

# Towards a POLICY on HOMELESSNESS

Réseau SOLIDARITÉ Itinérance du Québec  
Platform of Demands



September 2006

# TOWARDS A POLICY ON HOMELESSNESS

Réseau SOLIDARITÉ Itinérance du Québec  
Platform of Demands



**TOWARDS A POLICY ON HOMELESSNESS  
Platform of Demands**

ISBN-13 : 978-2-9808084-1-8

ISBN-10 : 2-9808084-1-5

Dépôt légal – Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, 2006

**Edited by**

le Réseau SOLIDARITÉ Itinérance du Québec

CP 60140

5101, St-Denis

Montréal QC H2J 4E1

Phone number: (514) 528-6466

Visit our dedicated section on: [www.rapsim.org](http://www.rapsim.org)

**Translation**

Peter Stockdale

Global Bridge

**Graphic designer**

Catherine Marion







[www.commeunpoissondansleau.com](http://www.commeunpoissondansleau.com)

**Pictures**

Réseau SOLIDARITÉ Itinérance du Québec

# CONTENTS

---

TOWARDS A HOLISTIC VISION OF HOMELESSNESS	1
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	2
SECTION 1: HOMELESSNESS: WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?	4
SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES AND MEANS OF ACTION	7
 <b>Objective 1: Citizenship</b>	<b>9</b>
Means A : Give Back Access To Public Places To Homeless People	10
Means B : Develop Legal Instruments Against “Not In My Back Yard”	12
 <b>Objective 2: A Decent Income</b>	<b>13</b>
Means C : Raise Income Levels	14
Means D : Improve Access To Income Support Measures	15
Means E : Establish Tax Measures That Aim At A More Equitable Distribution Of Wealth	16
 <b>Objective 3: The Right To Housing</b>	<b>17</b>
Means F : Undertake A Major Social Housing Construction Program	18
Means G : Make Significant Investments In Community Support	19
Means H : Strengthen Measures To Regulate The Private Housing Market	20
Means I : Prevent Homelessness Among Persons Leaving Institutions	21
 <b>Objective 4: The Right To Education</b>	<b>22</b>
Means J : Promote The Right To Education Of Homeless Persons Or Those At Risk	23
Means K : Support Workplace Insertion Practices	24
 <b>Objective 5: The Right To Health</b>	<b>26</b>
Means L : Guarantee That Health And Social Welfare Services Are Accessible And Equitable	28
Means M : Respect The Principles Of Voluntary Participation And Confidentiality	30
Means N : Strengthen Measures To Support Families And Youth In Difficulty	31
 <b>Objective 6: A Network of Support And Solidarity</b>	<b>32</b>
Means O : Recognize The Social Provision Of Community Assistance Agencies Regarding Homelessness And Increase Funding	33
Means P : Recognize The Social Provision Of Practices Of Rights Defence And Fund Them Properly	34
Means Q : Recognize The Social Provision Of Citizen Involvement Initiatives And Fund Them Properly	35
Means R : Promote Cross-Sectorial Cooperation On Homelessness	36
CONCLUSION: Solidarity In The Face Of Homelessness	37
WORKING COMMITTEE	38
TOUR OF REGIONS	38
LIST OF THE PARTICIPANTS - REGIONAL TOUR OF REGION	39
NATIONAL CONSULTATION (April 21-22, 2006)	42
DISCUSSION GROUPS	43

# TOWARDS A HOLISTIC VISION OF HOMELESSNESS

---

In May 2005, the first Estates General on Homelessness in Quebec <sup>1</sup> facilitated an exchange of information between many actors on the realities of homelessness in their respective regions. They also identified approaches and solutions for homeless persons and the communities in which they live. A Joint Declaration regarding the rights of citizens (“A Right To All Rights”) <sup>2</sup> was laid down during the Estates General. It stressed the rights of homeless persons that must be recognized, and called for collective mobilization as a sign of solidarity with these persons. Everywhere in Quebec difficult conditions are apparent, notably regarding the exercise of fundamental rights. They also agreed to recognizing as a necessity a policy on homelessness that enunciates a **holistic vision** of this complex and plural phenomenon, and facilitates forward movement towards **concrete solutions**.

## *Be Proactive*

It is from this perspective that the Réseau SOLIDARITÉ Itinérance du Québec (RSIQ) [Homelessness Solidarity Network of Quebec] built this **platform of demands** in order to enunciate its vision of what homelessness means in Quebec today, to report situations, to move forward the means that will meet the needs of persons and agencies, for the common good of the society as a whole. This platform also aims at mobilizing all levels of government so that they develop a policy on homelessness.

RSIQ represents more than 200 non-profit agencies in Quebec who work with thousands of homeless persons or those at risk. The homelessness community agencies, whose financially at risk condition often echoes the vulnerability of the persons whom they help, need **to be acknowledged and properly supported** to achieve their mission effectively.

## *Make A Common Front*

The demands enunciated here articulate in an expanded and coherent way the **various challenges which take place on the ground**, that is, concerning social housing, decent incomes, and alternative intervention or insertion practices. The intention of RSIQ is to recognize the role of other agencies, groups and coalitions which have for a long time reflected on

poverty and exclusion, in whatever its forms, and to join with those who are already take a leading role on certain files.

## *Mobilize and challenge*

The platform of the Réseau SOLIDARITÉ Itinérance du Québec is the fruit of collective work initiated within the RSIQ in collaboration with other national groups. A committee formed in December 2004 worked to build this platform. Members of RSIQ are present in a dozen Quebec regions. They made important contributions during a series of regional meetings held during the Winter of 2006. Two hundred persons participated. Several meetings were also organized within community agencies to gather experiences and opinions of users. A national meeting held April 21-22, 2006 permitted about 140 active community and institutional actors at the local, regional or national levels to be consulted. They provided their input on a number of aspects of this document. Finally, during its Annual General Meeting in September 2006, RSIQ will adopt this platform and the action plan that flows from it officially.

---

<sup>1</sup> The report on Estates General on Homelessness is available on demand. See [www.rapsim.org](http://www.rapsim.org)

<sup>2</sup> The text of the Joint declaration as well as the results of the signature campaign are available at: [www.rapsim.org](http://www.rapsim.org) (see section “Le Droit de cite”).

RSIQ intends pursue the mobilizing of agencies around its demands in order to promote and bring them to the attention of all levels of government. RSIQ considers that **measures taken up to now are insufficient**, as much on the federal side (with the National Homelessness Initiative in place since 2001) as on the Government of Quebec side (notably with Accès-Logis [Housing Access] and the Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires [Community Organization Support Program]). Municipalities should also be concerned about the stakes involved concerning homelessness since they are confronted with them daily.

All levels of government must acquire appropriate and replenishable measures urgently, based on more in-depth thinking about what homelessness is.

Considering the multidimensional aspects of homelessness, our demands will challenge several departments at both the federal and provincial levels (e.g. Employment and Social Solidarity, Family, Health and Social Services, Municipal Affairs, Justice, etc.) and several services at the municipal level (e.g. town planning and social development, etc.).

## *Consolidate*

A large number of the arguments in this platform deal with the acknowledgement and financing of support services, as well as the maintenance of existing practices and the development of innovative practices. These intervention practices, in the institutional environment as well as in the community, must be preserved in their **multiplicity** in order to meet the needs of persons who live these conditions, especially considering the diversity of problems and trajectories that characterize homeless situations.

**The complexity and scale** of the social phenomenon that is homelessness make the extent of our demands extremely vast (in accordance with the broad terrain of interventions regarding homelessness). Only a broad package of measures can respond to the diversity of these persons' situations.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

---

## *A Choice By Society*

**It is unacceptable that persons are compelled to live on the street**, a life of homelessness and wandering, outside society and in extreme poverty. This firm belief guides the action of the Réseau Solidarité Itinérance du Québec and is the starting point for this platform of demands. It is a question of values and political choice. In a rich society like ours, are we willing to let some people live in poverty and exclusion?

This platform is drawn from the Joint declaration regarding citizenship which asserts that: "Nobody should find themselves homeless, without means or support. Homelessness is not a fate." RSIQ defends the position that homelessness is a **collective responsibility**. It is possible to act to eliminate poverty and social exclusion. Nevertheless, it demands participation and commitment by all and requires coherence between actions, measures and initiatives, on the basis of a common objective - the reduction of social inequality.

If one chooses to let poverty and exclusion gain ground (since homelessness is the consequence of a political deliberate choice in favour of certain social and economic options), it will be more and more necessary to release resources to fill in the gaps. **The costs regarding homelessness** are nowadays extremely heavy for all society and could get even heavier in future if measures are not taken quickly to diminish the scale of this phenomenon in a significant way.



The human costs linked to homelessness, exclusion and poverty are enormous for the individuals subjected to these situations. Their daily suffering also has repercussions on the common good.<sup>3</sup> To be uninterested in the fate of homeless, excluded or poor persons is also to agree to take on the additional costs: in health<sup>4</sup> and social costs<sup>5</sup>, in the labour market<sup>6</sup>, and justice<sup>7</sup>. The bottom line is that it wastes tax dollars.

If these economic considerations may be incentives to change the priorities and policies of governments, they should not be the only ones, or the first ones.

The President of the Human Rights Commission of Quebec declared: "Poverty is not a regrettable disadvantage. It is a denial of rights. It must make us ashamed and be abolished."<sup>8</sup> The same could be said of homelessness, which constitutes a violation of several economic and social rights.

### *Fundamental Rights*

Persons who are homeless are naturally at the core of this platform. Homeless persons are not second-class **citizens**, and should not be considered as such. However, a variety of factors contribute to deprive them of the possibility of exercising their citizenship fully: inadequate education, the absence of short-term possibilities for taking on a paid job, poverty, lack of social or family support, monitoring practices that are little adapted to some institutional networks (e.g. youth centres), the absence of possible exit strategies, personal plan and judicialization.

Social participation comes from a process that is the opposite of that of homelessness, it is about the progression of the affirmation of one's identity, and the recognition of this identity by other people. Too often homeless persons have low self-esteem, which prevents them from aspiring to full citizenship. One can observe too that the authorities, public sector professionals, and other professionals in general often deny their rights to citizenship, and even the legitimacy of their place in society. We hope for a **more just society** which really makes a place for vulnerable persons.

RSIQ defends a set of **rights** for which it is hoped there will be simultaneously better recognition and greater respect: the right to a decent income, the right to housing, the right to support against abuse and negligence, the right of free access to services, the right to voluntary participation, the right to education and citizenship. RSIQ hopes that the application of these rights is reinforced, most of which are already enunciated in the Charte québécoise des droits et libertés [Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms]. It is also what was recommended by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations which reported in May 2006 about the application of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Canada and Quebec have been signatories since 1976. This Committee would like to see governments consider homelessness as a national emergency and set up a national strategy to reduce homelessness.<sup>9</sup>

If it is indisputable that collective responsibility must be exercised regarding homelessness, it is also necessary to acknowledge the **contribution of homeless persons themselves** and their capacity to affect their own living conditions, and what they are capable of observing regarding the agencies working with them.

<sup>3</sup> On this subject, two documents can be consulted. National Council of Welfare : The Cost of Poverty, Winter 2001-2002 and United Way / Centraide Québec, Une société qui se tire dans le pied, *lettre ouverte aux personnes qui ne se sentent pas concernées par la pauvreté ... et à toutes les autres*, September 2000.

<sup>4</sup> For instance, the number of infants with low birth weight is rising, and with it risks of certain diseases and epidemics.

<sup>5</sup> Prevention programs for suicide, psychosocial interventions, and income support benefits, etc.

<sup>6</sup> Thus, a lower participation rate in the working population creates a drop in the productive capacity of the country.

<sup>7</sup> For example, an imprisonment costs \$60,000 per year in the federal system.

<sup>8</sup> Statement of Pierre Marois on the occasion of the International Ombudsman Congress, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

<sup>9</sup> For more information, consult the website of the High Commissioner of the United Nations or the Ligue des droits et libertés du Québec [League Of Rights And Freedoms Of Quebec].

# SECTION 1

## HOMELESSNESS: WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

### *A Process, Not A Profile*

Over the course of recent decades, several definitions have been offered by different committees and agencies. Each of them has their pertinence and highlights one or several particular aspects, notably regional contexts. We chose not to offer a new "all-purpose" definition. Rather we aim to bring to light common characteristics of homelessness in Quebec, while signalling the existence of regional nuances. Further, we intend to note differences between the situations that homeless people live, according to: type, age, or other dimensions.

Among the common characteristics of these definitions, exclusion, instability and an accumulation of challenges are prominent. The reality of homelessness is about recovering from a process of exclusion and marginalization. The term "homelessness" covers a complex reality, resulting from an accumulation of problems (notably the absence of housing), to be resolved by a combination of solutions.

Homelessness should not be a profile attached to a category or to a group of individuals more "predisposed" to find themselves homeless. Homelessness should not be treated as an illness (in an epidemiological sense). Homelessness is not an identity. It is deplorable that persons remain stigmatized as homeless even though they are no longer in this situation.

