

April 17, 2020

Seniors Action Quebec Statement on Situation at Residence Herron

Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ) is pleased to learn that criminal and coroner investigations will be launched into the events around the disastrous failure to care for extremely vulnerable seniors at CHSLD Herron in Dorval Quebec that came to light last week.

SAQ strongly encourages that community members be involved in the investigation as observers to ensure that there is transparency in the process and that the community partners are made aware of what happened in this particular case. We have offered to act in this role and in any other capacity that could help support the process of investigation.

It is critical that any lessons that can be learned from the events at CHSLD Herron be shared as widely as possible so that others may learn from the mistakes made. It will also help inform the public as to what the priority issues are, and how we may be able to better support those working with our seniors in the future.

There has been swift reaction from both the CAQ government and the public health sector in response to the Covid 19 pandemic to collaborate with seniors' residences and ensure that those that are struggling will be provided support. There has also been a request for help from those with health care training to step up and assist in the CHSLDs. We echo this call and strongly encourage those who can provide assistance, please do so.

You can offer assistance at the website <https://jecontribuecovid19.gouv.qc.ca/Inscription.aspx>

We will be holding the Quebec government to their commitment to reform the senior residence/long-term care housing system.

The impact of Covid-19 on Quebec's senior population is far from over. We are facing what Premier Legault is calling "a national emergency," and it is our shared responsibility to help those most at risk in our society.

It cannot be said enough, without public assistance and support we are facing the possibility that things will not improve as quickly as they should. We must come together at this critical time to ensure that our seniors are protected.

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