

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF YOUTH PROTECTION/ PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS: PROTECTING THE CHILDREN IS OUR PRIORITY!

**Baie-Comeau, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021** – The theme for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Report is *The Children Are Our Priority!* and it focuses on the determination of the DYP to raise the bar, highlighting their renewed, solid, and unwavering commitment to the fight against child abuse.

There is particular emphasis on the colossal task accomplished by youth protection workers and their collaborators over the past year. They have been dedicated to the children, taking a proactive approach to providing support and maintaining contact with them and their families. The attentiveness and interventions of these workers have served to ensure that children are properly cared for and has prevented any number of tragedies.

### Provincial Statistics for 2020-2021

- Number of signalements (reports) processed: 117 904, that is to say 323 child-related situations reported per day. This is a very slight decrease in signalements processed when compared with fiscal year 2019–2020.
- Number of signalements retained: 44 728. This is a 2.7% increase in signalements retained when compared with the 2019–2020 fiscal year.
- The retention rate for signalements is 37.9%. Last year the retention rate was 36.8% and in 2018-2019 it was 39.3%.
- The majority of signalements come from the staff of public organizations (33%); the proportions have not changed significantly from previous years.
- The primary living environment for children in the care of the DYP remains the family environment (55.4%). We also note that a greater proportion of children are living with a significant person (13%).

### Regional Statistics for 2020-2021 on the North Shore

- 3 863 reports were processed, representing 10.5 children per day, a 5.4% decrease from last year.
- 994 reports were retained for evaluation, which represents 25.7% of processed reports.
- The four issues affecting the development and safety of children and requiring follow-up from youth protection are:
  1. Serious risk of neglect (addiction, mental health, instability): 31%
  2. Neglect: 24,9%
  3. Psychological maltreatment: 18.7%
  4. Behavioural disorders: 9.9%
- 56.2% of retained reports concluded, after evaluation, that the safety or the development of the child was compromised.
- 74% of children whose situation was put under the care of the DYP stayed in their family environment or with significant third parties.
- 129 teenagers received services under the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), which represents a 3.2% decrease with respect to last year.

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The past year has brought more than its share of challenges to our clientele, the youth protection staff and our partners. Let us remember that at all times, under any circumstances, protecting our children means: showing up for them in the all the regions of this province, keeping our eyes and our hearts open, listening to them, helping them and being with them every step of the way. It also means accepting their diversity, be it cultural, sexual or gender-related, fostering inclusion and the respect for each affected person, being available, and showing sensitivity and empathy towards the children and their parents. Because the priority is our children!

To consult the 2020–2021 Report:

[www.cisss-cotenord.gouv.qc.ca/documentation/rapports/rapports-du-dpj/](http://www.cisss-cotenord.gouv.qc.ca/documentation/rapports/rapports-du-dpj/) (in French)

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