### *Three Types Of Homelessness*

Homelessness' character is more or less temporary. Three types are generally distinguished, which relate to the length and frequency of the periods of homelessness: situational or transitional, episodic or cyclical, and chronic. It has unfortunately been determined in most circles that chronic homelessness is more widespread than before and that the periods of homelessness are getting longer.

### *A Phenomenon of Dramatic Proportions*

In 1998, a Santé Québec [Health Quebec] study enumerated more than 28,000 users of night shelters, day centres and popular soup kitchens in Montreal, and more than 11,000<sup>10</sup> in Quebec. In 2004, the federal government advanced the figure of 150,000 Canadians who were or had been homeless in the course of the past year.<sup>11</sup> A total of 22,627 beds in 852 shelters have been identified across Canada.<sup>12</sup>

If these figures do not permit giving a complete picture of the situation, the community agencies, strong on their historical experience and expertise on the ground, do not hesitate to maintain that homelessness is growing. They help **an increasing number of homeless people** in the big urban centres, particularly in city centres, even if the phenomenon is not unique to a particular kind of location. This phenomenon is becoming more prominent in medium-size cities, suburbs, outskirts and regions.

<sup>10</sup> Santé Québec, *Dénombrement de la clientèle itinérante dans les centres d'hébergement, les soupes populaires et les centres de jour des villes de Montréal et de Québec 1996-97*, sous la direction de Louise Fournier et al., November 1998.

<sup>11</sup> This number comes from an analysis of data taken from the National Research Program, Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) and statistics on the use of shelters in Canada, completed by INSA in 2004, as well as of data provided by shelters. Data come from the cities of: Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Quebec, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Halifax, Victoria, Saskatoon, Regina and Sudbury. This estimate does not take into account persons who live in housing not meeting the established parameters such as in temporary residential quarters or those who are overcrowded, etc.

<sup>12</sup> *Alliance to End Homelessness, Report Card on Homelessness in Ottawa*, February 2006.



## *A Complex Reality*

If homelessness is more or less widespread depending on the region, its face is the same across Quebec.

Homelessness can no longer be reduced to the image of the alcoholic beggar. Today, street persons come from cultural communities, and status and non-status Aboriginal People - an emergent population in the big urban centres of Quebec. For some, the street is the culmination of a long series of difficulties, while for others, arrival on the street is sudden, the result of job loss, a break-up, health problems, or bankruptcy.

If male homeless people remain in the majority, women are more and more experiencing life on the street, even if the homelessness of women is a less visible phenomenon. For the most part, women arrive on the street following abandonment, a disruption or when escaping a violent situation. This puts them in a situation of extreme precariousness, on the financial as much as the social level. Many of them have difficulties linked to wandering, without necessarily being on the street, and often change location. Those with child(ren) are particularly vulnerable.<sup>13</sup>

## *Homelessness Is Found In All Ages*

The spectre of age also widens, young persons on the street are getting younger and senior citizens are also more likely to live for a time on the street. While homelessness was previously only the lot of single persons, now couples and increasing often families (single or two parent ones) are on the street or in situations of significant risk. Service agencies find themselves confronted with very new sets of needs for services.

If the picture of the young punk with their squeegee is now part of the scene in the big cities of Quebec, the portrait of young street people is much more varied, as well as their paths. There are: runaways from youth centres (to which can be added more and more undeclared runaways), young persons coming from regions to work in the city, sex workers, young people who went for the weekend far from home or who had been thrown out by their parents, drug users, youth rising up against the society or authority, etc.

Similarly, homelessness amongst senior citizens also has several facets. They face more significant physical problems regarding health and independence, as well as the problems of consumption, isolation and disorders that are common among homeless persons.

## *Diverse Problems*

Besides problems linked to housing, poverty and social exclusion, homeless persons have various health or mental health problems. Some live with infectious diseases like hepatitis or HIV/AIDS. Many experience depression or mental health disorders (schizophrenia, personality disorders, emotional disturbances, etc.). Many misuse alcohol or psychotropic drugs (injection or non-injection drugs), medicine (prescription or non-prescription) or are compulsive gamblers.

## *Common Denominators*

Beyond differences in age, and types and individual cases, homelessness has several common denominators.

**Living Homeless Means Not Having A Place Of Your Own To Sleep:** Many homeless people sleep in a shelter, and it is difficult to know how many people are on the street, in a park, in an abandoned building, in a rooming house, on somebody's couch, on a chair in Emergency, in a car ...

**Living Homeless Means Being Without A Penny In Your Pocket In A Society Where Everything Is For Sale.** Economic poverty is the lot of all homeless persons. They have to count on community support services. They have to develop survival strategies such as begging, squeegeeing or sex work, which is increasingly widespread.

**Living Homeless Means Being Alone And In Distress:** Interveners noted that psychological distress is widespread among homeless persons. The bigger the suffering, the more the problems get worse, whether this means the consumption of alcohol or drugs, compulsive gambling, the recourse to violence, or other mental health problems

<sup>13</sup> RAIQ is completing a study on female homelessness in the Quebec City area at present. It should be available in the winter of 2007.

### **Living Homeless Means Facing Prejudice And Institutionalized Judicialization Every Day.**

Homeless persons are full citizens who see that they are granted neither their rights, nor political influence. They are more and more judicialized. They are subjected to oppression and discrimination because they are more visible in public areas, and so are ticketed and end up being incarcerated. They are not given the same consideration as other citizens and are often victims of "Not In My Backyard" syndrome. The support services that are used to help them are also affected by the same syndrome. Some have seen the establishment of facilities blocked by citizens or recalcitrant authorities.

### **Living Homeless Means Facing All These Problems All At Once.**

The complexity of people's situations is a big challenge. Economic poverty, the absence of shelter over your head, health or consumption problems, social and community life form a whole upon which it is necessary to intervene. It is especially when accompaniment and support are late in coming that situations deteriorate to the point where persons find themselves so alienated and disrupted that their situation becomes very difficult to reverse.

### *Homelessness, Everyone Has A Stake In It*

Homelessness concerns people increasingly because **the social safety net is full of holes and the sociopolitical context has created exclusion and poverty**. Homelessness is a social phenomenon caused first of all by a complex of structural factors which need to be attacked in order for it to be prevented and reduced.

Among the **structural factors** are poverty, unemployment, changes to the family and economy, and migration towards urban centres. The labour market is increasingly an exclusion factor because of the precariousness of employment and difficulties in accessing it. The shortage of affordable housing has a major and direct impact on the increase in homelessness. Further, different reforms led to a withdrawal of the State from the field of health and social welfare, income supports (social security benefits, employment insurance, social housing (the cessation of federal investments), etc.) Finally, among the structural factors, let us underline the effects of socio-cultural dimensions such as the stigmatization of mental health problems or drug dependency, and those who have been institutionalized.

People on social assistance, as well as young persons, also face growing discrimination, notably in their access to housing. The weakness of the collective values of solidarity and social justice to support a social vision can also be considered factors of exclusion, which have the effect of increasing intolerance.

To these structural factors, **individual factors** conspire against the homeless person: life stories marked by being stymied, crisis situations, deep difficulties, break-ups, mental health problems, dependencies (drug dependency, compulsive gambling, alcoholism, etc.) and family violence. Low levels of schooling, social isolation, age, low self-esteem, physical health problems also accentuate people's vulnerability.

There is increasing chronic homelessness because **people's situations are more and more complex** and because ways out of these conditions are harder to get through. Certainly, homelessness can be seen in many ways, but the response of society as a whole to the phenomenon influences the length of periods of homelessness and impacts on individuals over the long-term, notably regarding the possibilities of social integration or reintegration.

Some people find themselves in a dead-end street because **there are not enough ways to accompany them** in all the ways required. **More focused and long-term interventions that put the person at the centre of their personal path are needed.**

Moreover, community agencies are often restricted by obligations to achieve results. These don't fit well with the **holistic and long-term quality approach**, which is required in interventions regarding homelessness.

Community agencies often suffer from under-financing, which contributes to the **overwhelming of available resources**. Many agencies deplore a lack of means, which prevents them from assuring **accompaniment or monitoring of people who have left the street**, people with whom significant links have been created.

That's how persons find closed doors. They pass from one agency to another, from one region to another, in the hope of finding adequate accompaniment there. People's mobility is considerable and this constitutes a challenge for the continuity of intervention.

Finally, a lot return to the street for lack of alternatives.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## SECTION 2

# OBJECTIVES AND MEANS OF ACTION

---

To deal with the size and complexity of the problems relating to homelessness, a variety of means must be deployed.

The fight against homelessness includes the adoption of public policies at all levels of government. It necessarily includes respecting commitments made by governments, such as those linked to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) or the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which Canada and Quebec become signatories in 1976. Beyond international charters, governments made commitments to their people. In 1989, the House of Commons passed a resolution to put an end to child poverty before 2000. In 2002, the National Assembly unanimously adopted Bill 112, whose aim was to fight poverty and social exclusion.

The struggle against homelessness also includes collective action led by public services, society and socioeconomic actors.

All the demands put forward by the members of RSIQ propose at once an in-depth overhaul of public policies, and the practices which follow from it. This demands the installation or strengthening of interventions within the public sphere and by community networks to support vulnerable persons, to improve the living conditions of the homeless, and to favour the return to housing street people.

RSIQ's demands have as their first objective contributing to increasing respect for the fundamental rights (housing, income, education, health, social welfare, and citizenship) of homeless persons or those who are at risk, whose rights are often denied, derided or violated.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## OBJECTIVE 1 CITIZENSHIP

---

Homeless persons are often marginalized: without shelter, excluded from the wage-earning labour market, excluded from political life, and even "placed on the outside of the outside".<sup>14</sup> We demand here that homeless persons are recognized first and foremost as full citizens of Quebec.

As in other human rights movements, RSIQ asserts that the struggle against exclusion includes in most cases the promotion of the right to citizenship. Full and whole citizenship can be accomplished only if all fundamental rights are guaranteed.

RSIQ recognizes the citizenship of homeless persons: the right to free movement in public spaces, the right to occupy a seat in the city, the right to be visible in the urban landscape, and the right to free speech there.

It is necessary to recognize the right of homeless persons to occupy public space like any other citizen, even if it might lead to certain difficulties regarding sharing space. To achieve this, other actors besides the police must contribute to securing social peace.

Different tools, legal remedies and regulations would guarantee a real place in the city to homeless people. Some laws or practices being used currently have the opposite effect and deny this right. It is imperative to examine this matter to find alternative solutions, to the end of improving the sharing of public space, rather than using suppression, as is still too often the case in several Quebec cities. The judicialization and the criminalization of people who are the object of this suppression have extremely negative consequences on their living conditions. They are also subject to stigmatization and marginalization where they are visible and less and less tolerated.

Moreover, the right to citizenship also applies concerning the occupation of public space regarding the right to free speech. Homeless persons therefore have the right to free speech in public places, as political and democratic expressions.

---

<sup>14</sup> According to the words of Dan Bigras, artist and spokesperson for Refuge des Jeunes de Montréal : "mises dehors de dehors".



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means A: GIVE BACK ACCESS To Public Places To Homeless People

### *Discrimination, Suppression, Judicialization*

Too often, homeless persons are victims of suppression, with there being an unstated goal of removing them from public spaces, or at least to make them less visible, in order to address security concerns. Social research points out that lately security and surveillance measures have been augmented and that homeless persons are victims of discrimination. They are particularly targeted for delinquency, which is always ignored in the case of "ordinary" citizens: crossing the street other than at an intersection, loitering, misuse of public furniture (e.g. occupying two seats on a park bench). This leads to judicialization<sup>15</sup>, which is notably translated into the increasing issuance of tickets. Young persons are particularly the target of such policies,<sup>16</sup> and the repressive practices which follow from it. People who solicit are likewise targets (prostitution, begging, squeegeeing). Imprisonment is often the result of this judicialization process<sup>17</sup> (particularly worrying in big urban centres), since homeless persons have no means to pay for infractions, nor related fines and are little able to defend themselves.

The suppression which aims to make streets "cleaner and more attractive" has exorbitant costs for society. Besides, it only has the effect of moving people to adjoining neighbourhoods. Suppression does not resolve social problems. On the contrary, it aggravates them. We would instead rather see more tolerance for practices like begging, squeegeeing or sex work.

Besides this worrying situation at the judicial level, different indirect means have the effect of excluding homeless persons from public space, such as development and urban furniture (e.g. the removal of benches in town centres, or the absence of public toilets). Also, the change of status of public places in parks restricts access (notably the imposition of closing times).

With the lack of public spaces for free speech, the most vulnerable persons in society seldom participate in debates which surround reforms of social policies, even while they are often the first affected by these decisions.

**15** Céline Bellot, *La judiciarisation des populations itinérantes à Montréal de 1994 à 2004*, October, 2005. During this period, more than 22,000 official infractions were issued to homeless persons.

**16** In Montreal, a recent regulation of the community police ("optimisation de la police de quartier") [optimization of the community police], makes homelessness an incivility.

