



Counteract Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust

INTEGRATED GOVERNMENT

STRATEGY 2022-2027

Coordination and writing

Direction de la lutte à la violence sexuelle et à la violence conjugale
Secrétariat à la condition féminine

Title of original document

*Contrer la violence sexuelle, la violence conjugale et Rebâtir la confiance :
Stratégie gouvernementale intégrée 2022-2027*

English version

Services linguistiques en anglais
Direction du soutien au réseau éducatif anglophone
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ISBN : 978-2-550-94340-2 (PDF)
French version: ISBN 978-2-550-92159-2 (PDF)

Legal deposit – Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, 2022

Message from the Premier

In recent years, we have worked tirelessly to counteract violence against women. In particular, we have made significant investments to better support organizations in the field. Several awareness-raising campaigns on domestic violence, sexual assault and sexual exploitation have also been launched.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the ministers and elected members who have been involved in this file. Their involvement has made it possible to establish the *2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counteract Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust*. It is our duty to continue our joint efforts to prevent these forms of violence and protect persons who are victims, the majority of whom are women and girls.

With this new strategy, we are honouring our commitment by acting on the recommendations of the Expert Committee for the Support of Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. We immediately responded with several actions, which were essential given the urgency of the situation. This Strategy consolidates the government's response and gives us new means to achieve our objectives.

I would like to thank all the groups and organizations working in this field and supporting victims. Sexual violence and domestic violence affect us all. By working together, we can successfully bring them to an end.

François Legault

Premier of Québec

Message from the Minister

Sexual and domestic violence persist despite the progress made in relation to equality between women and men in our society. In 2022, it is unacceptable for women and girls to still fear for their safety.

The *2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counteract Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust* is a continuation of the actions we have taken over the past few years in the fight against sexual and domestic violence, of which women and girls remain the primary victims. Much work has been done to better understand these issues, namely the work of the Viens Commission, the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee, the Expert Committee for the Support of Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, and the Select Committee on the Sexual Exploitation of Minors.

This new Integrated Strategy is the product of collaborative work between government departments and organizations, and a follow-up to consultations with various partners. The result is in keeping with the collaborative spirit of the Rebuilding Trust report. In particular, we have taken into account the realities of women in situations of vulnerability in relation to sexual and domestic violence, including those experienced by First Nations and Inuit women and girls. The Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence also recognizes that boys, men, and people of sexual and gender diversity can also be subjected to these forms of violence. Lastly, the assistance provided to the perpetrators of violence is part of the solution proposed in counteracting sexual and domestic violence.

I would like to thank the partner organizations for sharing their expertise, which is essential for pursuing the mission of the Secrétariat à la condition féminine and, more broadly, of the Québec government in counteracting sexual and domestic violence.

Our government is determined to establish the means to counteract sexual violence and domestic violence. There is an urgent need to change the way persons who are victims receive support and to send them a strong message: “You are our foremost priority. We are here to help you.”

Isabelle Charest

Minister for Education and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Message from the Minister of Justice of Québec

In recent years, the Québec government has made improving support for persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence a matter of national priority. We no longer want persons who are victims in Québec to hesitate to file a report and lodge a complaint.

Thus, a major cultural change has been undertaken within the justice system to place persons who are victims at the heart of the process, to adapt services to their needs and realities, and to better support them in their healing process.

Beginning with 10 pilot projects to be carried out across Québec, we will establish a court specializing in sexual violence and domestic violence. Persons who are victims will be able to benefit from the support and guidance of specialized stakeholders before, during and after the legal process. Québec will become the first jurisdiction in the world to establish such a court. We should be very proud of that.

Moreover, after being sought for more than 20 years, the compensation system for victims of criminal acts has also undergone major reform. The *Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery* has been in effect since October 13, 2021. This reform has made it possible to broaden the concept of victim, abolish the list of eligible offences so that all criminal offences against the person are recognized, whether committed in Québec or abroad, and put an end to the maximum time limit for filing a claim in cases of sexual violence, domestic violence and violence experienced during childhood.

We should also acknowledge the implementation of a free legal consultation service for victims of sexual violence and domestic violence via the *Rebâtir* telephone line (1-833-REBÂTIR).

Much like these recent initiatives, the deployment of the new Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence is also consistent with the government's strong desire to respond to the recommendations of the Rebuilding Trust report, presented by the Expert Committee for the Support of Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.

Simon Jolin-Barette

Minister of Justice of Québec and Attorney General of Québec

Acknowledgements

The *2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counteract Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust* is the result of contributions from numerous organizations representing the public and parapublic sectors, and incorporates reflections gleaned from partners in the community and research sectors.

We would like to thank the members of the Expert Committee for the Support of Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence and its co-chairs, as well as the organizations and persons who are victims who participated in the consultations carried out as part of the work of this committee and who were the inspiration for this strategy.

We also thank all the government departments and organizations involved in this strategy and the partners in the field who will contribute to its implementation.

The contribution of everyone was crucial for the development of structuring actions that respond to emerging or persistent problems related to sexual and domestic violence.

