

Québec WHO Collaborating Centre  
for Safety Promotion and  
Injury Prevention

ACTIVITY REPORT

2010

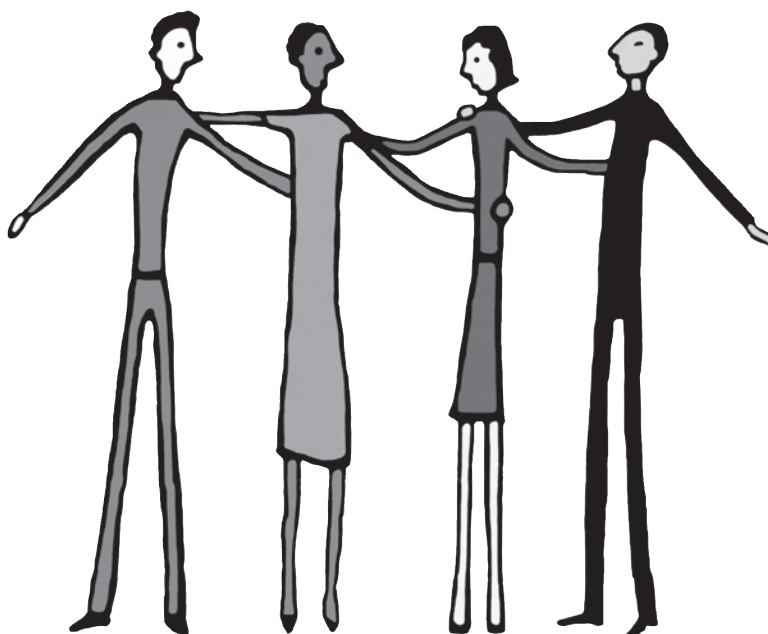




# Québec WHO Collaborating Centre for Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention

ACTIVITY REPORT

# 2010



World Health  
Organization

Québec 

- Institut national de santé publique
- Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
- Agences de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal, de la Montérégie, de la Capitale-Nationale et du Bas-Saint-Laurent/Directions de santé publique

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## DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Safety is a state in which threats and conditions that can cause physical, psychological or material harm are controlled in order to preserve the health and well-being of individuals and the community. It is an essential resource for everyday life that enables individuals and communities to realize their aspirations.

Regardless of the life setting considered, the attainment of an optimum level of safety demands that individuals, communities, governments and other interveners create and maintain the following conditions:

1. a climate of cohesion, social peace and fairness that protects rights and freedoms at the family, local, national and international levels;
2. the prevention and control of injuries and other consequences or other harm caused by accidents;
3. respect for the values and physical, material or psychological integrity of individuals;
4. access to effective prevention, control and rehabilitation measures to ensure that the first three conditions are achieved.

These conditions can be assured by initiatives that focus on:

- the physical, social, technological, political, economic and organizational environment;
- behaviour.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Québec WHO Collaborating Centre for Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention, WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion, Karolinska Institutet, World Health Organization, *Safety and Safety Promotion: Conceptual and Operational Aspects*, October 1998.





## **DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLABORATING CENTRE**

The Centre is made up of institutions in the Québec public health network under the scientific coordination of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ), which, in conjunction with its mission, establishes links with Canadian and international organizations in order to foster cooperation and the pooling of knowledge.

### **PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

- Direction générale de la santé publique, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec
- Institut national de santé publique du Québec
- Agence de la santé et des services sociaux du Bas-Saint-Laurent/Direction de santé publique
- Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de la Montérégie/Direction de santé publique
- Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal/Direction de santé publique
- Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de la Capitale-Nationale/Direction régionale de santé publique

### **DIRECTOR**

- Pierre Maurice, Head of the Scientific Unit, Sécurité et prévention des traumatismes, Direction du développement des individus et des communautés, Institut national de santé publique du Québec

### **COORDINATOR**

- Julie Laforest, Research Professional, Sécurité et prévention des traumatismes, Direction du développement des individus et des communautés, Institut national de santé publique du Québec

### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

- Marthe Hamel, Coordinator, Développement, adaptation et intégration sociale, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec
- Julie Laforest, Research Professional, Sécurité et prévention des traumatismes, Direction du développement des individus et des communautés, Institut national de santé publique du Québec
- Michel Lavoie, Consulting Physician, Sécurité dans les milieux de vie, Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de la Capitale-Nationale/Direction régionale de santé publique
- Sylvain Leduc, Coordinator, Injury Issues, Agence de la santé et des services sociaux du Bas-Saint-Laurent/Direction de santé publique
- Daniel Lefrançois, Assistant Director, Services de traumatologie, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec

- Pierre Maurice, Head of the Scientific Unit, Sécurité et prévention des traumatismes, Direction du développement des individus et des communautés, Institut national de santé publique du Québec
- Patrick Morency, Head of the Injury Prevention Program, Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal/Direction de santé publique
- Caroline de Pokomandy-Morin, Department Manager, Promotion de saines habitudes de vie et de dépistage, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec
- Diane Sergerie, Research Professional, Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de la Montérégie/Direction de santé publique
- Danielle St-Laurent, Head of the Scientific Unit, Surveillance des maladies chroniques et de leurs déterminants, Direction de l'analyse et de l'évaluation des systèmes de soins et services, Institut national de santé publique du Québec
- Hélène Valentini, Coordinator of International Cooperation, Institut national de santé publique du Québec

## **MISSION**

The Collaborating Centre seeks to contribute at the international level to research, development and the dissemination of intersectoral approaches to promote safety and prevent intentional and unintentional injuries.

## **2010-2014 MANDATE**

1. Collaborate in the activities of WHO and PAHO.
2. Satisfy the needs of the international community.
3. Support the Réseau francophone de prévention des traumatismes et de promotion de la sécurité (French-speaking injury prevention and safety promotion network).

## **ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS**

1. Collaborate on WHO's program of activities in the realm of safety promotion and injury prevention.
2. Contribute to the maintenance and development of the Réseau francophone de prévention des traumatismes et de promotion de la sécurité.
3. Contribute to the development of the safety promotion capabilities of the French-speaking countries and the Latin American countries.
4. Offer technical support in the realm of safety promotion and injury prevention in the French-speaking African countries.
5. Participate in the activities of the International Organizing Committee (IOC) of the World Conferences on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion.
6. Comment on, validate and adapt, if need be, the French-language translations of WHO/PAHO reports and publications.

### **NOTE TO THE READER**

This report is submitted each year to WHO/PAHO and is part of the organization's management and monitoring requirements in respect of the **Québec WHO Collaborating Centre for Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention**. The report refers solely to activities related to the mandate received from WHO/PAHO. To learn more about the other activities of the agencies that make up the Centre, please contact Julie Laforest (julie.laforest@inspq.qc.ca).



## FIRST ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTION

### COLLABORATE ON WHO'S PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES IN THE REALM OF SAFETY PROMOTION AND INJURY PREVENTION

#### Activities carried out

##### *Meetings of WHO Collaborating Centres*

Participate in the annual meetings of the network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Injury and Violence Prevention:

- Participation in the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the directors of WHO Collaborating Centres for Injury and Violence Prevention held on September 23, 2010 in London, England (Pierre Maurice: [pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca)).

##### *Violence*

Pursue the dissemination and implementation of the *World Report on Violence and Health*:

- Organization of a thematic day entitled "Violence dans les relations intimes à travers les stades de la vie" held on March 9, 2010 in Montréal in conjunction with Annual Public Health Days.

Nearly 100 participants assembled to take stock of key issues and challenges pertaining to conjugal violence in Québec and new knowledge in this field, in particular from the standpoint of prevention. Solutions for the elaboration of the forthcoming government action plan on conjugal violence were issued at the conclusion of the day-long event (Ruth Pilote: [r.pilote@rrsss16.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:r.pilote@rrsss16.gouv.qc.ca)).

- Participation in the deliberations of and submission of a brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security concerning Bill C-391, the Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act.

The brief presents a public health perspective on the control of firearms based on a study that shows the impact of Canadian legislation in reducing suicides and homicides (Michel Lavoie: [michel.lavoie@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:michel.lavoie@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)).

##### *Road safety*

Pursue the dissemination and implementation of the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*:

- Ongoing participation in the Table québécoise de la sécurité routière (TQSR).