**17** According to the same study, in 72% of cases official infractions end in imprisonment.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT INCOME



THE RIGHT TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION



THE RIGHT TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

## Means A: GIVE BACK ACCESS To Public Places To Homeless People

### RSIQ's DEMANDS:

- 1 That municipalities establish social development policies fighting poverty and homelessness as their objective - which are matched by strategies aiming at increasing respect for the rights of homeless persons.
- 2 Change certain regulations if necessary, the application of which is discriminatory to homeless persons, and stop any discriminatory practices aiming at moving or excluding these persons.
- 3 Set up and furnish public space to allow all to have access and make use of it, including homeless persons, from a perspective of sharing.
- 4 Decriminalize soliciting as a practice in public spaces such as begging, the squeegeeing or sex work, which would allow people to earn an income to survive.
- 5 Favour the development of mediation plans among different citizens sharing or occupying the public space.
- 6 Eliminate the practices of suppression and threats (including the restricted areas assigned <sup>18</sup>), which have the effect of preventing homeless persons (those who do not represent a threat) freedom of movement in a neighbourhood, quarter or city. This makes difficult access to community agencies located in those areas.
- 7 Support agencies that adopt and promote alternative practices from those of judiciarization properly.
- 8 Assure that homeless persons have access to various routes to public consultation - particularly regarding the subjects that concern them directly: town planning, social development, etc. To this end, anticipate providing logistical support (transport, meals, and community support) or financial support (such as the cost of attending).
- 9 Set up measures that making registration on electoral lists and exercising the right to vote, at all levels of government (federal, provincial and municipal).

<sup>18</sup> Restricted areas are imposed on those awaiting judgment or having been sentenced for criminal behaviour. This forbids these persons from going in a defined sector of the city (often downtown).





CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means B: DEVELOP Legal Instruments Against “Not In My Back Yard”

### *The “Not In My Back Yard” Syndrome Is Advancing Everywhere*

he phenomenon of “Not In My Back Yard” rests on the prejudice that the presence of homeless people engenders the appearance of problems in a neighbourhood: noise, delinquency, unhealthiness, and the practices of drug-taking, etc. Property owners often fear a fall in the value of their real estate. Elected representatives dread deterioration in the image of their neighbourhood and its negative consequences on tourism or trade. Some political discourse encourages prejudice and “Not In My Back Yard” regulatory measures (such as town planning regulations) that are taken give it weight.

Elected representatives have a tendency to give preference to the requests of those citizens that pay the most taxes (namely, individuals or corporations), rather than protect the most disadvantaged citizens. Some interest groups too often forget the rights of homeless persons when they defend their own interests. This phenomenon sets in train consequences to people who are victims (stigmatization, suppression, judicialization, exclusion, violence).

In the course of recent years, “Not In My Back Yard” has also had important impacts on support agencies that deal with homelessness (delays or blockages of start-up projects, expansion or relocation, subsequent increases in costs of implementation, etc.) in several Quebec regions.

## RSIQ’s DEMANDS:

**10** Work out a legal arrangement that allows a homelessness community support organization to become established and carry on its activities where its mission requires it.

This arrangement should prevail over recourse to appeal by the community and municipal authorities.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> One could draw inspiration from Article 308 of Loi sur les services de santé et les services sociaux [Act regarding Health and Social Services], according to which “A municipal permit or certificate shall not be refused and proceedings under a by-law shall not be instituted for the sole reason that a building or dwelling premises are to be occupied in whole or in part by an intermediate resource.” Article 302 of the same law defines an intermediate resource as follows: “Every resource attached to a public institution through which the institution provides a user registered for the institution’s services with a living environment suited to the user’s needs, together with the support or assistance services required by the user’s condition, in order to maintain the user in or integrate the user into the community, is an intermediate resource.”



CITIZENSHIP

**A DECENT  
INCOME**THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSINGTHE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATIONTHE RIGHT  
TO HEALTHA NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## OBJECTIVE 2

# A DECENT INCOME <sup>20</sup>

Poverty is the common lot of homeless persons, most have an inadequate income, and some people survive even without any income. It is necessary and vital that the basic needs of people are covered by social services and that access to this income is assured to them at all times. Because poverty deprives persons of exercising their freedom, equality and dignity, that is, their fundamental rights. Because poverty undermines the rights of the person.

The fight against poverty affects its downstream effects, wandering and homelessness. With a decent income, people would no longer have to choose between eating and paying for housing. With a better income, those on the street would have a better chance of getting off it, and able to improving their living conditions.

The link between poverty, housing and homelessness is rather apparent when the minimum housing wage to afford a single room rental unit in 2005 is \$9 an hour, for a person who works a 40 hour week, 52 weeks a year. This is 20 % more than the current minimum wage. <sup>21</sup>

RSIQ asserts **the right to a decent income**, such as indicated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It is recognized and defined there as: "the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions". <sup>22</sup>

Nowadays, poverty is a blight that touches a significant proportion of the population. In Quebec in 2003, 16.9 % of the population lived below the low income cut-off established by Statistics Canada and 5.7 % of the population of Quebec earned less than \$10,000 per year. <sup>23</sup>

The rate of those at risk of poverty (which corresponds to the percentage of a person's income below 60% of the median national income) was 16% in Quebec in 2003. Children and young persons are more likely to be at risk of poverty, particularly those living in single-parent families. Single persons are also more at risk <sup>24</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> Numerous references will be made by groups fighting poverty, notably regarding demand for a Bill regarding Poverty and Exclusion.

<sup>21</sup> According to the calculations of the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, based on the annual study of the rental market by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the minimum housing wage required varies according to the cost of renting in the particular city: Gatineau: \$9.02, Montreal: \$8.96, Quebec: \$8.35, Sherbrooke: \$6.48, Three-Rivers: \$6.17 and Saguenay: \$6.02

<sup>22</sup> *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, Article 11, adopted and submitted for signature, for ratification and membership by the General Assembly of United Nations in Resolution 2200 A (XXI) December 16th, 1966. Entered into force: January 3rd, 1976.

<sup>23</sup> Institut de la Statistique du Québec, *Recueil statistique sur la pauvreté et les inégalités socioéconomiques au Québec*, January 2006.

<sup>24</sup> Institut de la Statistique du Québec, *Données sociodémographiques en bref*, Volume 10, Number 3, June 2006. According to the calculations of the ISQ, the threshold for risk of poverty was \$14,126.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means C: RAISE Income Levels

### *In Spite Of The Adoption Of Bill 112, Present Income Levels Are A Sentence To Poverty*

In December 2002, a Quebec bill was adopted that aimed to fight poverty and social exclusion (Bill 112). The bill recognizes the necessity of raising the income accorded to persons and families in poverty. Notably the bill took into account particular circumstances (e.g.: household size, persons living with a disability or illness, families with children, etc.) and the resources necessary to cover their basic needs, an in particular affordable housing.

Given the insufficiency of present levels of benefits, notably social security levels, many people are condemned to poverty without having a real chance to get out of it. Total social security benefits granted to a single person who is considered able-bodied was in \$543 a month in 2006, three times lower than the low income cut-off established by Statistics Canada. Different measures may even reduce this income.<sup>25</sup>

Moreover, the current minimum wage does not permit a person working part-time to live above the poverty line.

## RSIQ's DEMANDS:

RSIQ asks that Bill 112 is applied, which implies the implementation of the following measures:

11

Raising social security benefits.

14

Have an income floor that is nontransferable and unseizable.<sup>26</sup>

12

Raising the minimum wage so that a worker full-time can exceed the low income cut-off.

15

Extend free pharmacare to persons living on social security benefits and low income workers.

13

Indexing all benefits to the cost of living in a statutory manner every year, including the minimum wage.

And in the long term:

16

Set up a citizenship income, that is to say a guaranteed income that would cover their basic needs. This income should be equivalent to the low income cut-off defined by Statistics Canada.

<sup>25</sup> Some common examples are garnishes that can reach up to \$224 per cheque and up to 50% of the amount granted if it is less than \$543. Persons who share their housing with a parent who does not receive social security benefits have their benefits cut up to \$100 ("Tanguy Clause"). Alimony is considered as income, less the first \$100; single parents therefore have reduced social security benefits.

<sup>26</sup> Income is said nontransferable when it cannot be given up to a third party (e.g. a rental owner requiring payment). It is said to be unseizable when it cannot be made subject to seizure. Today, the act regarding Aide aux personnes et aux familles [Assistance to Persons and Families] contravenes the Civil Code since social security benefit income can be taken as a remittance for alimonies. Extract from Code De Procédure Civile L.R.Q., c. C-25. SECTION III Article 553 Paragraph 11. "All gross salaries and wages to the extent of 70% of the excess over the following unseizable portion:

(a) \$180 per week, plus \$30 per week for each dependant in excess of two, if the debtor is supporting his or her spouse, has a dependent child, or is the main support of a relative; or

(b) \$120 per week in all other cases."



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT INCOME



THE RIGHT TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION



THE RIGHT TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

## Means D: IMPROVE Access To Income Support Measures

### Obstacles To Access To Income

The absence of income can lead to the loss of housing and other property. The difficulty of access to an income slows, or even prevents admission to a process of reintegration and contributes to the burden that homelessness brings. That's why it is important to bring down some barriers and extremely weighty administrative requirements, particularly for people with mental health problems or who are very disorganized <sup>27</sup>.

Further, the logic of exclusion is an important barrier. It predominates in the institutions that manage benefits (whether social security benefits, employment insurance, etc.). <sup>28</sup>

It is reinforced by agents with an approach of control rather than with an approach based on rights.

Too often, arbitrary power has a big place in the decisions made by officials that are able to choose to allocate benefits or not. For instance, today, the local Job Centers do not all apply the decisions of the Administrative Tribunal of Quebec. <sup>29</sup> Some refuse to grant social security benefits to a person with no fixed address. Another example is that people leaving prison could have access to convenience checks. However, nowadays, not many of the Job centers use this instrument, which is subject to the discretion of officials.

## RSIQ's DEMANDS:

**17** Respect the decisions of the Administrative Tribunal of Quebec everywhere in Quebec so that a person with no fixed address can receive social security benefit cheques.

**18** Expand access to employment insurance by making admission criteria more flexible (today only 2/3 of workers have access to it).

**19** Increase the allowable income level to favour a progressive return to work for those persons living on social security benefits (presently \$200/month).

**20** Increase the allowable level of liquid assets in order to have better access to income security (presently \$816).

**21** Withdraw the regulation according to which a young adult must make a claim for child support against their parents in order to be able to have access to social security benefits (subrogation).

**22** Expand access to income support for persons under 18.

**23** Improve access to income for people seeking status as immigrants.

**24** Assure that persons leaving institutions systematically have access to an income.

<sup>27</sup> For instance, providing certain documentary evidence like bank statements for 6 months is practically impossible for most homeless persons.

<sup>28</sup> Thus, young people whose connection to their family has been broken can be penalized if they are not capable of proving that their parents do not make financial contributions to them.

<sup>29</sup> Refers to the decision of May 2002 aiming at making easier access to aid of last resort for homeless persons. The decision of ATQ permits a person without identity documents to get access to a cheque. It loosens requirements for proof of residence, permits the delivery of assistance by means of a third party, a community organization or by a Job Center. The decision also concerns the administration of benefits by a third party and access to medicine.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means E: ESTABLISH Tax Measures That Aim At A More Equitable Distribution Of Wealth

### *Taxation, An Argument To Divide Wealth in Another way*

Today, the poorest fifth of the population receives 5% of the total income, while the richest fifth of the population receives 44.3%.<sup>30</sup> A large proportion of persons living in poverty pay income tax. Lower income taxes do not benefit the poorest since they do not pay it. The tax system today is incoherent in several ways.

If one wants to fight poverty effectively and shrink the phenomenon of homelessness significantly, it is necessary to redistribute wealth better, especially by taxation. Taxes and levies constitute the principal means that governments change the distribution of wealth, reduce gaps and assume their responsibilities for people (by constructing facilities and financing social programs, etc.).

### RSIQ's DEMANDS:

**25** Review the tax system for individuals and firms in-depth to assure the redistribution of wealth according to principles of equity and progressiveness. This should permit the improvement of the incomes of the poorest fifth of the population and reduce the income gap between themselves and the richest fifth of the population.

**26** Establish a minimum tax ceiling for any firm after 3 years of existence.

**27** Raise the tax-free ceiling (above which a citizen pays tax) which corresponds to the low income cut-off for a single person (established every year by Statistics Canada).

**28** Establish social objectives such as social involvement, job creation, job-sharing, etc. across the tax system.

<sup>30</sup> Institut de la Statistique du Québec, *Recueil statistique sur la pauvreté et les inégalités socioéconomiques au Québec*, January 2006.



CITIZENSHIP

A DECENT  
INCOMETHE RIGHT  
TO HOUSINGTHE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATIONTHE RIGHT  
TO HEALTHA NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## OBJECTIVE 3

# THE RIGHT TO HOUSING <sup>31</sup>

Even if access to housing is not the only way to reduce homelessness, it is an absolutely necessary condition.

