



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate publication

A TEAM OF SPECIALISTS OF THE COMMISSION DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE ET DES DROITS DE LA JEUNESSE READY TO INTERVENE TO PROTECT THE ELDERLY

Montréal, April 1st, 2010 – A dedicated team within the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse is in place, ready to intervene to protect the elderly against exploitation.

The team, made up of investigators and a legal counsel, can intervene directly and quickly to ensure the safety of the elderly and to put an end to any situation involving exploitation. Moreover, it can turn to the courts, when necessary, to secure appropriate protection measures.

“The Commission has designed a flexible and efficient intervention model based on the need to protect the elderly while respecting his or her autonomy,” today said the President of the Commission, Gaétan Cousineau.

“With this team, the Commission will be able to defend the rights of the elderly who have the right to protection against any form of exploitation, under section 48 of the Québec *Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms*,” he added.

The Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés allocated additional resources to the Commission in December 2009 to set up this specialized team which is officially in place as of today. With Quebec’s population aging, this initiative meets a growing need.

In the past years, the number of requests to the Commission for action in cases involving the exploitation of seniors has grown steadily. Last year, the Commission fielded 85 requests and opened 48 new investigation files related to the exploitation of seniors.

The Commission’s investigators will develop closer links with representatives of partner organizations in different regions of Québec, whether, the *Curateur public*, the local health and social services, police departments and other groups providing support to the elderly.

Anyone who suspects that an elderly person is a victim of exploitation can ask the Commission to investigate, be it the elderly himself or herself, or a representative of an organization working with seniors. To contact the Commission, call 1 800 361-6477.

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