

Opening of a temporary emergency homeless shelter in Saint-Jérôme

Saint-Jérôme, May 8, 2020 – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides, along with several partner community organisations and institutions, is concerned by the increase in the number of homeless individuals in Saint-Jérôme since the beginning of the pandemic. Working together with our partners, a crisis unit was formed and a temporary emergency homeless shelter will open its doors on May 11 at the Aréna Mélançon.

The site was chosen to enable mandatory social distancing measures, which have caused a temporary reduction in the availability of emergency homeless shelter spaces in the sector. By mutual agreement with our partners, the CISSS des Laurentides will be responsible for coordinating the shelter's services.

In all, 18 beds will be available to homeless individuals after 5:00 PM each day, with access to showers, meals, nightclothes and a personal sleeping space. Check-out will be around 8:00 AM, after they have had breakfast and been provided with a packed lunch.

All the partners in this homeless crisis unit – the Salvation Army, Book Humanitaire, Café de rue SOS, CISSS des Laurentides, Youri Chassin, MNA for Saint-Jérôme, Écluse des Laurentides, Hébergement Fleur de Macadam, Maison de Sophia, the Saint-Jérôme police services and the Town of Saint-Jérôme – are pleased to provide this temporary emergency homeless shelter in Saint-Jérôme thanks to everyone's collaboration.

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

The current pandemic is causing a number of social problems. Homeless individuals are among the population most likely to experience the social impacts of the pandemic. Furthermore, it is increasingly difficult for the authorities to enforce Public Health-mandated preventive measures, because these individuals have nowhere to self-isolate and are often ill-informed regarding health recommendations. The temporary emergency shelter will enable them to protect themselves.

At the heart of community action

For many years, community organisations and public institutions, which are committed to improving the living conditions of vulnerable individuals, have been working together to respond to this population's basic needs. Collaboration between all actors involved is an essential component of a response to complex needs. In this respect, the temporary emergency shelter project is a fine example of success.

For information about the shelter, call 450-712-3380 after 5 PM every day.

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Source : Service des communications et des relations publiques
450 432-2777, poste 22898
Sans frais 1 800 363-2507, poste 22898