



# Fondation québécoise des maladies mentales

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## FACT SHEET

### *Fondation québécoise des maladies mentales*

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#### ITS MISSION

- The *Fondation québécoise des maladies mentales* was founded in 1980. Its mission is to:
  - inform the general public about mental illness and demystify it;
  - finance mental-health research programs with the objective of improving understanding and treatment of mental illness;
  - create, or help maintain, clinical services or resources that directly serve people suffering from mental illness.
- Dr. Yves Lamontagne, Founder and President of the *Fondation québécoise des maladies mentales*, psychiatrist and President of the Collège des médecins du Québec, has devoted much of his career to demystifying and explaining mental illness to the public. His participation in the *VisaSanté* show has contributed to his popularity with the Québec public. He is a recipient of both the Order of Canada and Ordre du Québec. His expertise is recognized by health professionals, and his commitment to his cause remains as firm as ever and as important to the *Fondation québécoise des maladies mentales*.

#### ITS MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Until very recently, the *Fondation québécoise des maladies mentales* devoted most of its time and energy to medical research. Its main achievements include the construction of the *Centre de recherche Fernand-Seguin* in 1990, at a cost of \$2.5 million.
- More recently, faced with the alarmingly high rate of suicide among Québec young people, and aware of the fact that depression is among the chief causes of suicide, the *Fondation québécoise des maladies mentales* adopted the new challenge of raising the awareness of young people by organizing its *Solidaires pour la vie* (Partners for Life) program.

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#### ITS MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS (cont'd)

- In 1999-2000, its first year, the *Solidaires pour la vie* tour met 65,000 young people across Québec. This year (2000-2001) and in its third and last year (2001-2002), the program's 12 discussion leaders will meet another 200,000 adolescents.
- Among the *Partners for Life*: Hydro-Québec, Québec Department of Health and Social Services, Bell Canada, Power Corporation of Canada, Saputo Group Inc., Succession J.A. DeSève and Telesystem Ltd.
- This fall, the Fondation québécoise des maladies mentales organized the *La dépression, c'est une maladie et ça se soigne* campaign to raise Montréalers' awareness of depression and its role in teen suicide.
- The principal partner of the *La dépression, c'est une maladie et ça se soigne* awareness campaign is the MUCTC. Its other partners in the public health and mental illness treatment fields are the Association des dépressifs et des maniaco-dépressifs, Suicide-Action Montréal, Collège des médecins du Québec, Ordre des infirmières et des infirmiers du Québec, Association des médecins psychiatres du Québec, Ordre des psychologues du Québec and Association des CLSC et des CHSLD du Québec.