RSIQ maintains that the housing is a fundamental right which must be recognized for all, whatever their income, social status, ethnic origin, sex, physical or mental health, etc. It is imperative that everyone has access to an **affordable and appropriate housing** which is also **safe**.

This right to housing is recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to which Quebec, like Canada, signed in 1976. However, even today, many people see their right to housing threatened. The Census of 2001 showed that 53.8% of Quebec households have an annual income of less than \$10,000 and spend more than 80% of their income on rent,<sup>32</sup> while Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) considers affordable housing as that which costs no more than 30% of pretax income. Beyond the 30% threshold, people have difficulties paying for other current costs (food, clothes, transport, etc.). Over 50%, CMHC considers that people encounter serious problems.

### *More Than A Roof Over The Head*

The right to housing must be accepted widely; it constitutes the right of every person "to a place where they can live in safety, peace and dignity"<sup>33</sup>.

If emergency shelters and transitional housing provide a shelter,<sup>34</sup> they are only a transitional answer to housing needs, used only until a person acquires housing that they will be able to live in a more permanent way. Residential stability is an important dimension of the right to housing; it is particularly critical for those who are chronically homeless.

To have a home, it is above all necessary to have access to basic resources like water or electricity. Not having permanent housing also constitutes a severe limit to one's ability to exercise one's social rights and to access different services. Under such conditions, homeless persons are among those who endure most discrimination.

As "housing represents an essential good for the maintenance of life", measures and regulations must further access to, and the keeping of, housing.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>31</sup> We refer here to the demands of housing groups and those defending the rights of tenants.

<sup>32</sup> Statistics Canada.

<sup>33</sup> Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the UN, *The Right to Adequate Housing*, General Concluding Observation 4, 1991.

<sup>34</sup> Present in the big urban centres and medium-size cities of Quebec, they grant stays which can range from one night to some weeks. Their objective is to give to persons respite and a minimal foundation to respond to their situation.

<sup>35</sup> Gouvernement du Québec, *Livre blanc sur les relations entre locateurs et locataires*, December 1977.





CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT INCOME



THE RIGHT TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION



THE RIGHT TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

## Means F: UNDERTAKE A Major Social Housing Construction Program

### *Insufficient Availability Of Social Housing*

Considering that the private housing market has no priority in respecting the right to housing for all, it falls to pertinent levels of government to ensure that a sufficient quantity of housing escapes the logic of profit, by financing social housing.

The amount of social housing available is generally insufficient today. Proof is found in the waiting lists for social housing in any housing authority. The waiting list for all of Quebec had a total of 35,000 households listed in July 2005.<sup>36</sup> Also, numerous requests have been received by non-profit housing organizations or housing cooperatives.

Further, certain measures penalize homeless persons at present. Several municipal housing offices have already changed their priority criteria to take into account the particularities of situations of homelessness. More flexibility is needed, so that homeless persons have access to social housing.

More people need to get access to appropriate housing, namely that which costs a maximum of 25% of their income.

### RSIQ's DEMANDS:

**29** Construct or convert 8,000 units every year to public housing, cooperatives, and non-profit housing including both permanent and transitional housing.

**30** That the Government of Quebec forces municipalities to create land reserves to be used for the development of social housing.

**31** Encourage projects that further social mixing in all communities, following the policy of inclusion.<sup>37</sup>

**32** Reduce administrative requirements (proof of residence, etc.) in the administration of social housing programs.

**33** Ensure that priority criteria for social housing do not penalize homeless persons.

**34** That the Government of Quebec continues financing emergency measures for homeless households (including homeless individuals) by setting aside a sufficient number of rent supplement units as well as measures for storing property.

**35** For persons without access to social or affordable housing, improve rent supplement measures and housing priority criteria so as to reinforce access.

<sup>36</sup> Estimate by the Fédération des locataires de HLM du Québec (FLHMLQ) [Federation of Social Housing Tenants of Quebec] was named in FRAPRU, *Le remboursement de la dette n'est pas une urgence... La lutte contre la pauvreté en est une !*, February 2006.

<sup>37</sup> In all property developer projects, whether reserving a number of units for persons with low incomes or setting aside an amount in lieu serves the construction of social housing.



CITIZENSHIP

A DECENT  
INCOMETHE RIGHT  
TO HOUSINGTHE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATIONTHE RIGHT  
TO HEALTHA NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means G: MAKE Significant Investments In Community Support

### *Accompany People In Their Place Of Residence*

At certain points in their life, some people require the accompaniment of interveners in their place of residence in order to be able to stay in housing in reasonable conditions (hygiene, feeding, health, and isolation, etc.). Community support in housing is a voluntary approach which permits involvement in the life of people whose access to housing is unstable. Current experiences have impacts such as: improving self-esteem, furthering the development of a social network, preventing crisis situations and improving the social insertion of the individual.<sup>38</sup>

While community support was identified as a key way to support individuals in their insertion/social reintegration, agencies chronically lack the means to achieve this in the housing units they possess and manage.

The expansion of this accompaniment approach would permit the reduction in the proportion of people that "stabilize themselves" using emergency resources or "revolving doors" and who go to temporary shelters without ever having achieved any stable place in their life<sup>39</sup>.

## RSIQ's DEMANDS:

**36** That the Government of Quebec creates an envelope of no less than \$12 million for community support intended for persons in difficulty living in non-profit housing (including homeless persons returning to housing).<sup>40</sup>

This envelope must be set annually and be replenished and indexed to the cost of living. Finally, it should be managed regionally.

**38** RAPSIM, Pour un financement adéquat du support communautaire en logement, March 2004.

**39** According to a study conducted by the Collectif de recherche sur l'itinérance (CRI) [Research Collective on Homelessness] for Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal (RAPSIM) [Single and Homeless Persons Support Network] (2003).

**40** According to the calculations of RAPSIM and the Réseau québécois des OSBL d'habitation [Non-Profit Housing Network of Quebec] based on the evaluation of MSSS [Ministry of Health and Social Services] and SHQ [Quebec Housing Corporation]. In 2003, they estimated that the costs of community support were \$1,200 per year per tenant. In 2003, with 9,000 households, the needs amount to \$10 million. This figure was reviewed because of the increase in needs. On this subject, see RQOH, Pour un programme de financement du soutien communautaire en OSBL d'habitation, December, 2004.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means H: STRENGTHEN Measures To Regulate The Private Housing Market

### *The Private Housing Market Is Unable To Provide Enough Affordable Housing*

In both large and medium-size cities of Quebec, there has been a significant increase in the cost of housing. Between 2000 and 2005, the average cost of a two-bedroom unit grew by 21.3% in Gatineau, 21% in Montreal, and 19.9% in Quebec.<sup>41</sup>

Even if the housing crisis (defined by vacancy rates being below the "healthy" level of 3%) is no longer heard of, there remains a shortage of "affordable" housing (where the rent is less than \$600 a month). It is extremely difficult for a low-income household to

find and keep housing for these reasons. Consequently, this situation contributes to the increasing number of people becoming homeless.

Further, in some cities, the concentration of real estate is an obstacle to access to housing, since property owners refuse to rent housing to some people.

### RSIQ's DEMANDS:

RSIQ would like to see the strengthening of control over the private market so as to guarantee the right to housing, and opposition to the adoption of any legislative measures or regulation that would reduce the rights of tenants in Quebec.

**37** Strengthen control over the price of rent and other typical housing costs (electricity, gas, oil, telephone, etc.).

**38** Strengthen control over maintenance of private housing stock to ensure the health and security of such places.

**39** Preserve the affordable rental accommodation stock (particularly rooming houses) in order to protect the number of available units, and ensure that this stock meets the needs of the population, particularly the most underprivileged.

**40** Improve measures that put the brakes on discrimination and reinforce access to recourse.

**41** Augment the support granted to tenants (like housing committees and the Régie du logement [Housing Tribunal]).

**42** Forbid the conversion of rental accommodation into condominiums.

<sup>41</sup> Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, *Rental Market Report*, October 2000 and October 2005.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means I: PREVENT Homelessness Among Persons Leaving Institutions

---

### *Hitting The Street On Leaving Prison, Youth Centres, Hospitals: The Lot Of Many*

Shelters and public housing receive many people coming out from institutions, for whom nothing is prepared on their departure.

Every day people leave a prison, hospital, youth centre or a psychiatric setting without knowing where they are going to spend the night. Many of them no longer have a family or social network capable of receiving them after their institutionalization. They are, therefore, particularly vulnerable to

becoming homeless, left to fend for themselves and marginalized. They carry the stigma of spending time in an institution. For those whose stays lasted several years, being habituated to being "managed" leaves its marks and makes transition towards an independent life difficult.

We deplore the lack of places for intermediate or transitional housing for these people.

---

## RSIQ's DEMANDS:

---

**43** Set up specific referral and support measures in different establishments (youth protection, public security, health and social welfare) so that those leaving institutions do not increase the ranks of shelters.

---

**44** Increase the amount of transitional housing intended for those leaving institutions.

---



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



**THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION**



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## OBJECTIVE 4 THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

---

It is necessary to support homeless persons to further their social and job insertion. RSIQ considers education as fundamental for homeless persons so that they might improve their condition and find a place that works for them in society.

RSIQ subscribes to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that recognizes and defines the **right of every person to education**. "Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups ". <sup>42</sup>

Education must be considered in the broad sense; it should not be limited to the institutional scholastic circuit. It includes several forms of learning, notably through experience.

Measures that support job insertion must also be set up in agencies or enterprises that receive people on the way to reintegration so as to give them more tools to allow them to find a place in the labour market, develop their competencies, and realize their abilities.

It is important that these insertion measures take into account each person's limits and capacities, which unfortunately the "traditional" job market does not. If some former street people are perfectly capable of getting a full-time job where they have to meet raised expectations for productivity, others, for different reasons, will not be able to make it. Therefore, it is necessary to envisage places where these persons will be able to contribute and realize themselves while respecting their limits. These possibilities of professional integration may also lead to getting a better income.

It is necessary to keep in mind that everyone does not have equal access to the validation that work provides. Measures should be taken that allow people to find their place in the society. At the same time, other occupations than paid wage-earning work should be promoted, which are not necessarily adapted to the needs and capacities of everyone.

---

<sup>42</sup> *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 13.*



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means J: PROMOTE The Right To Education Of Homeless Persons Or Those At Risk

### *Low Levels Of Schooling Weakens The Likelihood Of Social Insertion*

Persons living in poverty with a minimal education and with many difficulties in accessing schooling or training are likely to live in prolonged states of poverty.<sup>43</sup> The labour market demands increasing levels of qualifications to get a job, even precarious and poorly paid ones.

Today, the efforts of the education system are insufficient to facilitate everyone rejoining society. Emploi-Québec [Employment Quebec] has an important role in permitting access to training programs. However, it does not seem to consider

those on social assistance a priority. "Three- quarters of its budget comes from the federal government and it is reserved for recipients of employment insurance".<sup>44</sup>

Training that meets people's needs, respecting learning styles and generates qualifications are essential conditions to the success of a training path, even if performance may be uneven. This is what explains the success of street schools.<sup>45</sup>

## RSIQ's DEMANDS:

**45** Maintain and reinforce the free public education system for everyone.

**46** Improve and reinforce measures that facilitate access to training (means of transport, child care services, and flexible timetables, etc.).

**47** Increase the flexibility of training programs and measures adapted to the lives of homeless persons and those at risk so that they fit their limits and capacities.

**48** Promote volunteering and a diversity of choice in access to training.

**49** Expand the policy of adult education from a perspective of continuous learning.

**50** Prioritize training that is recognized and transferable.

**51** Expand programs that recognize skills acquired in community.

**52** Support properly alternative practices and popular education that have been developed, such as literacy groups.

**53** That the MEQ [Quebec Ministry of Education] and school boards recognize street school initiatives and support their development in all regions.

<sup>43</sup> Extract from the report "*The Cost of Poverty*", National Council of Welfare, Winter 2001-2002

<sup>44</sup> Extract from the platform of demand of claims of the Front commun des personnes assistées sociales du Québec [Common Front of Social Assistance Recipients of Quebec].

<sup>45</sup> For instance, in Montreal, the École de la rue [School Of the Street] receives around forty young street persons (long-term dropouts). They teach French, mathematics and computer sciences at the secondary level. Ministry of Education examination results far exceed the provincial average.





CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means K: Support Workplace Insertion Practices

---

### *Work, An Exclusion Factor*

The labour market is unable to provide everyone with decent and dignified jobs that are adapted to their limits and capacities. This is exacerbated by the instability of the labour market <sup>46</sup> and the strengthening of barriers to entry. <sup>47</sup>

Different measures exist that would make the labour market more flexible: sheltered workshops, work re-entry projects, enterprise-schools, recognized training, and job placement, etc. This variety must be supported in order to meet the diversity of the lives of those concerned. There are also measures that are accessed and appreciated, such as social insertion measures (MIS, also called "INSO" [Social Insertion]), which are nevertheless deficient because they lack appropriate levels of funding. Temporary measures are used that aim at helping people find a job in a rather short period of time (maximum one year).

