

## **Longitudinal study on the future of youth in care in Québec and France: education, a major challenge for youth**

QUÉBEC, December 4, 2018 /CNW Telbec/ - The EDJeP partnership and the Canada Research Chair in Evaluating Public Actions Related to Young People and Vulnerable Populations of ENAP have announced the first results of their large-scale longitudinal study on the future of youth in care in Québec (EDJeP).

Unparalleled in scope in Québec and Canada, EDJeP follows a cohort of 1,136 young people ages 17 to 21 who were placed in out-of-home care by the youth protection system, and who will soon age out of care and begin independent adult life. This vast data collection is notably intended to better capture the realities that youth face along with the factors that affect their transition to adulthood.

The first analyses show that youth placed in care by the youth protection system are much further behind in their education than young Quebecers of a similar age. The gap is also considerable regarding young people who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Whereas 75% of Quebecers age 17 in the general population are in Secondary V, only 17% of youth in care have reached this level. Even when compared only with youth from disadvantaged backgrounds in the general population, a substantial gap of 36 percentage points persists. Similarly, whereas 79.8% of young Quebecers and 60% of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds have never repeated a school year, this is true for only 26.7% of youth in care. These results are especially worrisome because the preliminary analyses also show that young people who feel supported attain higher levels of education.

Martin Goyette, the lead researcher of this study, says that “given the pivotal role of a diploma and education in socio-professional integration processes, we must all collectively mobilize to improve academic support for youth in care to reduce this glaring inequality. From a social justice and equality opportunity perspective or an economic development perspective, these young people must be considered a priority.”

Jessica Côté-Guimond, co-spokesperson of the Youth Formerly in Care Committee associated with the research project, points out that it is important to listen to young people and to adapt services by offering them alternatives: “At the Youth Centre, we are urgently working on behaviour and social rehabilitation.

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There is hardly talk of the future, of dreams, and we get little encouragement for our future plans. The research shows that youth in care have academic ambitions. We absolutely need to give them the means they need to succeed!”

The next wave of data collection will begin in the spring and will provide other findings related to the transition of youth out of care. The same young participants will be met with again in 2019 and 2020. The results aim to improve social practices and public policies concerning support and the future of youth in care.

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Link to the complete report:

[http://edjep.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/rapport\\_sommaire.pdf](http://edjep.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/rapport_sommaire.pdf)

### **About Youth Leaving Care in Québec and France: A longitudinal study**

EDJeP examines the living conditions and transition from care of young people ages 17 to 21 who were placed in out-of-home care by youth protection services. This large-scale research is the first representative study of its kind in Canada. It adopts an international (France-Québec comparison) and interdisciplinary perspective and rests on solid cooperation between youth protection and community and government actors. The research team has also innovated by including a committee of youth formerly in care, who collaborate horizontally in a multifaceted manner, at all stages of the research process. The study is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada as part of a partnership program.

For more information, visit [www.edjep.ca](http://www.edjep.ca)

### **About the CREVAJ**

The Canada Research Chair in Evaluating Public Actions Related to Young People and Vulnerable Populations (CREVAJ) aims to acquire new knowledge of evaluation methods of public actions, and to improve knowledge related to putting public action into practice along with the effects of public action. The work done by the Chair is intended to better guide interventions and support mechanisms for vulnerable people, particularly in the youth sector, a sector that sheds exemplary light on the recent transformations of the State both in terms of renewal of public action and of its limitations and risks.

For more information, visit [www.crevaj.ca](http://www.crevaj.ca)

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