
PRESS RELEASE

Promoting the academic success of young people leaving care:

Findings on the effects of organizational issues on the education of youth in rehabilitation centres

Montreal, November 17, 2020 - The LCQF partnership, led by the Canada Research Chair in Evaluating Public Actions Related to Young People and Vulnerable Populations (CREVAJ) at the École nationale d'administration publique (ENAP), has published its findings on the effects of organizational issues on the education of youth placed in rehabilitation centres.

The new results show that both the education coordinators in "youth centres" and the school actors working on the sites agree that **psychosocial rehabilitation takes precedence over education for young people housed in rehabilitation centres**. Several specific observations on the obstacles to collaboration between these two sectors, which supplement the comments made at the Laurent Commission, are highlighted in the report. Notably, **the application of the various social services laws (ARHSSS, YPA, YCJA) is incompatible with that of the Education Act**. Not only does **the Youth Protection Act take prevail over the Education Act**, but in some cases it violates the right to education guaranteed by Article 28 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

The report also highlights the tendency of the two systems to work in silos, which constitutes an additional barrier to the intervention process because ideally, the two environments should possess complementary expertise. In addition, the representatives of educational institutions insist on the **importance of developing joint intervention plans** and of promoting the presence of school stakeholders at various meetings related to the qualification or instruction of young people.

LCQF Youth Committee member Émilie Roy commented on the research results: "When I was in care, I had to give up 436-level math courses because the teacher at the centre did not have the skills to teach me, despite the fact that I had all the skills to pass [...] the courses that should be offered are not necessarily available in the rehabilitation centres, which greatly limits people's ability to continue their studies and reduces the quality of their education. It also puts us, once again, on an uneven footing with young people in the general population."

Martin Goyette, full professor at ÉNAP and director of the LCQF partnership, says: "The LCQF data clearly show that the education of young people in care is very worrisome. Only 25% of these youth hold a high school diploma at age 19, compared with 78% in the general population. We must act quickly. We hope that our research will open the door to considering possible solutions to deploy to promote the academic success of young people in care."

Lastly, this report touches on the repercussions of COVID-19 on the paths of young people placed in rehabilitation centres, whose **conditions, already inadequate, have been worsened by the challenging social and health situation**. This context impedes the academic success of the young people who are housed there. We therefore hypothesize that COVID-19 is amplifying the educational setbacks that many of these young people experience, widening the gap between these youth and the general public. These worrisome data, combined with the Laurent Commission participants' arguments that the current system contributes to the academic failure of these young people, emphasize the **importance of offering the necessary support and tools to ensure that each child can realize his or her full potential**.

For interview and information:

Martin Goyette: 514 347-9126 Martin.goyette@enap.ca

See complete report by [clicking here](#)

To read other reports:

[Le coût de la sous-scolarisation des jeunes placés](#)

[La scolarisation, enjeu majeur pour les jeunes](#)

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

LCQF examines the living conditions and transition from out-of-home care of young people ages 17 to 21. 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 www.crevaj.ca

Funded by: