

## ANNUAL REPORT OF QUÉBEC'S DIRECTORS OF YOUTH PROTECTION / PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS: A YEAR MARKED BY THE PANDEMIC AND AN INCREASE IN REPORTS

**Baie-Comeau, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020** – The year 2019-2020 brought an array of challenges for Québec's directors of Youth Protection. The year ended with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring that DYPs and their teams quickly adapt their services and practices to ensure that they could continue to meet the needs of children, youths, and their families.

An increase in the number of reports, family dramas, the Special Commission on Children's Rights and Youth Protection—this past year has been a turning point in the history of youth protection in Québec.

Stronger Together! is the title we have chosen for this 17<sup>th</sup> report, which highlights the importance of working in partnership and paying tribute to one's team. Be it the support provided by a neighbour, an attentive teacher, or workers and organizations from a variety of backgrounds, every kind deed matters and contributes to creating social safety net that is vital to children's well-being.

The desire to ensure sensitive, quality responses to the needs of children and their families drives many people and organizations to collaborate closely every day. The DYPs share this desire and they are convinced that concerted, innovative, values-based actions and a shared vision can only strengthen us all in our mission to protect children.

### Provincial Statistics for 2019-2020

- 118 316 reports processed in Québec, an increase of 12% over the previous year.
- 36.8% of reports retained
- 324 situations involving children are reported each day, namely 35 more than last year.
- 64.7% of children placed in the care of the DYP have remained in their home environment or were entrusted to a relevant third party.
- 9 041 adolescents received services under the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), an 8.5% decrease compared with the previous year.

### Regional Statistics for 2019-2020 on the North Shore

- 4 076 reports processed on the North Shore, an increase of 15.1% over the previous year.
- 25.9% of reports retained.
- 11 situations involving children are reported each day, namely 1.56 more than last year.
- 73.7% of children placed in the care of the DYP have remained in their home environment or were entrusted to a relevant third party.
- 190 adolescents received services under the YCJA, an 8.2% decrease compared with the previous year.

The four main problems retained on the North Shore are neglect (27.6%), serious risk of neglect related to addiction, mental health or instability (19.6%), psychological ill-treatment (17.3%) and physical abuse (16.7%).

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We would like to highlight that DPJ services were maintained since the start of the pandemic, and that the exceptional commitment of our staff and partners, such as teachers, community organizations, foster families and local services, was essential in setting up a safety net for children. ACTION requires the mobilization of the whole community. TOGETHER, we can build a bright present and future for children.

To consult the 2019–2020 Report: DYP ANNUAL REPORT:

<https://www.cisss-cotenord.gouv.qc.ca/documentation/rapports/rapports-du-dpj/>

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