The members of the Collaborating Centre are responsible for two working committees, one devoted to active and alternative transportation (Pierre Patry: [pierre.patry@msss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:pierre.patry@msss.gouv.qc.ca)) and the other one focusing on impaired driving and distractions while driving (Pierre Maurice: [pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca)).

- Commencement of planning of activities pertaining to the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

Commencement of planning of activities to be carried out in Québec within the framework of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. Representatives of the Ministère des Transports (MTQ), the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ), the Table québécoise sur la sécurité routière (TQSR), and the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) responded to the request. Contact was also established with Health Canada (Margaret Herbert) to discuss the planning of Canada-wide activities (Pierre Maurice: [pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca)).

#### *Injuries among children and young people*

Pursue the dissemination and implementation of the *World Report on Child Injury Prevention*:

- Collaboration on the Québec section of the *Sécurité Jeunes/Safe Kids Canada* project that led to the production of the report entitled *Understanding the Injury Prevention Resource and Learning Needs of CAPC/CPNP Projects*.

The project was intended to determine the need for tools, training and other needs pertaining to the transfer of knowledge of groups that deal with children within the context of CAPC/CPNP projects. The recommendations seek to facilitate access to documents and to the appropriate programs in the realm of child injury prevention and training on how to best integrate child injury prevention into training programs for parents (Pierre Patry: [pierre.patry@msss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:pierre.patry@msss.gouv.qc.ca)).

#### *Other injuries – Fall prevention among the elderly*

- Updating of trainer training under the STAND UP! program

Training trainers under the STAND UP! program is part of the implementation support strategy offered by the INSPQ and the MSSS in respect of non-customized multifactorial intervention on the falls prevention service continuum for seniors living at home. This service continuum is intended for individuals 65 years of age or over still living in their own homes who have fallen during the past year or who have difficulty walking or maintaining their balance. Two training sessions took place in March 2010, one in Montréal and the other one in Québec City (Diane Sergerie: [d.sergerie@rrsss16.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:d.sergerie@rrsss16.gouv.qc.ca)).

### **Publications, presentations and other outcomes**

#### *Violence*

É. Blais (2010). "Pour ou contre le contrôle des armes à feu au Canada," in D. Lafortune, J. Poupart, and S. Tanner (editors), *Questions de criminologie*, (pages 177-186). Montréal: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal.

J. Flores, C. Lampron, and P. Maurice (2010). *Stratégies et conditions de réussite en matière d'identification précoce de la violence conjugale dans le réseau de la santé*. Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

J. Flores, C. Lampron, and P. Maurice (2010). *Répertoire d'outils soutenant l'identification précoce de la violence conjugale*. Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

M.-P. Gagné, and É. Blais (2010). "The impact of gun control legislation on suicides and homicides in Canada," oral presentation made at the offices of Forensic Technology, Montréal, July 7, 2010.

J. Laforest, opening presentation, Colloque de La Bouée, "Parce que la violence n'a pas d'âge," La Bouée, Lac Mégantic, October 2010, oral presentation.

M. Lavoie, R. Pilote, P. Maurice, and É. Blais (2010). Brief Submitted to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security concerning Bill C-391, the Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act. Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

### *Road safety*

I. Beaudoin, and É. Blais (2010). "Constats d'infraction, accidents de la route et certitude relative de la peine : une évaluation quasi-expérimentale des effets contextuels et structurels de la dissuasion policière," *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, Vol. 52, pages 471-496.

É. Blais (2010). "Public health advisory opinion on the impact of cellphone use while driving and recommendations," oral presentation made at the seminar entitled "Évaluation d'impact sur la santé : méthodes diverses," Paris, France, January 28, 2010.

É. Blais (2010). "Le téléphone cellulaire au volant : Effet du téléphone cellulaire sur la conduite automobile – une synthèse des connaissances." *Santé Conjuguée*, April 2010 (No. 52), pages 33-36.

É. Blais (2010). *Au-delà des statistiques : il y a le résultat*, oral presentation in conjunction with the *Journée de sensibilisation à la sécurité routière* organized by the Association des directeurs de police du Québec (ADPQ) and the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ). Nicolet, October 2010.

É. Blais (2010). *L'évaluation d'impact sur la santé du code de la sécurité routière au Québec : le cas du téléphone cellulaire au volant*, CAS-DGS-SPE seminar on the health impact assessment. Paris, France, February 28, 2010, oral presentation.

É. Blais, and M. Cusson (editors) (2010). "La dissuasion et les progrès en sécurité routière," *Revue internationale de criminologie, police technique et scientifique*, Vol. 63, pages 388-468.

É. Blais, and M. Cusson (2010). "La production de la sécurité routière par la police : son efficacité et ses conditions," *Revue internationale de criminologie, police technique et scientifique*, 63: 394-405.

É. Blais, and M.-P. Gagné (2009b). "The effect on collisions with injuries of a reduction in traffic citations issued by police officers," *Injury Prevention*, Vol. 16, pages 393-397.

É. Blais, M.-E. Gagné, I. Beaudoin, and G. Kerdevez (2010). “L’efficacité des programmes policiers en matière de sécurité routière : mythe ou réalité?” Presentation made on April 6, 2010 within the framework of the CICC lunch-and-learn session. Montréal: Université de Montréal.

É. Blais, and G. Kerdevez (2010). “Effet de l’abaissement du taux d’alcoolémie pour la conduite d’un véhicule automobile sur les collisions : l’expérience canadienne,” oral presentation made at the CIRRELT in conjunction with a visit by a French road safety delegation. Montréal, June 4, 2010.

É. Blais, and G. Kerdevez (2010). “Effet de l’abaissement du taux d’alcoolémie pour la conduite d’un véhicule automobile sur les collisions : l’expérience canadienne,” oral presentation made at the annual congress of the CIRRELT held on April 26 and 27, 2010. Université Laval, Québec City.

É. Blais, M. Lavoie, and P. Maurice (2010). Brief submitted to the Standing Committee on Transportation and the Environment in conjunction with consultations on Bill 71, an Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions. Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

É. Blais, and P. Maurice (2010). *Réduction de la limite d’alcool permise dans le sang pour la conduite d’un véhicule automobile*. Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

J.-F. Bruneau, and P. Maurice (2010). “Normes et règles de circulation applicables aux aides à la mobilité motorisées,” colloquium on reduced mobility entitled “La mobilité pour tous : vers une meilleure cohabitation,” organized by the Association québécoise du transport et des routes, June 2010, oral presentation.

M. Dionne, R. Martin, G. Légaré, et al. (2010). Brief submitted to the Standing Committee on Transportation and the Environment during special consultations and public hearings concerning the *Rapport sur les véhicules hors route – Vers un développement durable de la pratique*. Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

M.-E. Gagné, and É. Blais (2010). “Dissuasion, collisions routières et inférence causale : le cas du relâchement dans l’émission de constats d’infraction par les policiers,” *Revue internationale de criminologie, police technique et scientifique*, Vol. 63, pages 419-434.

### *Drowning*

D. Sergerie, P. Maurice, and J.-P. Trépanier (2010). Brief submitted to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain to examine the proposed regulation governing the safety of residential swimming pools. Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec.



## SECOND ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTION

### CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE INITIATIVES OF THE RÉSEAU FRANCOPHONE DE PRÉVENTION DES TRAUMATISMES ET DE PROMOTION DE LA SÉCURITÉ

#### Activities carried out

*Participate in the organization of seminars in the Réseau francophone de prévention des traumatismes et de promotion de la sécurité*

- Member of the International Scientific Committee of the *Séminaire francophone international pour la prévention des traumatismes et la promotion de la sécurité*. The 9<sup>th</sup> seminar will be held from May 5 to 7, 2011 in Beyrouth, Lebanon, under the theme “Jeunes et passion du risque : À quel prix?” (Danielle St-Laurent: [danielle.st.laurent@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:danielle.st.laurent@inspq.qc.ca)).
- Invitation of a member of WHO within the framework of the *Séminaire francophone* and to highlight the launching of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 (Pierre Maurice: [pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca)).