List of government departments and organizations involved in the 2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counteract Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust

Abbreviations	Government Departments and Organizations
CNESST	Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail
CSF	Conseil du statut de la femme
DPCP	Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales
ISQ	Institut de la statistique du Québec
MEQ	Ministère de l'Éducation
MES	Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur
MFamille	Ministère de la Famille
MCC	Ministère de la Culture et des Communications
MIFI	Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration
MJQ	Ministère de la Justice (y compris le Bureau de lutte contre l'homophobie et la transphobie [BLCHT])
MSP	Ministère de la Sécurité publique
MSSS	Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (y compris le Secrétariat aux aînés [SA])
MTESS	Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
OPHQ	Office des personnes handicapées du Québec
SAA	Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (ministère du Conseil exécutif)
SAJ	Secrétariat à la jeunesse (ministère du Conseil exécutif)
SCF	Secrétariat à la condition féminine
SHQ	Société d'habitation du Québec

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Context

A context for the development of the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence

The collective statements of recent years concerning sexual and domestic violence, including the #MeToo movement, denounced the lack of confidence that persons who are victims have in the legal system, among other things. The Expert Committee for the Support of Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (Expert Committee) was formed under these circumstances and was given the mandate of proposing ways to improve support for persons who are victims.

On December 15, 2020, the Expert Committee tabled its report, [*Rebâtir la confiance*](#) (Rebuilding Trust, in French only), the recommendations of which aim to provide more sustained support that is better adapted to the realities of persons who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, both within and outside the justice system.

The Québec government then undertook to follow up on the recommendations of this report and mandated the SCF, in collaboration with the MJQ, to coordinate a large-scale concerted effort between the departments and organizations concerned.

Meanwhile, the [*2016-2021 Government Strategy to Prevent and Counteract Sexual Violence*](#) (Strategy to Prevent and Counteract Sexual Violence), which targeted sexual assault and sexual exploitation, was extended for a year to allow the necessary steps to be taken for its renewal.

In December 2020, then again in April 2021, the Québec government announced the [*Plan d'action spécifique pour prévenir les situations à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025*](#) (2020-2025 specific action plan to prevent high-risk domestic violence and increase victim safety, in French only) and the [*Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026*](#) (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides, in French only). The [*2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence*](#), which includes actions to prevent and share expertise in domestic violence, will end in 2023.

Finally, in December 2021, the Québec government launched the [*Plan d'action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la Commission spéciale sur l'exploitation sexuelle des mineurs – Briser le cycle de l'exploitation sexuelle*](#) (2021-2026 government action plan in response to the recommendations of the select committee on the sexual exploitation of minors – breaking the cycle of sexual exploitation, in French only) to consolidate and improve government action to prevent and counteract sexual exploitation and its consequences.

It is within this context that the Québec government is announcing the establishment of the *2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counteract Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust* (Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence). This strategy consolidates the government response to the Rebuilding Trust report while ensuring that the Strategy to Prevent and Counteract Sexual Violence is renewed and that complementary actions are implemented in the area of domestic violence.

The main objectives of the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence are to counteract sexual and domestic violence, and to provide more sustained support that is better adapted to realities of persons who are victims. The strategy has three areas of intervention, namely: Area 1) Prevention, awareness and detection; Area 2) Psychosocial, medical, legal, police and correctional interventions; and Area 3) Development of knowledge, training and sharing of expertise. Each of these areas of intervention has specific objectives, which are to be achieved through the associated actions.

Since the development and implementation of government actions in the areas of sexual and domestic violence often involve the same public, parapublic and community partners, the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence facilitates and reiterates the importance of concerted effort. Considering that a person can be a victim or perpetrator of both sexual and domestic violence and that these two forms of gendered violence share common origins, addressing them in a joint strategy allows for the implementation of structuring actions, at times concerted or specific, which are likely to better respond to various realities.

The Rebuilding Trust report

Several work projects and actions aimed at responding to the recommendations of the Rebuilding Trust report were initiated and announced by the departments and organizations during the development of the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence. In addition to ensuring follow-up on these recommendations over five years, the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence expands upon a large number of these actions and offers additional means for their implementation.

Moreover, the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence presents key actions aimed at focusing interventions on persons who are victims. These actions also respond to the recommendations of the Rebuilding Trust report.

- **Action 18**, Conduct pilot projects that integrate services in the areas of sexual violence and domestic violence, by supporting initiatives coming from the community, under the joint responsibility of the MJQ and the MSSS.
- **Action 26**, Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence, under the responsibility of the DCP.
- **Action 30**, Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account, under the responsibility of the MJQ.

- **Action 31**, Gradually implement the use of electronic tracking bracelets in cases involving domestic violence, under the responsibility of the MSP.
- **Action 32**, Increase the number of police assigned to matters involving domestic violence and sexual violence, under the responsibility of the MSP.

