

Nova Scotia decision, including the finding that the registration of 50 students did not warrant the establishment of either a French-language education program or a French-language school, and that French-language immersion programs were acceptable substitutes for French-language education programs.

Legislative provisions requiring minority language parents to take steps not required of majority language parents in order to be recognized have also been the subject of funded challenges. The Association Française des Conseils Scolaires de l'Ontario received funding to challenge a 1988 amendment to provincial education legislation that requires francophones to declare their intention to vote for francophone trustees in order to be included within the francophone voters' group, the size of which determines the proportion of school trustees allotted to each language group. A case funded the following year addresses the related issue of the constitutionality of provisions of Ontario legislation requiring written notice to the property assessment commissioner of a desire to direct education taxes to the minority language school system.

Other issues addressed in cases funded by the Court Challenges Program involve minority language community concerns about sharing school facilities with the majority language group, which is argued to have an assimilative effect; delays by school boards in implementing minority language education in communities where it is controversial; accessibility of minority language education to children of qualified parents, even when these children are unfamiliar with the language or, alternatively, are familiar but whose parents are unqualified; and equality of control by minority and majority language groups over their respective school systems.

## **B. Other Language Rights Funding**

Language rights cases funded by the program have, in lesser numbers, addressed issues of legal rights, fundamental rights, rights to bilingual legislation, and language rights in the area of work and services. Illustrative of cases in the legal language rights area is *Pacquette v. La Reine*, in which the plaintiff was funded by the program in 1988 to contest the constitutionality of his having been denied a trial, relating to a charge under the *Narcotics Control Act*, in the official language of his choice. An example of case funding in the area of fundamental rights is funding of Alliance Quebec, at various court levels between 1985 and 1988, for action objecting to the prohibition of bilingual commercial signs in Quebec on grounds of equality rights, freedom of conscience, and freedom of expression. As well, cases challenging unilingual laws (and/or unilingual summonses issued under such laws) have been funded in several provinces, as have challenges to processes such as land expropriation when they have not been conducted in the official language of those affected.