*Foster the exchange of expertise among French-speaking professionals working in the realm of injury prevention*

- Presentation of the activities and publications of WHO and the Québec WHO Collaborating Centre at two events held during Annual Public Health Days (the 14<sup>th</sup> APHD in March 2010 in Montréal and the 15<sup>th</sup> APHD in November 2010 in Québec City) (Julie Laforest: [julie.laforest@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:julie.laforest@inspq.qc.ca)).



## **THIRD ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTION**

### **CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAFETY PROMOTION CAPABILITIES OF THE FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES AND THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES**

#### **Activities carried out**

- Presentation of the INSPQ's safety promotion and violence prevention initiatives during a visit by a Brazilian delegation from the Conselho Nacional de Secretarios de Saude (CONASS) on January 29, 2010 (Hélène Valentini: [hélène.valentini@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:hélène.valentini@inspq.qc.ca)).



## **FOURTH ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTION**

### **OFFER TECHNICAL SUPPORT IN THE REALM OF SAFETY PROMOTION AND INJURY PREVENTION IN THE FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

#### **Activities carried out**

- Organization of a training session to be held from April 5 to 9, 2011 in Bamako, Mali, in collaboration with the Injury Prevention Initiative for Africa (IPIFA) network, under the leadership of Dr. Ron Lett.

This training initiative is a means of facilitating the implementation of an injury monitoring system aimed at better documenting the problem in Mali. It is intended for clinical professionals in the health network and public health professionals, professionals involved in epidemiological research, and professionals in the transportation and public safety sectors (Pierre Maurice: [pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca)).



## **FIFTH ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTION**

### **PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (IOC) OF THE WORLD CONFERENCES ON INJURY PREVENTION AND SAFETY PROMOTION**

#### **Activities carried out**

- Member of the International Organizing Committee (IOC) of the World Conferences on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion – resignation after the latest conference (Pierre Maurice: [pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:pierre.maurice@inspq.qc.ca)).
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the World Conference on Injury Prevention and Control, Safety 2010, held in September in London, England (Sylvain Leduc: [sylvain.leduc.asss01@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:sylvain.leduc.asss01@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)).

#### **Publications, presentations and other outcomes**

S. Burrows, Y. Robitaille, and M. Gagné. “Fall-related hip fracture trends 1991-2008: reduction of falls or increase in bone resistance?” Safety 2010, London, September 21-23, 2010, oral presentation.

E. Rodrigues, A. Guesdes, P. Maurice, M.I. Gutierrez, M. Hajar, S. Smith, N. Tran, M. Ballesteros, and M.F. Tourinho Peres. “Pan American Health Organization Collaborating Centers for Violence and Injury Prevention,” Safety 2010, London, September 21-23, 2010, oral presentation.





## **SIXTH ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTION**

### **COMMENT ON, VALIDATE AND ADAPT, IF NEED BE, THE FRENCH-LANGUAGE TRANSLATIONS OF WHO/PAHO REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Activities carried out**

Neither WHO nor the PAHO made any requests in 2010 in respect of this contribution.



## OTHER PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

### Safety promotion

J. Laforest, L.M. Bouchard, and P. Maurice (2010). *Passer d'un diagnostic de sécurité à un plan d'action : un guide à l'intention des collectivités locales*. Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

### Workplace safety

S.-A. Girard, T. Leroux, J.-P. Quesnel, M. Courteau, M. Picard, F. Turcotte, and R. Larocque (2010). "Que coûte le bruit en milieu de travail au régime d'indemnisation? Une perspective québécoise!" *Assurances et gestion des risques*, HEC, Montréal, April/July 2010, Vol. 78, No. 1-2, pages 101-123.

### Suicide

H. Camirand, and G. Légaré (2010a). *Santé mentale dans L'Enquête québécoise sur la santé de la population, 2008 : pour en savoir plus sur la santé des Québécois*. Québec: Institut de la statistique du Québec.

H. Camirand, and G. Légaré (2010b). *Blessures et troubles musculosquelettiques dans L'Enquête québécoise sur la santé de la population, 2008 : pour en savoir plus sur la santé des Québécois*. Québec: Institut de la statistique du Québec.

M. Gagné, and D. St-Laurent (2010). *La mortalité par suicide au Québec : tendances et données récentes – 1981 à 2008*. Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

M. Gagné, Y. Robitaille, D. Hamel, and D. St-Laurent (2010). "Firearms regulation and declining rates of male suicide in Quebec," *Injury Prevention*, 16 (4): 247-253.

