



Poised for the Future

A WORD FROM DYP-PD

The Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) stipulates that the assessment of youth who have committed offences, and the response to the offender's needs in terms of social protection and social reintegration, should be entrusted in each province to the «provincial director». In Quebec, this role has been assigned to the Directors of Youth Protection. As part of this 20th DYP-PD review, we would like to present the situation of these youth and the services offered to them under our responsibility.

Falling down, getting up again, and making the long journey towards an uncertain future...

This is the story of many young offenders followed by the DPJ/DP. For them, regaining their balance after the turmoil of adolescence is a challenge with varying degrees of difficulty. For some of the youth we serve, the path is filled with detours and pitfalls.

We want to raise awareness of this important aspect of our social intervention and, in the light of real-life stories, present these young people and their families, as well as the type of services available in Quebec. In our opinion, any social intervention carried out with a young offender must be based on solid clinical foundations and evidence-based practices. Whether it's to assess the appropriateness of applying out-of-court sanctions, to produce a report for the court in order that they may make an informed decision, or to ensure the application of measures ordered by a judge, we rely on experienced practitioners identified in the law as youth delegates. And when the protection of society requires that an adolescent be placed in care, this delegate works closely with a team of educators whose mandate is to help the young person change his or her behaviour and look to the future in a positive way.

Intervening with young offenders also requires a constant partnership with police officers, lawyers from the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions (DPCP) and the defense, the judges and the organizations responsible for applying extrajudicial sanctions. All essential partnerships.

We are guided by shared values, including the conviction that every youth has the ability to change his or her behaviour. We believe that a balance must be maintained between the measures required to protect society and the need to work towards the social reintegration of young people who have committed offences. The objectives of our mission remain accountability, education, rehabilitation, and social reintegration. We must also take into account the interests of victims and encourage offenders to

make reparation for the harm they have caused. Like DP, we believe that prevention is an effective way of reducing criminal behavior. Investing in vulnerable communities permits us to offer youth and their families with services and activities that enables them to discover their interests and develop a social network.

When it comes to delinquency, thanks in particular to our university institutes, Québec remains a leader in research and innovation. Many countries draw inspiration from Québec practices to develop their own models.

In Québec, the statistics show that youth delinquency has continued to decrease over the years. However, the people of Québec seem increasingly concerned, particularly due to an increase in armed violence that is often associated with criminal networks. As a result, we take a very rigorous approach to ensure the protection of our communities while supporting the social reintegration of young offenders.

In order to illustrate the work, we put into the psychosocial and readaptation services for these youth, we have chosen to tell you their stories. We commend them on their courage and perseverance, and we thank them for their precious collaboration. For each of the stories told, we have included explanations of the interventions that were done from the perspective of the adolescents involved, because in truth it is they who are the real architects of their success.

You can read these stories in full by clicking the link of each trailer on page 7.