

## ANNUAL REPORT OF DIRECTORS OF YOUTH PROTECTION / PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS: MOVING FORWARD ON STEADY GROUND

**Baie-Comeau, June 13, 2023** – To mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both the Directors of Youth Protection's Annual Report and the implementation of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), the Directors of Youth Protection, who are also provincial directors under the terms of the YCJA, have chosen to focus on an important and often misunderstood aspect of their work, namely intervening with young offenders under the auspices of this law.

Fall down. Get back up. Any number of young offenders being cared for by the Directors of Youth Protection / provincial directors (DYP/PD) are on a long and uncertain journey. Regaining one's balance after a bumpy ride through adolescence is something we all navigate more or less successfully. But for some young people, it is a more difficult journey filled with roadblocks and detours. In such cases, the DYP/PDs must collaborate with other partners to help these young people to get their feet back under them.

### The Stories of Young Offenders

To personalize the numbers and to remind us that behind every statistic there is a young person going through difficult times, the DYP/PDs would like to present the stories of five teens using digital storytelling. These are real cases, but we have changed their names to maintain their anonymity. We will call them Rosalie, Tommy, Maxime, Samuel, and K.

You can read their stories and testimony from various social and legal stakeholders by [clicking here](#).

This year in Québec, **8 554** teens received services under the YCJA. That is an increase of **14.5%** over the previous year.

As for the Youth Protection Act, the DYPs saw a slight increase of **2.5%** in the reports processed and a **2%** decrease in the reports retained. Most reports retained concerned negligence and physical abuse. The number of children receiving care under the Youth Protection Act increased by less than **1%**.

### Regional statistics for 2022-2023

- **4 407** reports processed, which represents **12** children per day, a **1.7%** decrease compared to last year.
- **1 103** reports were retained for evaluation, which represents **25%** of reports processed.
- The four main problems related to the development and safety of children which require youth protection follow-up are:
  1. Neglect: 32.6%;
  2. Serious risk of neglect (addiction, mental health, instability): 29.5%;
  3. Psychological ill-treatment: 12.4%;
  4. Behavioural disturbance: 7.9%.

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- After evaluation, **54.7%** of reports retained concluded that the child's safety or development was compromised.
- **61.4%** of children placed in the care of the DYP have remained in their home environment or were entrusted to a relevant third party.
- **181** teenagers received services under the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), which represents a 23% increase compared to last year.

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