a non-profit, incorporated organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the rights of Anglophones in New Brunswick, in respect of other linguistic communities.

Donate or Become a Member!

Membership is only \$10.00

Join or donate **online** via PayPal at www.anglophonerights.com

Join or donate by sending an **retransfer** to anglophonerights@mail.com

Join or donate by sending **cheque** or **money order** to:

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