Still in the same vein as the Rebuilding Trust report, many actions under the responsibility of the MSSS propose enhancements to services for persons who are victims (see also the “Community resource funding at a glance” section).

Moreover, the majority of the actions of the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence were developed to fully or partially respond to one or more recommendations of the Rebuilding Trust report. A total of 98 recommendations are addressed by the proposed actions. These recommendations are identified under the relevant action summaries in this document.

However, the response to certain recommendations of the Rebuilding Trust report lay in government interventions that were already underway or planned for before or at the time this strategy was developed. Other government interventions respond fully or partially to 68 of the recommendations.

When the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence is launched, it will contain actions that respond fully or partially to 166 recommendations in the Rebuilding Trust report. Appendix 2 of this document provides an overview of all the recommendations of the Rebuilding Trust report. Without being exhaustive, the appendix presents the main government interventions that fully or partially respond to each of the recommendations. It also presents the reasons why certain recommendations remain unanswered for the time being.

Violence against women

Violence against women occurs on a continuum and stems from historically unequal power relations between women and men. This is a systemic social problem that concerns the entire population. This gender-based violence is one of the most frequent violations of fundamental rights in the world and knows no borders, be it economic, social or geographic.¹

It can manifest in different ways, including sexist jokes, harassment on the street, online hostility, sexual harassment in the workplace, honour-based violence, female genital mutilation and excision, sexual exploitation, reproductive coercion, domestic violence, anti-feminist remarks and attacks, sexual assaults, femicides,² etc.

¹ United Nations Population Fund, *Gender-based violence* (2021), <https://www.unfpa.org/gender-based-violence>.

² “The term *femicide* refers to the murder of a woman, girl or child because of her sex. Moreover, even if femicides imply a hatred toward women, the term *femicide* designates the murder as such.” Source: Conseil du statut de la femme, “Féminicide” (2022), <https://csf.gouv.qc.ca/article/publicationsnum/bibliotheque-des-violences-faites-aux-femmes/feminicide/>. [Translation]

In all cases, these are mechanisms of control and domination resulting in the subordination of women to men.³ According to data that the police force in Québec released in 2019, 76% of the victims of domestic violence,⁴ 88% of the victims of sexual assault⁵ and 95% of the victims of crimes related to pimping and human trafficking⁶ were female. According to the same police data, men represent 77% of the alleged perpetrators of domestic violence offences, 94.9% of the alleged perpetrators of sexual offences and 89.6% of the alleged perpetrators of sexual exploitation.

Inequalities among women

The intersections between different systems of discrimination place some women in contexts of heightened vulnerability to sexual and domestic violence. Consider, in particular, immigrant, racialized and Indigenous women, seniors, women living in poverty or with disabilities, and people of sexual or gender diversity. While sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment and domestic violence stem first from the patriarchal system, other systems of discrimination are indeed intertwined. To propose effective actions, it is necessary to focus on the interactions, that is, the intersection between the different identity and social factors at play in the experience, and the victimization of women.

Certain actions of this strategy are a result of taking these realities into account. Other actions propose rather to adapt the intervention to the specific realities of different groups of women when being implemented.

First Nations and Inuit women and girls

Numerous reports published⁷ in recent years reveal that First Nations and Inuit women and girls are overrepresented among the persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence, and that they are subject to more severe forms of violence than non-Indigenous women and girls.⁸ According to Statistics Canada's 2014 *General Social Survey on Victimization*, approximately 10% of Indigenous women reported being subjected to physical or sexual violence by a current or former spouse in the five years preceding the survey, compared to 3% of non-Indigenous women.⁹

³ United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*, adopted December 20, 1993, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-elimination-violence-against-women>.

⁴ Ministère de la Sécurité publique, *Criminalité au Québec – Infractions contre la personne commises dans un contexte conjugal en 2019* (2022), https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/securite-publique/publications-adm/publications-secteurs/police/statistiques-criminalite/violence-conjugale/stats_violence_conjugale_2019.pdf?1642798969.

⁵ Ministère de la Sécurité publique, *Criminalité au Québec – Infractions sexuelles en 2019* (2021), https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/securite-publique/publications-adm/publications-secteurs/police/statistiques-criminalite/infractions-sexuelles/stats_infr_sexuelles_2019.pdf?1643638951.

⁶ Ministère de la Sécurité publique, *Proxénétisme et exploitation sexuelle à des fins commerciales – État de la situation* (2021), https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/securite-publique/publications-adm/publications-secteurs/police/statistiques-criminalite/proxenetisme_fins_commerciales.pdf?1645199855.

⁷ National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (NIMMIWG) (June 2019); Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec (CERP) (September 2019); *Rebâtir la confiance*, report of the Expert Committee for the Support of Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (December 2020); Select Committee on the Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Québec (December 2020).

⁸ M. Sinha, ed., *Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical trends* (Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 2013). and V. O'Donnell and S. Wallace, *First Nations, Métis and Inuit Women* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2011).

⁹ M. Burczycka, "Trends in Self-Reported Spousal Violence in Canada, 2014," *Family Violence in Canada?: A Statistical Profile* (2016): 3-21.

