

THE CISSS DE LA CÔTE-NORD OFFERS A NEW SERVICE FOR THE TREATMENT OF OPIOID USE DISORDERS

Baie-Comeau, November 5th, 2018 – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de la Côte-Nord now offers a new service for the treatment of opioid use disorders. In fact, Dr. Geneviève Côté joined the establishment's clinical team in July in order to develop and to offer this new service in Sept-Îles for the population of the region. Dr. Côté has expertise with vulnerable patients notably suffering from addiction problems, concurrent disorders or delinquency.

Formerly, those requiring treatment related to the use of opioids had to travel outside the region. This new free and confidential program is intended for people with opioid addiction problems. It involves the medical, nursing and psychosocial staff and the pharmacists, including community pharmacists, in order to improve the access to care, the coordination and the continuity of services for the clientele. A partnership is also established with community organizations to support or welcome certain users in their efforts if necessary.

According to the provincial picture from the Centre de recherche et d'aide pour narcomanes (CRAN), in 2008 and 2011, 48 North Shore residents needed treatment related to the use of opioids. According to certain data, the number of visits to the emergency department for opioid intoxication on the North Shore stood at nearly 230 in 2017.

The service-program in addiction, formerly better known as the Centre Le Canal or CPRCN, is now able to provide this service to the clientele of the region with opioid use disorders, in addition to its usual rehabilitation and social reintegration services. Since July, 10 people have benefited or are still benefiting from this new program.

"This service improvement will surely allow us to meet the growing needs of the North Shore population. This new service offer is the result of the tremendous work of our team, in collaboration with partners of the network", mentions Jennifer Lavallée, Assistant director of the mental health, addiction and homelessness programs.

Even though they may be really helpful for pain relief in various situations, opioids are medications with several adverse effects as well as a risk of developing addiction when they are not used properly or when the follow-up is inappropriate. The deployment of treatment programs with substitution medication in addition to the other services already offered in addiction is essential in order to reduce the damaging effects of opioid addiction.

To get services, directly contact an addiction intervenor of the CISSS de la Côte-Nord at 418 589-5704, or toll-free, at 1 800 418-5704. For further details, visit <http://www.cisss-cotenord.gouv.qc.ca/soins-et-services/dependance/>.

"The partner-user, the strength of our actions."

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Source: Pascal Paradis
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