The qualitative results of these measures are not considered; success is rather measured by the rate of job placement. However, it is important to evaluate the impact of such programs on those it is intended to help in terms of: self-esteem, stabilization, skill acquisition and socialization. Return to studies is also a successful result of such measures.

The priorities taken regarding professional insertion had led in the past to the almost exclusive support of persons whose unemployment has been for a relatively short period, thus requiring lower investment (in time and resources). Those who need to be accompanied in a progressive return to work over several years, or those who will never be able to get a full-time job, have no place in present programs.

---

<sup>46</sup> There is less and less stable and full-time employment and more and more part-time, on call, and casual jobs, and contracts and fixed-term work.

<sup>47</sup> Skills in demand (for instance, high school graduation) are on the rise, even if the job does not always justify it.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



**THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION**



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means K: Support Workplace Insertion Practices

---

### RSIQ's DEMANDS:

---

**54** Improve the suppleness and flexibility of insertion and employment programs, notably by recognizing freedom of choice and the right to make a mistake (the right to a second chance).

---

**55** Do not penalize social security benefit recipients financially (particularly those with a severe restriction in their range of jobs).

---

**56** Support agencies better regarding their insertion practices, including financially, so that they can improve monitoring clients.

---

**57** Support insertion programs over long periods to further a progressive return to work.

**58** Favour insertion programs that stress social skill acquisition (in terms of independence, self-esteem, skill and competency acquisition, and socialization), rather than value job placement rates only.

---

**59** Recognize, develop and enlarge the accessibility of sheltered workshops in community agencies.

---

**60** Set up measures that consolidate gains (e.g. wage subsidies) and that make it easy for people finishing an insertion to continue being employed by an organization.

---



CITIZENSHIP

A DECENT  
INCOMETHE RIGHT  
TO HOUSINGTHE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION**THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH**A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## OBJECTIVE 5

# THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

Health is in generally recognized as a basic human right. Nevertheless, numerous obstacles prevent us reaching the target of "health for all", particularly for homeless persons.

RSIQ demands the right to health being understood in the broad sense, that health "is not simply the absence of illness, but rather a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being".<sup>48</sup> The **right to health** means that everyone can benefit from a way of life that gets them access to preventive health care and appropriate treatments when necessary.

"Health is a fundamental right of the human being and an indispensable factor to economic and social development".<sup>49</sup> Likewise, income and housing are important determinants of health: "Preconditions to the establishment of health are peace, housing, education, social security, social relations, food, an income, the empowerment of women, a stable ecosystem, sustainable development, social justice, respect for human rights, and equity. Above all, poverty remains the most serious threat to health."<sup>50</sup> It is known that poverty and living conditions in general influence the level of stress felt and therefore well-being and health (depression, and heart disease, etc.).

It seems thus then obvious that the health of the homeless and those at risk is threatened. Prevention is an important dimension and by acting on the determinants of health, they contribute to one's progress. The health sector (as much its physical and mental aspects) interacts with income, housing, and education, etc. Again, one can see the necessity of a holistic intervention centered on the person and their needs, not only on a diagnosis.

Questions linked to health and well-being in a broader sense are particularly worrying regarding homelessness.<sup>51</sup> Many health problems are attributable to the living conditions present on the street: cold, heat, promiscuity, the lack of means in general manifest themselves in chilblains, sunstrokes, wounds, abscesses, pneumonia, fractures, sprains and infectious diseases. They aid the resurgence of certain diseases (tuberculosis, etc.). an increase in infections transmitted sexually and by blood (STIs), and by unprotected sex (chlamydia, syphilis, hepatitis, HIV).

<sup>48</sup> Extract from the Alma-Ata Declaration of the International Conference on Primary Health Care, 1978.

<sup>49</sup> Extract of the Jakarta Declaration on Leading Health Promotion in the XXIth Century on the occasion of the Fourth International Conference on Health Promotion held in Jakarta, Indonesia, July 21-25, 1997.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> For instance, during a study completed in 2004 by the IMAGES team of the Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Gatineau [Health and of Social Services Centre of Gatineau] of 35 homeless persons, 26 of them cited health problems for which some may have been diagnosed.

<sup>52</sup> H el ene Denoncourt, Marie-Claude Bouchard et Nancy Keays, "L' evolution de la pratique infirmi ere au sein de l' equipe itin erance du CLSC des Faubourgs." Study presently submitted for publication



CITIZENSHIP

A DECENT  
INCOMETHE RIGHT  
TO HOUSINGTHE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION**THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH**A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

Further, it is difficult for persons with no fixed address to maintain appropriate hygiene and eat well, all the more if they must follow a special diet owing to their particular state of health. Transport, storage and the preservation of medicines, or health equipment is a huge challenge for persons without their own home.<sup>52</sup>

Homeless persons use emergency services in most cases and have recourse to hospitalization, but receive insufficient preventative and after-cure services.<sup>53</sup>

The accumulation of different health problems is frequent for these persons. Many people suffer daily. Their lower life expectancy compared with the general population in general testifies to it. It is no more than 45 to 50 years old.<sup>54</sup> The mortality rate of young persons on the street is particularly worrying. A recent study in Montreal of a thousand of them revealed that these youth are 11 times more likely to die, in most cases following a suicide or an overdose.<sup>55</sup>

Considering this situation, it is important to recognize the right for everyone to services, resources and programs on a **free, confidential and appropriate basis**, especially those of a medical, psychosocial, and psychiatric nature.

Further, RSIQ defends the **right to voluntary participation** (or the "voluntary approach"), whether it concerns health care, detoxification, mental health treatment, social welfare, social and occupational insertion, etc. The exercise of this right must be supported by complete access to appropriate information for decision-making regarding treatments offered.

RSIQ also adheres to the general principles and rights enunciated in the Youth Protection Act, notably the **right to support against abuse and negligence**. This right should not be only available to minors, but apply to all vulnerable persons.

It is important to underline that people's health is not the sole responsibility of the individual, society has a fundamental role to play. Furthermore, it is important that homeless persons are considered actors in their own health.

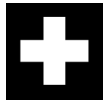
<sup>53</sup> Study conducted by Louise Fournier, "Enquête auprès de la clientèle des ressources pour personnes itinérantes des régions de Montréal-Centre et de Québec, 1998-1999," coll. Institut de la Statistique du Québec, Gouvernement du Québec 2001.

<sup>54</sup> J.D.Hulchansky, "What is homelessness?", www.raisingtheroof.org after Dr. Stephen W. Hwang, MD, "Mortality Among Men Using Homeless Shelters in Toronto, Ontario," Journal of the American Medical Association, 26 April 2000.

<sup>55</sup> Study led by the McGill University and the Direction de la santé publique de Montréal [Public Health Directorate of Montreal] by Drs. Nancy Haley and Élise Roy. The study involved 1,013 young persons from 14 to 25 years old, which were asked to take part in interviews in person once every six months, between January 1995 and September 2000.



CITIZENSHIP

A DECENT  
INCOMETHE RIGHT  
TO HOUSINGTHE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION**THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH**A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means L: GUARANTEE That Health And Social Welfare Services Are Accessible And Equitable

### *Difficulties Of Access, Situations Of Negligence And Discrimination*

Homeless persons want to have access to good services, to be treated well, and respected like everybody else.<sup>56</sup> However, several interveners in the health field are convinced, wrongly, that homeless persons are resistant to treatment "by nature". They often make improvements to reception, and the respect shown them in the public Health system, listening from which they benefit, of the attention accorded to their needs, the information they are given (especially from a prevention perspective) of the training of interveners and accessibility<sup>57</sup>.

Rules and institutional habits constitute bureaucratic barriers: the requirement to have identity cards, the division or territories of intervention, the hierarchy of services, or the closing of program teams (harming interdisciplinary and intersectoral coordination). Another example is that people with no fixed address do not have access to Centres d'hébergement et de soins de longue durée (CHSLD) [residential and long-term care centres] after hospitalization if they need it.<sup>58</sup> Further, an additional difficulty is added when one thinks of the numerous restrictions linked to living conditions on the street, notably regarding scheduling.

Besides, one hears increasingly of the "profile of the homeless", which is used as an excuse to exclude homeless persons from the health system. It is often preferred to redirect them towards specific services for the homeless when they are available in the public system (e.g. homelessness teams) or send them into the community environment. It should not be justifiable to relegate them under the pretext that they made a "life choice" or that their state means that there is little hope. If many people present severe problems and dark prognostications, if some people refuse treatment (medication particularly), if they are sometimes "difficult patients," these persons are no less citizens.

Those persons presenting multi-problems (especially those who are intoxicated or have mental health problems) are especially excluded, particularly in crisis situations. They often become objects in games of "table tennis" between Psychiatry, Emergency, crisis centres, drug dependency services and community agencies. As a result, agencies have to receive persons whose state of health, physical inability or disorder very much exceeds their mission and capacity.

<sup>56</sup> Hélène Denoncourt, Marie-Claude Bouchard et Nancy Keays, "L'évolution de la pratique infirmière au sein de l'équipe itinérance du CLSC des Faubourgs." Study presently submitted for publication

<sup>57</sup> According to the study completed by the IMAGES team, Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Gatineau [Health and Social Services Centre of Gatineau] in 2004. This research consisted of 35 homeless persons showed that only half are satisfied with care received and a third, their reception and monitoring.

<sup>58</sup> The criteria for admission to temporary accommodation in Hébergements temporaires en centre d'hébergement et de soins de longue durée (CHSLD) [Residential Housing and Long-Term Care] includes the requirement to have a return date to housing, and therefore an address in the area territory served by the Agence régionale de la santé et des services sociaux [Regional Health and Social Services Agency].



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



**THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH**



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

---

## RSIQ's DEMANDS:

RSIQ asks that the Health and Social Services Act be applied, which is to say that the right to health for all citizens be recognized and respected, including the most vulnerable. RSIQ demands that prevention be strengthened, notably concerning the determinants of health, which includes income and housing.

---

**61** Eliminate all discrimination in the regulations and practices in the public system which hinder access by homeless persons, or removes the obligation of an establishment to provide their services (regarding physical or mental health and social issues). Work more from a perspective of inclusion and transversality (interdisciplinarity) according to people's requests and needs.

---

**62** Guarantee access to general services (physical and mental health and social welfare) to homeless persons at the same level as the rest of the population, notably practices favouring closeness to the client (e.g. homelessness teams) which facilitate getting access to appropriate services.

---

**63** Strengthen the adaptive capacity of the public system to the different ways and realities of homeless persons. For instance, envisage different mechanisms for reception (e.g. by engaging a social worker in Emergency at hospitals, or by strengthening the capacity to receive people at Centres local de services communautaires (CLSC) [Local Community Social Service Centres]).

---

**64** Guarantee access to specialized treatment (HIV, and hepatitis, etc.).

---

**65** Guarantee treatment choice and promote alternative treatments.

---

**66** Guarantee the right to choose one's medical establishment and medical doctor, being able to exercise the same way as any other citizen.

---

**67** Guarantee access to health services in prison, including care and preventative treatment.

---

**68** Prepare and equip health and social welfare personnel in the public sector and ambulance drivers by demystifying the illusions about the phenomenon of homelessness. Do this by academic and continuous learning, as well as by organizing exchanges between the staff of different establishments and community agencies who work with the homeless.

---

**69** Recognize the importance of the harm reduction as an important matter and support the development of means to support it.

---



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means M: RESPECT The Principles Of Voluntary Participation And Confidentiality

### Questions Linked To Access To Information

To guarantee to voluntary participation, it is imperative that persons can agree to services in an enlightened way, that is, they must be informed about existing services and the means to get access to them, be able to participate in decisions concerning them, know the diagnosis associated with their state of health, be informed about the treatments offered (objectives, functioning, risks, and side effects) and alternative treatments. They must also be able to accept or refuse a service without being subjected to pressure or threat.<sup>59</sup> This aspect must be reinforced, particularly in the public system, where the informing of marginalized persons about their choices is deficient.

In this respect, it is also necessary to understand that some people's refusal of treatment is motivated, in reality, by reasons of availability, lack of ability (knowing how to read, communicate with officials, understanding instructions, etc.) or the result of other aspects of the person's condition (alcoholism, mental health, traumatic experiences, etc.). In mental health,

for instance, numerous cases of abandoning treatment are due to not understanding the treatment. It is therefore necessary to pay attention not to let the principle of voluntary participation be transformed into an obstacle to access to care or services. By acting with good will and common sense, and putting yourself in the shoes of the other person, one can ensure someone's capacity to make free and enlightened decisions.

People may not always have access to the information that concerns them. Conversely, in the public sector as much as community interveners exchange information on the persons they treat, accommodate, help or accompany, so as to know their situation better and plan interventions more effectively. Nevertheless, it is necessary that all this is done within clear ethical bounds, with the consent of the persons concerned persons, and respecting their private life.

## RSIQ's DEMANDS:

70

Recognize the capacity of the persons to make their own choices in health and social services and the right to refuse treatments. However, this must not exclude the possibility of receiving other care or services.

71

Expand the possibilities for persons to have access to their own files.