They were also more likely to report having sustained physical injuries (58% compared to 41% among non-Indigenous women) and to fear for their lives (52% compared to 31% among non-Indigenous women).¹⁰

This particularly high prevalence of violence in Indigenous communities results from several interacting factors.¹¹ Colonization and the imposition of assimilation policies suffered by Indigenous peoples, such as the residential school system, have had devastating effects on their well-being and quality of life that continue to this day. Identity and family upheavals, as well as the intergenerational trauma caused by these historical events, lead Indigenous populations to live with a higher rate of addiction, consumption, suicide and violence. Added to these factors are often precarious socio-economic conditions (poverty, insufficient and overcrowded housing, low level of education, etc.) and frequent experiences of discrimination, which accentuate their vulnerability to situations of multiple forms of violence and sexual exploitation, both in the communities and in urban settings.¹² The insufficient or lack of services offered to persons who are victims of violence in the communities and even an underdeveloped offer of culturally reassuring services in the Québec public network, while in the process of being deployed, are also obstacles to decreasing these situations of multiple forms of violence.

It is essential that in order to be culturally adapted and reassuring, the prevention of sexual, domestic and family violence in an Indigenous context, similar to intervention in this field, take into account the impacts of the past and be based on a holistic understanding of the problem of violence, which includes all those affected by it: women, men, family and community.¹³

The Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence proposes 11 actions to respond to the specific needs of First Nations and Inuit women and girls. These actions, which either include an Indigenous component or are specific to Indigenous populations, are identified by the icon **A**. Appendix 1 presents a table with all of these actions.

While not exclusively addressing Indigenous women and girls, the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence partially responds to Recommendation 2, “We call upon the Government of Québec and Indigenous governments to work with Indigenous women and girls in Québec, including members of 2SLGBTQIA communities, immediately to prepare an action plan to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people; we call upon the Québec Government to further participate in the development and implementation of a National Action Plan as outlined in Call for Justice 1.1 in the National Report” of the Québec Report of the *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.¹⁴

¹⁰ M. Sinha, ed., *Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical trends* (Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 2013).

¹¹ O. Bergeron, F. Richer I. Duguay, “La violence vécue en milieu autochtone,” *Rapport québécois sur la violence et la santé* (Québec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2018), <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/rapport-quebecois-sur-la-violence-et-la-sante/la-violence-vecue-en-milieu-autochtone>.

¹² Ministère de la Sécurité publique, *Briser le cycle – Plan d’action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la Commission spéciale sur l’exploitation sexuelle des mineurs* (2021), https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/securite-publique/publications-adm/plans-action/PL_action_ESM_MSP_2021-2026.pdf?1638460525.

¹³ Institut national de santé publique du Québec, “Contexte de vulnérabilité: Femmes autochtones,” *Trousse Média sur la violence conjugale* (2022), <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/violence-conjugale/comprendre/contextes-de-vulnerabilite/femmes-autochtones>.

¹⁴ National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, *Reclaiming Power and Place: A Supplementary Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*, Kepek-Québec (2019), https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_2_Quebec_Report-1.pdf.

Among the persons who are victims: boys, men and people of sexual and gender diversity

In the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence, the Québec government recognizes that boys, men, and people of sexual and gender diversity are also subjected to these forms of violence.

The Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence proposes to reach out to and support a wide variety of groups to better prevent and Counteract Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence, regardless of the age, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation of the victim or the perpetrator.

The fight against these forms of violence concerns the entire population. It must focus on persons who are victims, perpetrators, the personal and professional entourage of the victims and perpetrators, the general population as well as stakeholders working with victims and perpetrators, whether in the public, parapublic or community sectors.

Definitions

Despite their common roots, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment and domestic violence have their own characteristics and often call for distinct interventions and analytical frameworks. Thus, through at times common or specific actions, this strategy recognizes the importance of proposing responses adapted to the multitude of situations that persons who are victims of these different forms of violence may experience.

Sexual violence

The concept of sexual violence as used in the context of the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence refers, in particular, to the problems of sexual assault, sexual exploitation and sexual harassment, including their various manifestations. Rooted in a dynamic of power relations, exposing persons who are victims to multiple consequences and violating fundamental rights, these forms of violence have several points in common. However, this strategy takes specific aspects into account and proposes both actions that concern sexual violence in general and actions relating, in particular, to at least one of these problems.

Sexual assault

The definition of sexual assault presented in the [*Orientations gouvernementales en matière d'agression sexuelle*](#) (government orientations on sexual assault, in French only) prevails within the Québec government.

“Sexual assault is a sexual act, with or without physical contact, committed by an individual without the consent of the victim or, in some cases, and especially when children are involved, through emotional manipulation or blackmail. It is an act that subjects another person to the perpetrator’s desire through an abuse of power, the use of force or coercion, or implicit or explicit threats. Sexual assault violates the victim’s fundamental rights, including the right to physical and psychological integrity and security of the person. This definition applies regardless of the age, sex, culture, religion or sexual orientation of the victim or of the perpetrator of the assault, regardless of the type of sexual act committed or the place or life setting in which it is committed, and regardless of the relation between the victim and the perpetrator.