M. Gagné, D. St-Laurent, G. Légaré, and P.A. Perron. "Tendances de la mortalité par suicide au cours des 30 dernières années au Québec," semi-annual colloquium of the Association québécoise de prévention du suicide, Rimouski, October 2010, oral presentation.

G. Légaré, and M. Gagné. "Suicide de personnes âgées au Québec, tendance des 25 dernières années," Québec colloquium, "La vie des aînés nous tient à cœur," Association québécoise de prévention du suicide, Trois-Rivières, September 2010, oral presentation..

### Injuries among young people

B. Lévesque, R. Fiset, L. Isabelle, D. Gauvin, J. Baril, R. Larocque, S. Gingras, T. Leroux, M. Picard, and S.-A. Girard (2010). "Exposure of high school students to noise from personal music players in Québec City, Canada," *Int J Child Adolesc Health*, 3 (3).



## **OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING YEARS**

This report is the first one that covers the new commitments under the 2010-2014 action plan of the Québec WHO Collaborating Centre for Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention. Pursuant to the commitments, initiatives to provide technical support and develop the capabilities of the French-speaking African countries and the Latin American countries will be stepped up in the coming years. Projects in this respect are in preparation, in particular injury prevention training to be offered in Mali. The Québec WHO Collaborating Centre will also continue to promote involvement by the French-speaking countries in the realm of injury prevention through the Réseau francophone international en prévention des traumatismes et en promotion de la sécurité.

The coming year will witness the launching, on May 11, 2011, of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. The Collaborating Centre intends to actively support WHO and the UN in respect of activities organized in conjunction with the Decade. In concrete terms, the Collaborating Centre will mobilize stakeholders in the transportation and health sectors and will support Québec's and Canada's initiatives.

Lastly, new projects should be developed in the coming months, in particular in the field of violence prevention (the search for cases of mistreatment of seniors and awareness-raising in the media concerning sexual assault) and road safety (the impact of alcohol-ignition interlock devices and the pilot project designed to ascertain the applicability of a legal framework governing mobility aids).

### **Financial questions**

Under the agreement established, the action plan does not call for any financial commitment by the Collaborating Centre and WHO. Most of the initiatives described in this report have been carried out through contributions of human or financial resources from the agencies participating in the Centre and the other agencies and government departments mentioned in this report.



## **APPENDIX**

### **MEMBERS OF THE QUÉBEC WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR SAFETY PROMOTION AND INJURY PREVENTION**





## **MEMBERS OF THE QUÉBEC WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR SAFETY PROMOTION AND INJURY PREVENTION**

### **Direction générale de la santé publique (DGSP), Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec**

In keeping with other branches in the MSSS, the Direction générale de la santé publique assists the Minister in establishing health and social services policies and programs and ensures their implementation and administration by health and social services agencies and their evaluation. The DGSP coordinates the province-wide public health program and takes the necessary steps to protect public health.

In particular, the Direction générale de la santé publique is responsible for analyzing and monitoring the state of Quebecers' health, pinpointing priority health problems and the most vulnerable groups, and focusing on the determinants of health and well-being by intervening directly with the public and the systems governing Quebecers in order to prevent social and health problems and to promote good health.

Its initiatives are aimed specifically at reducing deaths from diseases and injuries, morbidity, disabilities and handicaps. Safety promotion and the prevention of intentional and unintentional injuries are a priority in the DGSP.

### **Institut national de santé publique du Québec**

The enabling legislation of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ), which was established in 1998, stipulates that its mission is to support the Minister of Health and Social Services and the health and social services agencies in fulfilling their public health mission. It must consolidate and develop public health expertise and make it available to all Quebecers. To this end, it must help develop, disseminate and put into practice new knowledge, inform the Minister and the public about priority health problems and the measures necessary to deal with them, and contribute with the universities to public health training programs. Moreover, given Québec's willingness to share with other nations its experience and success in the realm of public health, the Institut must also establish links with a broad range of national and international organizations.