72

Privilege respect for confidentiality regulations in community and institutional practice.<sup>60</sup>

73

Apply the principle of need to know, that is to say not exchange confidential information with other interveners (whether institutional or community) without the written consent of the person concerned, except in cases of potential danger (that is when it is judged that the person constitutes a danger to himself or other people)<sup>61</sup>.

<sup>59</sup> See on this subject works by the Action Autonomie group: [www.actionautonomie.qc.ca](http://www.actionautonomie.qc.ca)

<sup>60</sup> Intervenors who are professionals, such as social workers, have codes of practice where confidentiality is a strong principle.

<sup>61</sup> In accordance with Loi québécoise L.R.Q., *Loi sur la protection des personnes dont l'état mental présente un danger pour elles-mêmes ou pour autrui*. [Protection of persons whose mental state presents a danger to themselves or to others, An Act respecting the, R.S.Q.,] Chapter P-38.001





CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT INCOME



THE RIGHT TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION



THE RIGHT TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

## Means N: STRENGTHEN Measures To Support Families And Youth In Difficulty

### *Many People's Journeys Have Been Marked By Disruption Since Childhood*

It seems that there is a link between living conditions during childhood and homelessness, without its being the only cause. In effect, a large number of homeless persons have known isolation, conflicts, break-ups and uprooting in their family and social background and been victims of negligence, abuse, violence or exploitation.

Among homeless persons, a great majority have known poverty and failure from childhood or adolescence. Even among those who arrive on the street as adults, a large proportion have previously been subjects of the Youth Protection Act. Community agencies which work specifically with young street people report that three-quarters of them have been placed in foster care. Further, they note that increasingly these young persons are among the first victims of the phenomenon of the overmedicalization of vulnerable persons.

### RSIQ's DEMANDS:

**74** Strengthen financial aid and social programs that meet the needs of families in trouble, respecting the role of parents.

**75** Support community initiatives for families and young persons in trouble properly.

**76** Support and facilitate access to community agencies which undertake preventative activities in school.

**77** Increase resources dedicated to the education of youth in difficulty significantly.

**78** Assure the accompaniment of youth made subject of the Youth Protection Act in learning about independence and the development of a social network.

**79** Envisage accompaniment measures for youth when they leave institutions and after the age of majority of 18 years, which would include a broad network of support that assures transition to adult life.

**80** Envisage specific measures for young persons leaving institutions and suffering from physical or mental health problems.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## OBJECTIVE 6

# A NETWORK OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

---

If homeless persons often have discontinuous relations with social welfare and health agencies, they habitually call on community agencies more regularly. These are the main meeting places of homeless persons, those suffering from mental health problems and others living through different problems.<sup>62</sup> They find services there, are given shelters for the night, and attend soup kitchens, day centres, etc.

Community agencies are also the place where social interaction is maintained or restructured. These are **places of belonging, anchoring and mutual aid**. Their rooting in the community and flexibility are unique qualities of the community network, which facilitates the meeting of people's needs.

In this community network there are a **multiplicity of intervention practices** that meet the diversity of people's trajectories. This multiplicity must be preserved. In the course of last twenty years, intervention practices such as street work or in-community work came to overlap in existing practices such as in shelters, with their own long tradition of providing emergency accommodation. Some agencies favoured the development of living environments (supportive housing) or socialization (day or evening centres). Some agencies prefer a mutual aid approach (regarding the field of mental health, for instance).

In general, it has been noted that the paths taken by people who have conquered homelessness have involved a combination of interventions coming from a variety of community agencies which helped them to get off the street (shelters, day centres, housing help services, health centres, etc.).

The homelessness community network is still fragile and must be reinforced. The stakes are high regarding recognition and financing for this network.

---

<sup>62</sup> Denoncourt et al, 2000



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means O: RECOGNIZE The Social Provision Of Community Assistance Agencies Regarding Homelessness And INCREASE Funding

### *Financial Precariousness And The Fragility Of The Community Network*

Recurrent funding sources are rare and funds devoted to financing of their mission are insufficient. Consequently, this forces agencies to dedicate a lot of time and energy in searching for financing and organizing self-financing activities.

Since 2001, on the federal side, the National Homelessness Initiative permitted setting up funding devoted to homelessness, in urban environment, with the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), and in rural areas, the Regional Homelessness Fund (RHF). Unfortunately, these funds are not recurrent and at the time of writing this platform, the continuance of the fund is not assured. On the Government of Quebec's side, there is no program devoted to homelessness; for the most part agencies receive funds to fulfill their mission through Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires (PSOC) [Support for Community Organizations Program] of Ministère de la Santé et des Services

Sociaux (MSSS) [Ministry of Health and Social Services]. This program proves to be too often insufficient, and leads agencies to search for other funding sources, notably funding provided per project (which by their nature are not recurrent).

The precariousness of the financing which results is an obstacle to the consolidation of agencies and intervention in community. It constitutes an obstacle to work on the basic needs of the homeless in the short term. In the long-term, it hinders maintaining an uninterrupted link with the homeless person that can proceed to an intervention upon which to build.

Financial precariousness also contributes to heavy workloads, precarious jobs and to significant turnover in work teams. An increase in resources for agencies would facilitate more acceptable working conditions and more training, support and supervision for interveners.

## RSIQ's DEMANDS:

81

That all levels of government significantly increase their financial assistance intended for the holistic mission of community agencies combating homelessness and to prevention by granting adequate and recurrent funding that will facilitate their strengthening and development, while respecting their autonomy notably by:

- Recognizing that interventions by community agencies facilitate the improvement of the living conditions of homeless persons and create significant links to them;
- Recognizing and supporting approaches and present practices and preserving their diversity.

82

Supporting the evolution of intervention practices, notably training, so that they can be adapted to people's realities that aim and further the development of initiatives that respond to emerging needs.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means P: RECOGNIZE The Social Provision Of Practices Of Rights Defence And FUND Them Properly

---

### *Ridiculed Rights*

Homeless persons don't know their rights well and are often stripped of them when the time comes to defend them, when seeking social security benefits, and housing, etc. They are also victims of discrimination and judicialization. All this creates huge needs to defend their rights, at both the individual and collective level, and within the different systems: health and social welfare, social security benefits, housing, and justice, etc. <sup>63</sup>

Nowadays, few agencies are subsidized for defending rights. Appropriate plans which have already demonstrated their value hardly survive and do not get regular support.

---

## RSIQ's DEMANDS:

---

83

Recognize the individual and collective defence of rights as being an integral part of the mission of community agencies working on homelessness, with the intention of ameliorating the living conditions of all homeless persons and struggling against homelessness.

---

84

Support financially the defence of rights which aim at informing homeless persons of their rights, accompanying them, defending them or training them so that they can defend themselves.

---

85

Improve access to legal aid for homeless persons and give juridical support to agencies that help them.

---

---

<sup>63</sup> One can cite two initiatives. L'Opération Droits Devant practices the defence of collective and individual rights. It has developed around forty community resources in Montreal, aiming at denouncing, countering and reducing judicialisation. La Maison Dauphine (in Quebec) has a legal service which does consultations for street youth and sometimes accompanies them to court. Lawyers inform, counsel and equip youth so that they can defend themselves.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means Q: RECOGNIZE The Social Provision Of Citizen Involvement Initiatives And FUND Them Properly

### *Practices That Favour Democratic Participation*

Homeless persons or those at risk of homelessness know stigmatization, marginalization and social exclusion. It is this that locks them up in a second-class social space. Flowing from this is a dilution of their rights and responsibilities. What is now requested represents an intervention operation for the reconstruction of citizenship.<sup>64</sup>

Community agencies play an important role in the promotion and exercising of the right to citizenship of these persons. They break their isolation, defend their place in society, offer them space to live, places of belonging and realization, and the opportunity to have their say as citizens.

Numerous homelessness agencies or in prevention favour an approach to intervention practices where the homeless take charge of their independence (or empowerment). This approach aims at emancipation and the realization of one's own choices in different

domains: daily life (personal hygiene and feeding, etc.), justice or health,<sup>65</sup> everywhere where the person must take back their own place as actors in their own lives, including in the political domain.

Community agencies favour the democratic participation of their users in their community life and in their daily activities by different means: writing in newsletters or newspapers, training workshops or discussion, ad hoc committees (organizing an event, etc.), users groups, participating in general meeting and board meetings, determining the general direction of agencies, participating in decisions, and contributions as volunteers. This dimension is extremely important but a big challenge since these persons are unstable and often even in emergency situations. They can often only get involved for short periods. Some agencies recruit volunteers from former users.

## RSIQ's DEMANDS:

86

Recognize and fund properly practices of empowerment which make the individual the main actor in their personal and socio-occupational progression.

88

Recognize and fund properly the initiatives of agencies aiming at involving, consulting and associating users in their community life and activities.

87

Recognize and fund properly the practices of popular education and mobilization, notably those aiming at encouraging homeless persons or those at risk being interested in political life, participating in public debates and taking steps to vote.

<sup>64</sup> Jean-Marc Fontan, *L'insertion en question*, UQÀM, département de sociologie, February 2002

<sup>65</sup> For instance, a large part of the homeless population suffers from mental health problems. They have concerns regarding medication (all the more since the use of medication is continually increasing, even for the youngest). The Regroupement des ressources alternatives en santé mentale du Québec [Group for Alternative Mental Health Resources of Quebec], in collaboration with the Association des groupes pour la défense des droits en santé mentale du Québec (AGIDD-smq), [Association of Groups for the Defence of Mental Health Rights in Quebec] has created a guide that can lead a person to independently manage their medication by helping them to better understand the functioning and effects of their medication on all aspects of their life.



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT  
INCOME



THE RIGHT  
TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION



THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Means R: PROMOTE Cross-Sectorial Cooperation On Homelessness

### *Relations Often Marked By Mistrust*

Homeless persons are in touch with a number of actors, both community and institutional, as a result of their living conditions, their paths and the various problems that they live. It leads to a vital dialogue between these actors, all the more since community agencies often have to intervene to ensure their users access to the universal public health care system, social security benefits, legal aid or others.

Community agencies are increasingly being called "partners" by the public sector. They are invited to take part on different tables and committees. It is, unfortunately, too often a matter of obligatory and utilitarian partnerships, where the power relations are very unequal. Agencies are often consulted, but seldom feel listened to.<sup>66</sup> Community agencies fear losing their autonomy and the means of accomplishing their mission by participating in these partnerships.

### RSIQ's DEMANDS:

**89** That partnerships between community and institutional milieus develop on the basis of egalitarian, transparent and voluntary principles.

**90** Support cooperation financially (moreover since they exist in several areas) that bring together the social actors concerned with homelessness, towards the end of strengthening them.

**91** Recognize the role of political representation on cooperation regarding homelessness and support them financially. This is to the end of mobilizing and soliciting the support and commitment of elected representatives and interest groups in favour of the most disadvantaged.

**92** Increase the role of the community level and its power to make decisions about any process relating to the organization of health and social services, and further this participation by appropriate financial assistance.

**93** Develop tools towards better knowing the roles and specific missions of institutions and community agencies, so that each is adequately informed about the other.

**94** Further collaboration while respecting confidentiality.

<sup>66</sup> *Leur équilibre, notre déséquilibre*. Report on the impacts of public health system transformation in Montréal, Regroupement intersectoriel des organismes communautaires de Montréal (RIOCM), April 1998.

# CONCLUSION

## SOLIDARITY IN THE FACE OF HOMELESSNESS

---

The major changes that have taken place for some decades at the social, economic and political levels have caused a lot of uncertainties and insecurity within society. Consequently, there has been an isolationist movement and the growth of intolerance for which homeless persons are paying the price. The search for heightened security is particularly blatant in gentrified neighbourhoods. Some taxpayers ask authorities to intervene in a more muscular manner, even though it does not affect the rate of crime. Numerous examples demonstrate that homeless persons are often victims of prejudice, discrimination and suppression. These facts have important consequences on the deterioration of their standard of living, whose likely fate was already not very desirable

It appears necessary to us to change course, struggle against these prejudices, and slow down this wave of intolerance. More **tolerance** would lead to more equitable treatment for all and better social relations. It is necessary to lead consciousness-raising actions on a continuous basis to promote respect and protection of homeless persons and the values of social justice, solidarity, sharing and cooperation.

It is necessary to create a **solidarity movement** for homeless persons. In the past, it has been felt that **awareness campaigns** of some girth could have a positive impact on prejudice and the capacity of the public to make common cause (for instance as regards mental health). It is critical to undertake activities that sensitize the general public, as was the case of the "Solidaires face à l'itinérance" [United Against Homelessness] campaign.

These consciousness-raising activities (such as "Nuit des sans-abri" [Night of the Homeless]) aim to make known the realities and dispel the illusions of homelessness. They contribute to persuade the general public to adopt more tolerant attitudes towards homeless persons and to feel solidarity towards them. Consciousness-raising can also lead more persons to support assisting agencies for people who are presently homeless in their community and get involved in them.

Beyond consciousness-raising activities aimed at the general public, it is necessary to mobilize elected representatives who are, at each level, responsible for defending the common good and consequently for meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged.

RSIQ wishes that every level of government and elected representatives develop policies on homelessness including on housing, income, citizenship, and accessibility, etc. aspects of which are highlighted in this platform. These policies on homelessness will have to be actualized by the elaboration and implementation of the action plans that will flow from them.

Of course, it is recommended that community agencies working on homelessness, and homeless persons or those at risk are linked into this process.

These policies will respond to the necessary collective responsibility that a social phenomenon such as homelessness calls for.



# WORKING COMMITTEE

## Jean Comtois

Tremplin 16-30 (Sherbrooke)

## Gisèle Denoncourt

Auberge du cœur Habit-Action (Drummondville) / Regroupement des Auberges du cœur

## Gaétan Ennis

TAPIL / Travail de rue Terrebonne

## Jean Gagné

Équipe itinérance du CLSC des faubourgs (Montréal)

## Lise Jean

Passages (Montréal)










































## Jean-Marie Richard

Refuge La Piaule du Centre du Québec (Drummondville)

## Patricia Viannay

RAPSIM (Montréal)

# TOUR OF REGIONS

TABLE	DATE	# OF PARTICIPANTS	OBJECTIVES COVERED
Table de concertation en itinérance de Saguenay	8 March 2006	13	     
Table des sans domicile fixe de Longueuil	9 March 2006	11	  
Table Action Prévention en Itinérance de Lanaudière (TAPIL)	14 March 2006	7	     
Comité de lutte contre l'itinérance en Outaouais urbain	15 March 2006	17	   
Table Itinérance de Vaudreuil-Soulanges	21 March 2006	9	  
Table Itinérance de Drummondville	22 March 2006	11	  
Table itinérance de Sherbrooke	23 March 2006	44	     
Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal (RAPSIM)	30 March 2006	48	     
Regroupement pour l'aide aux itinérants et itinérantes de Québec (RAIIQ)	4 April 2006	19	 
Comité directeur itinérance de Trois-Rivières	11 April 2006	10	 
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 meetings</b>	<b>189 participants</b>	



CITIZENSHIP



A DECENT INCOME



THE RIGHT TO HOUSING



THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION



THE RIGHT TO HEALTH



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

# LIST OF THE PARTICIPANTS - REGIONAL TOUR OF REGIONS

## Table de concertation en itinérance de Saguenay | 8 March 2006

<b>Anik Boudreault</b> Centre le Phare	<b>Aline Gagnon</b> Havre du Fjord
<b>Sylvain Plourde</b> Maison des Sans-Aabri	<b>Louise Côté</b> Association des Parents d'a- dos de Jonquière / Centre le Transit
<b>Louis-Marie Maltais</b> ACSM Macadam	<b>Carol Lapointe</b> Le Séjour
<b>Kathy Lapointe</b> Café-Jeunesse de Chicoutimi	<b>Germain Couillard</b> Agence de santé et services sociaux Saguenay
<b>Nathalie L'Heureux</b> Centre Amical de La Baie	<b>Luc Tremblay</b> Service Canada
<b>Lise Savard</b> Centre Amical de La Baie	<b>Hugo Bouchard</b> Service Canada
<b>Donald Morin</b> Moisson Saguenay	

## Table Action Prévention en Itinérance de Lanaudière | 14 March 2006

<b>Philippe Aubin-Lussier</b> Café de rue Solidaire	<b>Sylvain Masse</b> Hébergement d'urgence Lanaudière
<b>Daniel Scott</b> Vaisseau d'or	<b>Robert Lagrange</b> CLSC Lamater
<b>François Savoie</b> AJRJ	<b>Bernard Malo</b> CLSC Joliette
<b>Gaétan Ennis</b> Travail de rue Terrebonne	

## Table des sans domicile fixe de Longueuil | 9 March 2006

<b>Rachelle Ouellette</b> Hébergement Maison de la Paix	<b>Claire Desrosiers</b> Hébergement La CASA Bernard-Hubert
<b>Manon Blanchard</b> Réseau d'habitations Chez Soi	<b>André Bilodeau</b> Réseau d'habitations Chez Soi
<b>Madeleine Lagarde</b> Le Carrefour Le Moutier	<b>Diane Delorme</b> TCSDFRS
<b>Marie Girardin</b> Association des parents et amis des personnes atteintes de maladie mentale	<b>Manon D.Hénault</b> Conseillère municipale de la Ville de Longueuil
<b>Jean Casaubon</b> Repas du Passant	<b>Ghislain Lamoureux</b> CSSS Pierre-Boucher
	<b>Isabelle Tardif (observatrice)</b> CRI

## Comité de lutte contre l'Itinérance en Outaouais urbain | 15 March 2006

<b>Espérance Ruhongore</b> CDEC	<b>Annie Pelletier</b> Maison Réalité
<b>Jean-Guy</b> Sabourin Soupière de l'Amitié	<b>Jenny Villeneuve</b> Adojeune – L'Appart
<b>Françine Bélanger</b> Entraide familiale de l'Outaouais	<b>Delly Latreille</b> Soupe populaire
<b>Gaston Lampron</b> Mon chez nous	<b>Lise Paradis</b> Soupe populaire de Hull, Épicerie de l'île, Coop de solidarité
<b>Hugo Lemay</b> CIPTO	<b>Nathalie Pelletier</b> ROHSCO
<b>Charles Linette</b> Conseil particulier SSVP	<b>François Roy</b> Logemen'Occupe
<b>Richard Denis</b> La Manne de l'île	<b>Nathalie Mercier</b> Œuvres Isidore Ostiguy
<b>Mélanie Inkel</b> Habitations Nouveau départ	<b>Line Létourneau</b> CLSC Secteur Hull
	<b>Yves Séguin</b> CLSC Secteur Hull

## Table Itinérance de Vaudreuil-Soulanges | 21 March 2006

**André Couillard**  
Maison d'hébergement  
dépannage de Valleyfield

**Marie-Josée Carrière**  
Camp de vacances familiales  
Valleyfield  
(Camp Bosco), programme  
Passage

**Dominique Labelle**  
Centre de femmes La  
Moisson

**Pierre Whalen**  
Arc en Ciel

**Louise Parissé**  
Centre d'action bénévole  
L'Actuel

**Micheline Paquin**  
Pastorale sociale

**Ève Béler**  
L'Aiguillage

**Alexandra Laliberté**  
CSSS Vaudreuil-Soulanges

**Guylaine Leduc**  
Service Canada

**Isabelle Tardif** (observatrice)  
CRI

## Table Itinérance de Drummondville | 22 March 2006

**Gisèle Denoncourt**  
Auberge du cœur Habit-  
Action

**Sylvie Lejeune**  
Comptoir alimentaire  
Drummond

**Valérie Doyon**  
La Tablée populaire

**Raymonde Lachapelle**  
La Tablée populaire

**Jacynthe Dorr**  
L'Ensoleivent

**Lise Ledoux**  
Carrefour d'entraide  
Drummond

**Pierre Couture**  
La Tablée populaire

**Ghislain Beaulieu**  
Auberge du cœur  
Habit-Action

**Julie Gamelin**  
Auberge du cœur Habit-  
Action

**Karine Gagné**  
Auberge citoyenne

**Alexandre Lambert**  
Auberge du cœur Habit-  
Action (résident)

## Table itinérance de Sherbrooke | 23 March 2006

**Yvon R. Couture**  
Caritas

**Lise Laroche**  
Service de pastorale sociale

**Caroline Gendron**  
Centre d'aide aux victimes  
d'acte criminel

**Lise Joyal**  
Pro-def Estrie

**Martin Monette**  
Auberge du Cœur la Source-  
Soleil

**Isabelle Bouchard**  
Auberge du Cœur la Source-  
Soleil

**Yvonne Bergeron**  
Développement et paix

**Annie Goudreau**  
APPAMM-Estrie

**Jean Comtois**  
Le Tremplin 16-30

**Mansour Danis**  
Le Tremplin 16-30

**Audrey Pépin**  
Le Tremplin 16-30

**René Coulombe**  
Services d'aide Bruno-  
Dandenault

**Philippe Allard**  
Services d'aide Bruno-  
Dandenault

**Marie-Claude Vézina**  
La Chaudronnée

**François Lemieux**  
La Chaudronnée

**Chantale Charron**  
La Maison Jeune-Est

**Kathleen McFarland**  
La Maison Jeune-Est

**Maryse Ruel**  
CDC de Sherbrooke

**Sylvie Hébert**  
ROC de l'Estrie

**Denis Boisclair**  
Accueil Poirier

**Jacynthe Robert**  
Accueil Poirier

**Luc Grégoire**  
Partage Saint-François

**Anna Maria Stebel**  
Carrefour des cuisines  
collectives

**Guy Bellavance**  
Groupement d'insertion  
communautaire la Phase

**André Martel**  
Groupement d'insertion  
communautaire la Phase

**Johanne Richer**  
Groupement d'insertion  
communautaire la Phase

**Richard Simoneau**  
Groupement d'insertion  
communautaire la Phase

**Danielle Dupuy**  
Coalition sherbrookoise  
pour le travail de rue

**Jeanne Lambert**  
OPEX

**Nancy Laliberté**  
Centre Saint-Michel

**Normand Gilbert**  
TROVEPE

**Jean-Yves La Rougery**  
Ville de Sherbrooke (Vie  
communautaire)

**Ninon Vallée**  
Ministère de l'Emploi et de  
la Solidarité sociale, CLE

**Marie Thibault**  
Alexander Galt régional  
high school

**Julie-Andrée Michel**  
Établissement de détention  
de Sherbrooke

**Richard Laplante**  
Établissement de détention  
de Sherbrooke

**Charles Coulombe**  
CSSS-IUGS

**Philippe Gendron**  
CSSS-IUGS (Équipe  
itinérance)

**Marie-Claude Jacques**  
CSSS-IUGS (Équipe  
itinérance)

**Nicole Morissette**  
CSSS-IUG de Sherbrooke

**Françoise Péloquin**  
Agence de la Santé et des  
Services sociaux de l'Estrie

**Francine Boulanger**  
Agence de la Santé et des  
Services sociaux de l'Estrie

**Isabelle Tardif**  
(observatrice) CRI

**Pierre-Olivier Babin** (obs.)  
Université de Sherbrooke

Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et  
itinérantes de Montréal | 30 March 2006

---

**Monique Picard**  
Accueil Bonneau

**David Abraham**  
Action Réinsertion

**Marc Beaudin**  
Armée du Salut

**Luis Osorio**  
Armée du Salut

**Robert Manningham**  
Atelier Habitation Montréal

**André Archambault**  
Auberge Communautaire SO

**Catherine Lessard**  
Auberge Communautaire SO

**Nathalie Pêrusse**  
Auberge Communautaire SO

**Cecile Brunet**  
Auberge Madeleine

**Micheline Cyr**  
Auberge Madeleine

**Samuel Harvey**  
CACTUS

**Etienne Richard**  
CACTUS

**Catherine Ganivet**  
Centre de soir Denise Massé

**François Favreau**  
Centre Naha

**Isabelle Leduc**  
Chambreclerc

**Josée Bergeron**  
En marge 12-17

**Catherine Tardif**  
En marge 12-17

**Claudine Laurin**  
FOHM

**Toufik Nid Bouhou**  
FOHM

**Yvon Couillard**  
GEISPI

**Simon Pelletier**  
Itinéraire

**Fernande Themens**  
le Chainon

**Anne Lamothe**  
Maison le Pharillon

**Martine Thibault**  
Maison Tangente

**Colombe Grenier**  
Médecins du Monde

**Marie-Michèle Ross**  
Médecins du Monde

**Cyril Morgan**  
Mission Bon Accueil

**Gaetan Nolet**  
Mission Bon Accueil

**James Hughes**  
OBM

**René Lacroix**  
OBM

**Lise Jean**  
Passages

**Capone**  
Plaisiirs

**André**  
Plaisiirs

**Sabrina Lemeltier**  
Plein Milieu

**Pierre Gaudreau**  
RAPSIM

**Bernard Saint-Jacques**  
RAPSIM

**Patricia Viannay**  
RAPSIM

**Alberto Rojas**  
Refuge des Jeunes

**Pat Langlois**  
Relais Méthadone

**Marie-Jo Guillemette**  
Rue des Femmes

**Sylvain Fontaine**  
Service Hébergement  
St-Denis

**Olivier Wilson**  
Tournant

**Pierre Picard**  
TRAC

**Diana Pizzuti**  
Y des femmes

**Lise Corbin**  
Agence SSS

**Norma Drolet**  
Agence SSS

**Jean Gagné**  
CSSS Jeanne Mance

**Isabelle Tardif (observatrice)**  
Université de Sherbrooke /  
CRI

Regroupement pour l'aide aux itinérants et  
itinérantes de Québec | 4 April 2006

