

## **Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent**

**Montreal**

<http://www.ceasmv.ca/en/welcome.php>

Created in 2005 as an initiative of the Marie-Vincent Foundation, the **Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent** is a leading developer of promising services to assist sexually abused children aged 12 and younger. By associating medical, psychosocial, police and social-judicial services with knowledge and research, the Centre has emerged as a significant social innovation in Quebec's social landscape. It offers the latest specialized services in a single location, specifically adapted to the particular needs of young victims and their loved ones.

The desire to operate along an integrated and ongoing services trajectory has led to a solid partnership that allows the Centre d'expertise to offer young victims and their families a program of personalized services, an evaluation of psychosocial needs, a specialized treatment program as well as the police investigation and medical exam, right from the moment of disclosure.

To date, the Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent has treated over 900 children and as many parents or loved ones accompanying them. The Centre's clients contribute to furthering the sexual assault knowledge base by participating in research activities led by the Interuniversity Chair, created in 2005 and directly associated with the Centre's services. The grouping of scientific and clinical experts has allowed for material and tools specifically adapted to young child victims of sexual assault to be developed and used, and offers strict scientific guidance when choosing interventions.

The ongoing research work results in documentation about the clients seen at the Centre and the effects the interventions have on them. Thoroughness and professionalism are therefore at the heart of the Centre's achievements, to the benefit of the children, their parents and loved ones, intervenors and the Centre's main partners.

In addition to improving the services offered, the Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent provides training to intervenors and students. To date, more than 800 stakeholders from various environments and regions of Quebec have benefited from the training or supervision activities offered by the Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent. This contributes to increasing integration and understanding the body of knowledge to improve professional interventions with young child victims of sexual assault throughout Quebec. The Centre has become a leader in the development and distribution of scientific knowledge and practical learning in sexual assault matters. As it is enjoying flourishing international recognition, its expertise will certainly benefit other communities in the near future.

Lucie Joyal's presentation, as part of the "Child Advocacy Centres Knowledge Exchange" will focus on the **implementation and evolution of psychosocial services developed and evaluated at the Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent in the past five years, and the impact of these services** to date.