Among other things, the *Orientations gouvernementales en matière d'agression sexuelle* defines the guiding principles aimed at underpinning intervention in the area of sexual assault. In particular, these orientations stipulate that sexual assault is a crime, that it involves acts of power and domination over a person, that victims must be supported and that perpetrators must be held accountable.”¹⁵

The government’s definition of sexual assault is broader than the three sections of the *Criminal Code* that refer to sexual assault (simple sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon and aggravated sexual assault),

¹⁵ Gouvernement du Québec, *Orientations gouvernementales en matière d'agression sexuelle* (Québec: MSSS, 2001), <https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/fichiers/2000/00-807-1.pdf>. [Translation]

The government's definition of sexual assault is broader than the three sections of the *Criminal Code* that refer to sexual assault (simple sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon and aggravated sexual assault), and includes other sexual offences such as sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching, luring and the publication of an intimate image without consent.

Statistical portrait¹⁶

- The rate of sexual offences reported by police forces shows an upward trend of 59.9% over 10 years.
- Sexual assault continues to make up the majority of sexual offences. Sexual interference is the second most common type of sexual offence committed.
- Women and girls represent a large majority of victims of sexual assault (88.3%). They also remain the primary victims of other sexual offences (82.0%).
- The majority (54.4%) of victims of sexual assault are adults. The number of victims under the age of 18 is increasing more than that of adult victims, with respective annual increases of 9.5% and 4.3% in 2019. Victims of other sexual offences, such as sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching, luring or the publication of an intimate image without consent, are almost exclusively minors (90.8%).
- Alleged perpetrators of sexual offences are predominantly male (94.9%). In the case of several crimes, more than 9 out of 10 perpetrators are men, including voyeurism (94.7%) and invitation to sexual touching (97.0%).
- More than four out of five victims know the perpetrator (81.4%), whether they are an immediate family member (13.8%), a current or former intimate partner (18.5%) or from another type of relationship (49.1%).
- Indigenous peoples are overrepresented among victims of sexual assault. The rate of sexual assault among Indigenous peoples is almost three times that of non-Indigenous people.¹⁷
- People of sexual and gender diversity are at greater risk of experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime than those who identify as heterosexual and cisgender.¹⁸ This risk is estimated to be between 1.4 to 3 times greater.¹⁹⁻²⁰
- The rate of violent incidents, including sexual assault, perpetrated against women with disabilities aged 15 and over is three times higher than that of women without disabilities.²¹

¹⁶ Op. cit. *Criminalité au Québec – Infractions sexuelles en 2019*.

¹⁷ Statistics Canada, *Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2014* (Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada 2015), <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14241-eng.pdf?st=pjaPDLZ>.

¹⁸ "A person whose gender identity matches the sex assigned at birth." Source: Office québécois de la langue française. "Fiche terminologique: Personne cisgenre," Grand dictionnaire terminologique, 2021. https://gdt.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca/ficheOqlf.aspx?Id_Fiche=26532442. [Translation]

¹⁹ M. Dorais and M.-J. Gervais, *Documenter la problématique des violences sexuelles commises envers les personnes lesbiennes, gaies, bisexuelles et trans (LGBT)* (Québec: Université Laval, 2018), http://www.scf.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/Documents/Violences/Rapport_VS_LGBT_DORAI_2018.pdf.

²⁰ M. Dorais et al., *Après le silence: Réagir aux agressions sexuelles envers les personnes LGBT* (Québec: Presses de l'Université Laval, 2019).

²¹ Op. Cit. *Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2014*.

Sexual exploitation

According to the definition of sexual exploitation presented in the Strategy to Prevent and Counteract Sexual Violence and reiterated in the *Plan d'action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la Commission spéciale sur l'exploitation sexuelle des mineurs – Briser le cycle de l'exploitation sexuelle*, sexual exploitation is a complex problem, in particular because of the different contexts in which it can occur, e.g. prostitution, erotic massage parlours, strip clubs, and so on, and the attendant criminal activity such as procuring, human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, the purchase of sexual services, and so on. Through its numerous forms, sexual exploitation usually implies a situation, a context or a relationship in which one individual takes advantage of the vulnerability or the dependency of a person, or an unequal power relationship, in order to use the person's body for sexual purposes for their personal benefit. The benefit can be pecuniary, social or personal, such as sexual gratification, or any other form of advantage. The victims of sexual exploitation are deemed to include the victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Furthermore, it is recognized that prostitutes are at a high risk of being the victims of sexual exploitation.²²

