



*Building Better Services for Children and Youth who are Victims or Witnesses of Crime in Canada
Prestation de services améliorés aux enfants et aux adolescents qui ont été victimes ou témoins d'actes criminels au Canada*

QUÉBEC

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES FOR CHILD VICTIMS AND WITNESSES IN QUEBEC

For general information, go to http://www.formulaire.gouv.qc.ca/cgi/affiche_doc.cgi?dossier=3241&table=0

MODEL PROGRAM

Multisectoral Agreement

The Multisectoral Agreement on Child Victims of Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse or Neglect that Threatens Their Physical Health integrates and replaces the various protocols and agreements on sexual abuse that had been signed in the 80s and 90s between the various networks of departments and organizations in Quebec tasked with protecting children. This Agreement is in line with the government's overall strategy to combat sexual assault.

The complete text of the Agreement (41 pages) can be found at <http://www.justice.gouv.qc.ca/francais/publications/rapports/entente.htm>. It is available in French only.


A socio-legal intervention process has been put in place and includes the following steps: notifying the DPJ, coordinating and planning interventions, investigating and assessing the merits of the allegations, deciding what kind of follow-up will be needed, and acting and sharing information with partners. The roles and responsibilities of each partner are clearly defined in the Agreement.

The Agreement aims to provide better protection to children and give them the help they need by working towards establishing close collaboration between the Directeur de la Protection de la Jeunesse (DPJ) (Director of Youth Protection), the Directeur des Poursuites Criminelles et Pénales (Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions), the police, and, depending on the situation,



LES AGRESSIONS SEXUELLES
EXISTENT
ET MARQUENT PROFONDÉMENT

Demandez de l'aide

Québec 

A poster for a public awareness campaign in Quebec on sexual abuse

other organizations that are affected, including educational institutions and agencies, daycare centres and other childcare services, health and social services organizations as well as other organizations such as the CAVACs.

The implementation of this agreement begins when one of the partners finds out or suspects that a child has been the victim of sexual abuse. The process is followed through until decisions are made regarding the appropriate measures to be taken to assist and protect the child, and the appropriate measures to be taken with regard to the abuser, depending on the situation (criminal charges, etc.). There should be constant communication between partners and rapid and concerted interventions, both on the national (jurisdiction) and regional level.

Lastly, following the implementation of this agreement, the Bureau d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels (BAVAC) has shown interest in the services provided by the Centre d'expertise en agression sexuelle Marie-Vincent as a potential model for the Ministère de la Justice du Québec to follow for providing services throughout Quebec to young victims of sexual abuse.

CHALLENGES/UNMET NEEDS, NEW PROGRAMS PLANNED

- For the Ministère de la Justice du Québec, the main challenge facing the Direction des orientations et politiques (DOP) (Policy Directorate) is to provide the most effective support to the Multisectoral Agreement on Child Victims of Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse or Neglect that Threatens Their Physical Health, in concert with the Ministère de l'Éducation et de la Jeunesse, the Ministère de la Sécurité Publique, the Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance and the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux.
- The Bureau d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels (BAVAC), which reports to the DOP, is facing the following challenges:
 - Working with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) du Québec to ensure adequate **core funding** (for both long-term goals and day-to-day operations) is provided for the only organization currently providing these services in Quebec, namely, the **Centre d'expertise en agression sexuelle Marie-Vincent** <http://www.ceasmv.ca/fr/accueil.php>.
 - To encourage **referrals to this organization** by the networks of community organizations that help victims of crime, in particular our institutional partners, the crime victims assistance centres (CAVACs).