

# The Suburban

QUEBEC'S LARGEST ENGLISH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



## COMMISSIONER'S SENIOR CARE REPORT DETAILS SYSTEMIC FLAWS

By Joel Ceausu  
The Suburban

Broad disorganization of care and information lapses to those responsible was partly to blame for many of the more than 5000 first-wave deaths in Quebec CHSLDs according to the preliminary report of Quebec's health and welfare commissioner (CSBE) Joanne Castonguay.

Castonguay found in her lengthy report an absence of a strategy establishing a uniform quality of care for seniors, managers without the tools or abilities to manage the crisis and the lack of basic information required to establish staff scheduling or simple material needs.

Castonguay's report shows how the large-scale human disaster, which resulted in dead, and dying, abandoned seniors

lying unfed and unattended in their own waste could have been avoided and noted that many calls for action have been presented over decades to improve the situation with little action. The pandemic simply magnified the already present and remarkable lapses in the system with a fatal result. She also noted the lack of assurance of proper funding of long-term care, and that the previous Barrette health system reform did not improve the situation, noting the creation of Integrated health and social service centres (CISSS) and the disappearance of previous regional health agencies created a lapse in expertise and a loss of important data.

"Without reliable and timely data and without an efficient assessment of the quality of care and services offered to the

elderly, the government cannot make informed decisions and put in place adequate policies focused on results for the population" wrote Castonguay, adding solutions such as an "integrated care package" for each patient, already exist and have been repeatedly reiterated by experts, committees and researchers. "Now, we have to find how to put them into practice on a large scale to cope with the aging of the population and its impacts."

Her final report will be produced before the end of the year and will include analysis of the pandemic management and recommendations.

Reaction by Quebec's largest health

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## Public art policy sets budget reserve

By Joel Ceausu  
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Laval has a new policy aimed at integrating public art into municipal buildings and sites.

The policy targets a reserve of 1.75 % of construction, expansion and renovation budgets or sites financed in whole or in part by municipal funds, so that the city can add to the 53 existing artworks on its territory. Works produced by major artists will contribute to the urban esthetic, while fair remuneration of stakeholders in artistic projects will be ensured.

Announcing that five new works are being installed this month, Laval Mayor Marc Demers said that while buildings constructed with a grant from the Quebec government must include public works of art equivalent to 1% of the construction budget since 1961, the obligation does not exist for municipal capital investments. "That is why the city is adopting this even more ambitious policy. We are going even further by confirming our commitment to position culture as a pillar of community development and to improve the quality of life of Laval residents by offering them access to large-scale works by professional artists in visual art."

The policy gives a common orientation to all city departments with regard to the integration of public art and has four main objectives: Provide the population with access to contemporary works

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