Statistical portrait

- Research shows that more than 80% of adult prostitutes in Canada became a prostitute when they were minors and that the average age of entry into prostitution is between 14 and 15.²³
- Offences related to sexual exploitation for commercial purposes or committed against a minor rose steadily from 2015 to 2019, with a rate increase of 123.3%.²⁴⁻²⁵
- Among the four defined categories of sexual exploitation, crimes related to child pornography and the non-consensual distribution of intimate images of a minor accounted for more than half of the offences reported in 2019 (58.1%).²⁶
- Victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly female. The category of pimping and human trafficking accounts for the most, with 95.0% of female victims. As for alleged perpetrators, they are predominately men, this proportion being the highest in the category of the commodification of sexual services (96.4%).²⁷
- In cases of pimping and human trafficking offences, 35.1% of the victims considered the alleged perpetrator an intimate partner²⁸ and 58% considered them an acquaintance.²⁹

²² Gouvernement du Québec, *No to Sexual Violence – Government Strategy to Prevent and Counteract Sexual Violence 2016/2021* (Québec: Secrétariat à la condition féminine, 2016), <https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/education/publications-adm/SCF/publications/plans-strategiques/Brochure-ViolencesSexuelles-EN.pdf?1617896087>.

²³ Conseil du statut de la femme, *La prostitution: Il est temps d'agir* (Québec: Conseil du statut de la femme, 2012), <https://www.csf.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/avis-la-prostitution-il-est-temps-dagir.pdf>.

²⁴ This rise is due, among other things, to the entry into force of the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* in December 2014.

²⁵ Op. cit. *Criminalité au Québec – Exploitation sexuelle à des fins commerciales ou commise contre une personne mineure en 2019*, 13.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Op. cit. *Criminalité au Québec – Infractions sexuelles en 2019*.

²⁸ "The concept of intimate partner refers to any relationship in which the alleged perpetrator is the spouse, ex-spouse, close friend or former close friend of the victim." Source: Op. cit. *Criminalité au Québec – Infractions contre la personne commises dans un contexte conjugal en 2019*, 9. [Translation]

²⁹ Op. cit. *Criminalité au Québec – Exploitation sexuelle à des fins commerciales ou commise contre une personne mineure en 2019*.

- Studies in various countries have shown that 89% or more of female prostitutes want to leave prostitution, not continue it.³⁰
- In Canada, prostitutes are exposed to many dangers and, as a result, have a mortality rate 40 times higher than the national average.³¹
- In Canada, as in Québec, Indigenous women are among the groups identified as the main targets of human trafficking, along with immigrant and racialized women.³²

Sexual harassment

Based on the definition of psychological harassment in the workplace (which includes sexual harassment) set out in the *Act respecting labour standards*, sexual harassment can be described in terms of the following: any vexatious behaviour in the form of repeated and hostile or unwanted conduct, verbal comments, actions or gestures of a sexual nature, that affects a person's dignity or integrity and that results in a harmful environment for the person. A single instance serious misconduct can also be considered harassment if it has lasting negative consequences for the person.

Many verbal comments, gestures or actions can constitute sexual harassment. It can be non-verbal behaviour, such as insistent stares or whistles, or even verbal comments, such as sexist or lewd jokes, questions about a person's private life, unwanted advances, threats, etc. Sexual harassment can also be physical, manifesting itself in brushing, touching or other acts of a sexual nature.

Sexual harassment can be perpetrated by a person known or unknown to the victim and occur in any setting, e.g. at work, during a sports practice, at school, in public spaces (street, park, public transportation, in particular), online, etc.

By its very nature and its consequences for the persons who are victims, sexual harassment constitutes an abuse of power. It is an assault on equality and an obstacle to the full social participation of women and girls as it excludes them from common spaces.

It is important to know that the intention of the perpetrator needs not be taken into account; the experience of and consequences for the victim are the decisive elements in identifying a situation of harassment.

Although sexual harassment in itself does not constitute a criminal offence, it is nonetheless a practice prohibited by two laws, namely the [Charter of human rights and freedoms](#) (sexual harassment is recognized as a form of discriminatory harassment) and the [Act respecting labour standards](#) (sexual harassment is recognized as a form of psychological harassment in this case). In addition, certain behaviours perpetrated in a dynamic of sexual harassment can themselves be recognized as criminal offences (e.g. criminal harassment, harassing communications, sexual assault).

³⁰ Op. cit. *La prostitution : il est temps d'agir*, 108.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ricci et al., *La traite des femmes à des fins d'exploitation sexuelle: Entre le déni et l'invisibilité* (Montréal: Institut de recherches et d'études féministes, Université du Québec à Montréal, 2012).