---

**Diane Morin**  
L'Archipel d'Entraide

**Mario Pelletier**  
Armée du Salut

**Michel Godin**  
Café rencontre du centre-  
ville

**Simon Fournier**  
Café rencontre du centre-  
ville

**Mélanie Lacasse**  
Le Centre communautaire  
l'Amitié

**Monique Duchesne**  
Centre de femmes aux 3A  
de Québec

**Pascal Huot**  
Centre de femmes aux 3A  
de Québec

**André Gagnon**  
Gîte Jeunesse

**Éric Boulay**  
La Maison de Lauberivière

**Nathalie Paquet**  
Le Passage

**Martin Payeur**  
Maison Revivre

**Denis Caron**  
Maison Revivre

**Johanne Beauvilliers**  
Mères et monde

**Diane Thibault**  
Mères et monde

**Judith Bruneau**  
P.E.C.H.

**Mario Gagnon**  
Point de repères 1990

**Mélanie Sanschagrin**  
YWCA de Québec

**Nathalie Brisseau**  
RAIIQ

**Renée Maurice**  
RAIIQ

Comité directeur itinérance  
de Trois-Rivières | 11 April 2006

---

**Hélène Trudel**  
Atelier Action Jeunesse

**Diane Raymond**  
Corporation parapluie en  
urgence sociale

**Marcelle Gélinas**  
Les Artisans de la Paix en  
Mauricie

**Jean-Frédéric Bourassa**  
Point de rue

**Caroline Arsenault**  
Point de rue

**Julie Guillemette**  
Point de rue

**Jean Lamarche**  
Point de rue

**Philippe Malchelosse**  
Point de rue

**Michel Simard**  
Centre le Havre de Trois-  
Rivières

**Denise Beaulieu**  
Service Canada

# NATIONAL CONSULTATION

## April 21-22, 2006

### List of participants by region (142 persons)

#### National

**Marcellin Hudon**,  
AGRTQ

**Christian Ouellet**,  
Bloc Québécois

**Michel Morin**,  
COCQ- Sida

**Nicole Lépine**,  
COCQ- Sida

**Isabelle Tardif**,  
Collectif de recherche  
sur l'itinérance

**Roch Hurtubise**,  
Collectif de recherche  
sur l'itinérance

**Clarisse N'Kaa**,  
CPAVIH

**Marie Guylda Thelusmond**,  
Fédération de ressources  
d'hébergement pour  
femmes

**Marie-José Corriveau**,  
FRAPRU

**Gabrielle Major**,  
Frères et soeurs  
d'Émile Nelligan

**Jennifer Ottaway**,  
Frères et soeurs  
d'Émile Nelligan

**Isabelle Dicaire**,  
Front commun de  
personnes assistées  
sociale du Qc

**Yolande Tourigny**,  
Front commun des  
personnes assistées  
sociale du Qc

**Mario Fréchette**,  
Ministère de la Santé  
et des Services sociaux

**André Trépanier**,  
RCLALQ

**François Labbé**,  
Regroupement des  
Auberges du Coeur  
du Québec

**Rémi Fraser**,  
Regroupement des  
Auberges du Coeur  
du Québec

**Fabiola Dasque**,  
ROCAJQ

**Nathalie Rech**,  
RSIQ

**Ann Bonner**,  
Service Canada

**Lise Carle**,  
Service Canada

**Mylène Goulet**,  
SNSA

#### Drummondville

**Gisèle Denoncourt**,  
Auberge du coeur  
Habit-Action

**Denise Brisson**,  
Carrefour d'entraide  
Drummond

**Sylvie Lejeune**,  
Comptoir  
alimentaire Drummond

**Jacinthe Dorr**,  
Ensoleilvent

**Jean-Marie Richard**,  
Refuge La Piaule

#### Lanaudière

**Philippe Aubin-Lussier**,  
Café de rue Solidaire

**Sylvain Masse**,  
Hébergement  
d'urgence Lanaudière

**Gilles Émond**, Maison  
d'hébergement Jeunesse  
Roland-Gauvreau

**Jean-Pierre Lord**,  
Travail de rue Terrebonne

#### Laurentides

**Gaston Leblanc**,  
Travail de rue Laurentides

#### Laval

**Sylviane Marchand**,  
Centre de bénévolat

**Marie-Josée Charbonneau**,  
Sida-Vie Laval

**Carol Pagé**,  
Travail de rue Île de Laval

#### Longueuil

**Chantal Saint-Laurent**,  
Agence Montérégie

**Lionel Sansoucy**,  
APAMM-Rive Sud

**Marie Girardin**,  
APAMM-Rive Sud

**Lazard Vertus**, Bureau  
Consultation Jeunesse

**Danielle Goulet**, Carrefour  
Jeunesse Longueuil Rive-Sud

**Jean Casaubon**,  
le Repas du Passant

**André Bilodeau**, Réseau  
d'habitations Chez soi

**Manon Blanchard**, Réseau  
d'habitations Chez soi

**Marie-Thérèse Toutant**,  
Réseau d'habitations Chez  
soi

**Diane Delorme**,  
Table de concertation des  
SDF de Longueuil

**Manon Hénault**,  
Ville de Longueuil

#### Montérégie (other)

**Jacques Riendeau**, Groupe  
Actions Soutien Pauvreté

**André Couillard**,  
Maison d'hébergement  
dépannage Valleyfield

#### Montréal

**Sœur Monique Picard**,  
Accueil Bonneau

**Chantal Ayotte**,  
Action Réinsertion

**Lise Corbin**,  
Agence de Santé de  
Montréal

**Norma Drolet**,  
Agence de Santé de  
Montréal

**Fernande Themens**,  
Association d'Entraide  
Le Chaïnon

**Marie-Noëlle Gaudrault**,  
Auberge du Coeur  
Le Tournant

**Olivier Wilson**, Auberge du  
Coeur Le Tournant

**André Roy**, CACTUS

**Jean Prud'homme**, CACTUS

**Samuel Harvey-Savard**,  
CACTUS

**Nathalie Bergeron**,  
Carrefour communautaire  
de Rosemont l'Entre Gens

**Catherine Ganivet**,  
Centre Denise-Massé

**François R. Favreau**,  
Centre NAHA

**Isabelle Leduc**,  
Chambreclerc

**Hélène Denoncourt**,  
CLSC des Faubourgs

**Jean Gagné**,  
CLSC des Faubourgs

**Johanne Laplante**,  
CLSC des Faubourgs

**Johanne Ouimet**,  
CLSC des Faubourgs

**Nathalie Nadon**,  
Comité social Centre-Sud

**Bruno Ferrari**,  
Dianova Canada

**Jean-Pierre Narcisse**,  
Diners Rencontre  
St-Louis de Gonzague

**Bertrand Gagné**, Diogène

**Claudine Laurin**, FOHM

**Toufik Nidbouhou**, FOHM

**Yvon Couillard**, Groupe  
GEIPSI

**Marie-Jo Guillemette**,  
La Rue des Femmes

**Jonathan Quiras**,  
L'Anonyme

**François Villemure**,  
L'Avenue hébergement  
communautaire

**Alexandre Dubois**, le  
Refuge des Jeunes de  
Montréal

**France Labelle**, le Refuge  
des Jeunes de Montréal

**Robert Beaupré**, L'itinéraire

**Marie-Michelle Ross**,  
Médecins du monde

**Geneviève Labelle,**  
Méta d'Âme

**Stéphane Turcotte,**  
Méta d'Âme

**Gaétan Nolet,**  
Mission Bon Accueil

**René Lacroix,**  
Old Brewery Mission

**Lise Jean,** Passages

**Sabrina Lemeltier,**  
Plein Milieu

**Valéria Doval,** Plein Milieu

**Bernard St-Jacques,** RAPSIM

**Patricia Viannay,** RAPSIM

**Pierre Gaudreau,** RAPSIM

**Patrick Langlois,**  
Relais Méthadone / CRAN

**Claire Thiboutot,** Stella

**Lainie Basman,** Stella

**Guy Lacroix,** Ville (Service  
dév culturel et de la qualité)

**Diana Pizzuti,** Y des femmes

**Jacynthe Grenon,**  
YMCA Centre Ville

---

## Outaouais

**Diane Tremblay,** Entraide  
familiale de l'Outaouais

**Jean-Guy Sabourin,**  
La Soupière de l'Amitié

**Gilles Poirier,**  
Les Oeuvres Isidore Ostiguy

**Nathalie Mercier,**  
Les Oeuvres Isidore Ostiguy

**François Roy,**  
Logemen'Occupe

**Annie Pelletier,**  
Maison Réalité

**Karine Sigouin,**  
Maison Réalité

**Gaston Lampron,**  
Mon chez nous

**Maurice Corriveau,**  
Mon chez nous

**Nathalie Pelletier,** ROHSCO

**Debby Latreille,**  
Soupe populaire de Hull

**Lise Paradis,**  
Soupe populaire de Hull

**Jean Lalonde,**  
Vallée Jeunesse

---

## Québec

**Carole Lecours,**  
Agence Québec

**Mario Pelletier,**  
Armée du Salut

**Mélanie Sanschagrin,**  
Association YWCA de  
Québec

**Monique Duchesne,**  
Centre femmes aux 3A

**Pascal Huot,**  
Centre femmes aux 3A

**Marie Fortier,**  
Centre local d'emploi  
des Quartiers historiques

**Sandra Marois,**  
CLSC Haute-Ville

**Serge Déry,**  
CLSC Haute-Ville

**André Gagnon,**  
Gîte Jeunesse

**Diane Thibault,**  
Mères et Monde

**Johanne Beauvilliers,**  
Mères et Monde

**Judith Bruneau,** PECH

**Nathalie Brisseau,** RAIQ

**Patricia Bujold,**  
Service Canada Qc

**Christian Vinette,**  
TRAIC Jeunesse

**Pierre Maheux,**

**Réjean Boivin,**  
Ville de Québec  
(arrondissement de la Cité)

---

## Saguenay

**Louis-Marie Maltais,**  
ACSM - section Saguenay

**Lise Savard,**  
Centre Amical de La Baie

**Nathalie L'Heureux,**  
Centre Amical de La Baie

**Martine Martin,** Maison  
d'accueil pour sans-abri

**Mylène Coulombe,**  
Séjour Marie-Fitzbach

---

## Sherbrooke

**Denis Boisclair,**  
Accueil Poirier

**Jacynthe Robert,**  
Accueil Poirier

**Francine Boulanger,**  
Agence Estrie

**Philippe Gendron,**  
CLSC Sherbrooke

**François Lemieux,**  
La Chaudronnée de l'Estrie

**Marie-Claude Vézina,**  
La Chaudronnée de l'Estrie

**Jean Comtois,**  
le Tremplin 16-30

**Luc Grégoire,**  
Partage St-François

**Philippe Allard,** Services  
d'aide Bruno Dandenault

---

## Trois-Rivières

**Diane Raymond,**  
Corporation Le Parapluie

**Michel Simard,**  
Corporation Le Parapluie

---

# DISCUSSION GROUPS

Homeless persons also contributed to reflecting on this platform of demands. We want to thank the teams from the organization Passages and the Maison d'accueil des sans-abri de Chicoutimi who organized and facilitated these consultations as well.

## Réseau SOLIDARITÉ Itinérance du Québec

CP 60140

5101, St-Denis

Montréal QC H2J 4E1

(514) 528-6466

Visit our dedicated section on: [www.rapsim.org](http://www.rapsim.org)

# Réseau SOLIDARITÉ Itinérance du Québec Platform of Demands

## RSIQ Members

### Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal (RAPSIM)

105, Ontario Est #204  
Montréal QC H2X 1G9  
(514) 879-1949

### Regroupement pour l'aide aux itinérants et itinérantes de Québec (RAIIQ)

155, Charest Est #150  
Québec QC G1K 3G6  
(418) 522-6184

### Table de concertation des sans domicile fixe de Longueuil

2150, Marmier #2  
Longueuil QC J4K 4T6  
(450) 463-3530

### Groupe Action Pauvreté Yamaska (Granby)

327, Matton  
Granby QC J2G 7R1  
(450) 378-0990

### Table itinérance de Vaudreuil-Soulanges

Contact : CSSS Vaudreuil-Dorion  
(450) 455-6171 #404

### Table Action Prévention Itinérance de Lanaudière (T.A.P.I.L.)

Contact : Travail de rue  
Terrebonne  
(450) 964-3103

### Table itinérance de Saguenay

Contact : Maison d'accueil  
des sans-abri de Chicoutimi  
(418) 549-3510

### Table de concertation sur l'itinérance de Sherbrooke

Contact : Chaudronnée de l'Estrie  
(819) 821-2311

### Comité de lutte contre l'itinérance en Outaouais urbain

Contact : Logemen'Occupe  
(819) 246-6644

### Table de concertation sur l'itinérance de Drummondville

Contact : La Piaule  
(819) 474-2484

### Comité directeur de Trois-Rivières

Contact : TRIPS du Rivage  
(819) 374-3055

### Au Bercaïl de St-Georges (Beauce)

(418) 227-4181

### Le Répit du Passant (Rimouski)

(418) 722-6559

### Collectif de recherche sur l'itinérance, la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale (CRI)

[cri@uqam.ca](mailto:cri@uqam.ca)