



Homelessness among youth in care: community and research partners join forces

For immediate release

QUÉBEC, November 19 2019 /CNW Telbec/ - The EDJeP partnership directed by the Canada Research Chair in Evaluating Public Actions Related to Young People and Vulnerable Populations of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration Publique (ENAP) has announced the latest results of its large-scale longitudinal study on the future of youth in care in Québec.

Our ground-breaking results underline important systemic issues for young people leaving care: while half of the youth find themselves in stable housing situations (on average 13 months after leaving care), **nearly 20% claimed to have experienced a form of visible homelessness since leaving care, and close to one-third of the youth are in a housing instability situation.** Youth who experienced at least one homelessness episode would have liked to receive more support to prepare for the end of care, compared with the other respondents. In addition, nearly 45% of the youth said they consider their housing situation temporary.

Young people who have experienced at least one episode of visible homelessness, like those with housing instability, are more likely to be vulnerable in terms of personal difficulties, social support and education. Further, the transition to visible homelessness, which is more likely as time increases, risks aggravating these difficulties.

Cécile Arbaud, Executive Director of Dans la rue, is well aware of this reality because one in two young people who use the service went through the youth protection system. It is precisely these youth who need long-term support the most. For many young people who leave youth centres, community organizations and Auberges du cœur represent an anchor point. Johanne Cooper, Director of the Auberge du cœur Maison Tangente and President of the Regroupement des Auberges du cœur du Québec, says “the results of this study confirm what we have been observing for years: these youth in a social disaffiliation process need sustained support to prevent them from adopting a lifestyle linked to homelessness.” Kevin, a member of the EDJeP committee of youth formerly in care, explains: “At the age of 18, I was not prepared for adulthood, making a budget, finding an apartment or managing difficulties on my own. I went through much instability and I found support in the community network because I felt let down by the system. I was not the only one in that situation. Our research results clearly demonstrate this.”

Martin Goyette, lead researcher of EDJeP, says that the latest findings speak volumes: “Our results are troubling and are consistent with the testimonials of our partners and the youth themselves. Today we are acting in unison to emphasize both the importance of not only supporting the most vulnerable youth as they prepare to leave care, but also of developing a safety net to enhance support for vulnerable youth when they leave care to prevent them from becoming homeless.”

For an interview and information:

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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. The research team has also innovated by including a committee of youth formerly in care, who collaborate 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

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

About Dans la rue

Founded by Father Emmett Johns “Pops” in 1988, Dans la rue helps homeless and at-risk youth. With dedication, empathy and respect, and with the support of the community, Dans la rue cares for their immediate needs and helps them acquire the skills and resources needed to lead more autonomous and rewarding lives. For more information visit www.danslarue.org

About RACQ

The Regroupement des Auberges du cœur du Québec is made up of 30 hostel members distributed across 10 regions of Québec. Each year, the Auberges du cœur house and support more than 3,000 youth who are homeless in difficulty, between ages 12 and 30. Open seven days a week, 24 hours a day, they offer room and board, a stable environment, active listening, support and coaching. For more information visit <http://www.aubergesducoeur.org/>

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