Statistical portrait

- In public spaces, “women are the main targets of street harassment, and men are the main perpetrators.”³³
- In the last year, 38% of cisgender women report being whistled at or called out to by strangers in public places in Montréal.³⁴
- In the past year, 23% of cisgender women report having experienced rude remarks or offensive jokes of a sexual nature made by strangers in public places in Montréal, a rate that is even higher for trans people (29%) or people identifying as non-binary (37.5%).³⁵
- One-quarter (25%) of the women who participated in Statistics Canada’s *Sexual Misconduct and Gender-based Discrimination at Work, 2020* survey reported having personally been the target of sexualized behaviours in their workplace in the preceding year.³⁶
- Fifty-six percent of women who had experienced inappropriate communications, 67% of those who had been exposed to sexually explicit material, and 78% of those who had experienced unwanted touching or were offered sex mentioned that a man was behind this behaviour.³⁷
- Nearly half (47%) of women in certain male-dominated occupations (trades, transportation, machinery and related occupations) have had personal experiences of inappropriate sexualized behaviours.³⁸

Sexual violence and the education sector

Sexual violence can occur in different contexts, particularly within the education sector. Since the prevention of sexual violence among young people is a priority for the Québec government, sexuality education content has been mandatory for all elementary and secondary school students since 2018. Moreover, the revision of the Culture and Citizenship in Québec program will also take into consideration the mandatory content on sexual violence. The Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence proposes actions concerning the school environment. Legislative work underway in spring 2022, particularly with respect to the development of the role of student ombudsman, also aims to better meet the needs of young victims in the education sector.

³³ M. Blais, M. Dumerchat and A. Simard, *Faits saillants tirés du rapport de recherche: Les impacts du harcèlement de rue sur les femmes à Montréal* (Montréal: Service aux collectivités de l’Université du Québec à Montréal/Centre d’éducation et d’action des femmes, 2021).

³⁴ (to be published) I. Courcy et al., *Rapport de recherche sur le harcèlement de rue à Montréal* (Montréal: Service aux collectivités de l’UQAM/Centre d’éducation et d’action des femmes, 2022).

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ M. Burczycka, *Workers’ Experiences of Inappropriate Sexualized Behaviours, Sexual Assault and Gender-based Discrimination in the Canadian provinces, 2020* (Juristat, Catalogue no. 85-002-X, Statistics Canada, 2021).

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

Sexual violence and higher education

In recent years, several studies in both Québec and Canada have documented the high prevalence of gender-based and sexual violence in higher education, the repercussions associated with these events and the low reporting rate.

In Québec, the *Enquête sexualité, sécurité et interactions en milieu universitaire* (sexuality, safety and interaction in the university environment survey, ESSIMU)³⁹ and the *Projet intercollégial d'étude sur le consentement, l'égalité et la sexualité* (intercollegiate project for the study of consent, equality, and sexuality, PIECES)⁴⁰ revealed that more than a third of students have experienced at least one form of sexual violence in a university or college setting. Sexual violence directly affects more than a third of the college and university community (members of the student community and staff of institutions higher education) (PIECES 2020: 35.9%; ESSIMU 2016: 36.9%) and is associated with negative repercussions for those who are victims: sexual victimization, recurring thoughts or nightmares, heightened state of alertness and avoidance of situations conducive to harassment.

Action 7 of this Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence proposes to further support institutions of higher education in the implementation of the obligations under the [*Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in higher education institutions* \(CQLR, c. P-22.1\)](#).

Domestic violence

The concept of domestic violence presented in the [*Politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale : prévenir, dépister et contrer la violence conjugale*](#) (policy on intervention in the matter of domestic violence: preventing, detecting and counteracting domestic violence, in French only) remains at the core of government commitments.

“Domestic violence is characterized by a series of repetitive actions, which generally occur in an upward trend. Specialists call this progression the “escalation of violence.” In the perpetrator, it proceeds according to a cycle defined by successive phases marked by the rise of tension, aggression, disempowerment, remission and reconciliation. These phases correspond to the victim’s fear, anger, feeling that they are responsible for the violence and, lastly, hope that the situation will improve. These phases are not always all present and do not always follow each other in this order.

Domestic violence includes psychological, verbal, physical and sexual assaults as well as acts of economic domination. It does not result from a loss of control, but rather constitutes a chosen means of dominating the other person and asserting one’s power over them. It can be experienced in a marital, extramarital or romantic relationship, and at all ages and stages of life.”⁴¹

³⁹ M. Bergeron et al., *Violences sexuelles en milieu universitaire au Québec: Rapport de recherche de l'enquête ESSIMU* (Montréal: Université du Québec à Montréal, 2016), https://chairevssmes.ugam.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/124/Rapport-ESSIMU_COMPLET.pdf.

⁴⁰ M. Bergeron et al., *Rapport de recherche de l'enquête PIECES: Violences sexuelles en milieu collégial au Québec* (Montréal: Chaire de recherche sur les violences sexistes et sexuelles en milieu d'enseignement supérieur, 2020), https://chairevssmes.ugam.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/124/PIECES_Rapport-complet_Bergeron-octobre-2020.pdf.

⁴¹ Gouvernement du Québec, *Politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale: Prévenir, dépister, contrer la violence conjugale* (Québec, 1995, 23), https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/education/publications-adm/SCF/publications/violences/Prevenir_depister_contrer_Politique_VC.pdf?1614878448.