To fulfil its mission, the INSPQ has adopted an open, decentralized organizational model that relies on the public health expertise available in Québec centred on a network-based operating method in order to cover the full range of necessary research, training, communications and services. The network's resources are grouped by themes, one of which is development, adaptation and public safety.

It is under this theme that expertise related to the prevention of unintentional injuries, violence and suicide and expertise pertaining to safety promotion and security in the community are developed.

## **Regional public health branches**

The Québec public health network comprises 18 regional health branches. Under the mandate assigned to him by the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Québec regional public health director is responsible in his region for:

1. informing residents of the general state of individual health, priority health problems, the most vulnerable groups, key risk factors and the measures he deems to be the most effective to monitor their development and, if need be, conducting the necessary studies or research;
2. pinpointing situations likely to threaten public health and ensuring that the necessary measures are adopted to protect the public;
3. providing prevention and safety promotion expertise and advising the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de la Capitale-Nationale on preventive services that are useful in reducing mortality and avoidable morbidity;
4. identifying situations in which intersectoral initiatives are necessary to prevent disease, injury or social problems that affect public health and, when he deems it appropriate, taking the steps that he judges necessary to promote such initiatives.
5. The director also assumes any other function attributed to him by the *Public Health Protection Act* (c. P-35).<sup>2</sup>

In keeping with this mandate, several regional public health branches in Québec have elaborated initiatives to promote safe environments and behaviour and to prevent intentional and unintentional injuries. The four regional public health branches involved in the WHO Collaborating Centre are indicated below.

### **The Direction de santé publique du Bas-Saint-Laurent**

The Direction de santé publique du Bas-Saint-Laurent serves a population of over 203 585 inhabitants living in 117 municipalities. The regional public health team is made up of 42 employees in eight work units. The work units devoted to social adaptation and physical health are involved in the prevention of intentional and unintentional injuries and are staffed by a consulting physician and four health care professionals.

### **The Direction de santé publique de la Montérégie**

The Direction de santé publique de la Montérégie serves a population of nearly 1.3 million inhabitants living in 195 municipalities on the south shore of Montréal Island. It has roughly 160 employees, including three professionals assigned to the prevention of injuries, violence and suicide. Since 1985, this group has been responsible for the development, promotion and implementation of injury prevention programs covering roads, the home, and sports and recreational activities, and in respect of violence and suicide in all CLSC territories.

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<sup>2</sup> Gouvernement du Québec (2001). *Public Health Act*, R.S.Q., c. 60. Québec: Gouvernement du Québec, 42 pages.

### **The Direction de santé publique de Montréal**

The Direction de santé publique de Montréal serves a population of 1.8 million residents living on Montréal Island and has approximately 300 employees. The unintentional injury prevention program employs two professionals while five other professionals with training in the humanities and health contribute to suicide and violence prevention on other teams. Priorities for the next three years include pedestrian safety, fall prevention among elderly adults, a reduction in intentional injuries through safety promotion, and urban planning.

### **The Direction régionale de santé publique de la Capitale-Nationale**

The Direction régionale de santé publique de la Capitale-Nationale serves a population of nearly 650 000 inhabitants living in 46 municipalities. It has roughly 200 employees working in nine administrative units. Among these units, the community safety service promotes safe, non-violent environments and behaviour and seeks to reduce the incidence and consequences of intentional and unintentional injuries. Fifteen health care professionals trained in epidemiology or public health, including seven physicians, staff the service.



The Québec WHO Collaborating Centre (CC) for Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention, established in 1995, comprises institutions in the Québec public health network, i.e. four regional public health branches (Montréal, Montérégie, Capitale-Nationale and Bas-Saint-Laurent), the Direction générale de la santé publique in the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, and the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ). Through its mission of international cooperation, the INSPQ is responsible for ensuring the Centre's leadership and coordination.

Within their respective mandates, these partners run promotional activities on safety and prevention of intentional and unintentional injuries. These activities cover various fields of intervention such as violence and suicide prevention as well as safety promotion and injury prevention in urban environments, in transportation, in residential and in recreational and sports activities.



- Institut national de santé publique
- Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
- Agences de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal, de la Montérégie, de la Capitale-Nationale et du Bas-Saint-Laurent/Directions de santé publique