Among First Nations and Inuit peoples, the concept of family violence is largely favoured over that of domestic violence or violence between intimate partners, insofar as it is understood that the dynamics of violence go beyond that of the domestic or intimate relationship, and that it has undeniable consequences on family and social dynamics. It is understood that family violence can certainly take place within the framework of intimate relationships, but it can also take root within extended family units, the people around the individual and the community.⁴²

It should also be noted that the concept of family violence is increasingly recognized and used in family law, particularly since the adoption of the new *Divorce Act*, which expressly introduces this concept. Specifically, family violence includes in particular any form of violence occurring in a family context, by one family member toward another to which a child may be exposed, or by a family member toward a child. Family violence is a particularly important factor when assessing decisions that must be made in the best interests of children.

Statistical portrait

- According to statistics reported by police forces, the last decade has seen an overall increase of 7.5% in offences against the person committed in a domestic context.⁴³
- Victims of domestic violence are mostly female (76.2%), while the alleged perpetrators of these violent offences are mostly male (77.1%).⁴⁴
- A total of 464 crimes related to homicides and attempted murders were committed in a domestic context from 2010 to 2019, which corresponds to an annual average of 33 attempted murders, 11 homicides and 2 crimes of criminal negligence.⁴⁵
- In 2019, 55.8% of violent crimes committed in a domestic context were perpetrated by the current intimate partner. This percentage is even higher for crimes related to homicides and attempted murders (82.1%).⁴⁶
- Offences of indecent or harassing communication and intimidation are almost all perpetrated by a former intimate partner (93.4%), as are criminal harassment and threats (82.1%).⁴⁷
- In 2021, 18 women lost their lives at the hands of their violent spouse or former spouse in Québec. Many stakeholders have estimated that the context of the health emergency linked to the global COVID-19 pandemic was not unrelated to this increase.
- Indigenous women are at a higher risk of being victims of domestic violence and experience more severe forms of violence than non-Indigenous women. They are also overrepresented as victims of intimate partner homicide.⁴⁸

⁴² Op. cit. "La violence vécue en milieu autochtone."

⁴³ Op. cit. *Criminalité au Québec – Infractions contre la personne commises dans un contexte conjugal en 2019*.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Op. cit. "Contexte de vulnérabilité: Femmes autochtones," *Trousse Média sur la violence conjugale*.

- According to the 2014 *General Social Survey on Victimization*, homosexual and bisexual people were twice as likely as heterosexual people to report having been victims of violence in their intimate or romantic relationships in the five years preceding the survey.⁴⁹

Counteracting stereotypes and promoting egalitarian relationships

Sexual and gender stereotypes lead to judgements or expectations that differ based on a person's presumed gender. They influence the ties and relationships between women and men, and promote the renewal of unequal relationships of power.

A person's emotional and romantic life is influenced by the models presented to them since childhood, starting with the family model. In films, books and songs, jealousy is often presented as proof of love, and insistence upon refusal as proof of perseverance and romanticism. Media and advertisements also distort perceptions of gender and intimate partner relationships. For example, in pornography, the models of the submissive woman and the dominant man can lead to serious consequences, such as the "glamorization" of prostitution and the normalization of violence against women.

The fight against sexual and sexist stereotypes as well as the promotion of egalitarian relationships remain the cornerstone for achieving equality between women and men and, by the same token, act to prevent sexual and domestic violence.

⁴⁹ Op. Cit. *Criminal victimization in Canada, 2014*.

Complementarity of government interventions

The actions proposed in the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence are in addition to the many actions on sexual and domestic violence taken in the past that are now integrated into the practices of government departments and organizations.

For the sake of complementarity, the actions of this strategy have been developed and will be implemented taking into consideration the other government interventions in effect with regard to these issues. Consider in particular the following:

- [Plan d'action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la commission spéciale sur l'exploitation sexuelle des mineurs – Briser le cycle de l'exploitation sexuelle](#) (in French only)
- [Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026](#) (in French only)
- [Plan d'action spécifique pour prévenir les situations à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025](#) (in French only)
- [2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence](#)
- [Programme visant la lutte contre le harcèlement psychologique ou sexuel dans les milieux de travail](#) (program to counteract psychological or sexual harassment in the workplace, in French only)

The work to develop and implement the actions of this strategy is also consistent with other broader current and future government interventions, including:

- [S'engager pour nos enfants – les premières étapes de mise en œuvre des recommandations de la Commission spéciale sur les droits des enfants et la protection de la jeunesse \(Commission Laurent\)](#) (committing to our children – the first steps in implementing the recommendations of the special commission on children's rights and youth protection [Laurent Commission], in French only)
- [2022-2027 Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Wellness of the First Nations and Inuit – Together for Future Generations](#)
- 2022-2027 [Government Strategy for Gender Equality](#)
- [Plan d'action gouvernemental en matière d'action communautaire 2022-2027 : engagés pour nos collectivités](#) (2022-2027 government action plan on community action: committed to our communities, PAGAC ,in French only)

Consultations

The foundation of the development of the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence rests upon the analysis of the Rebuilding Trust report by all government departments and organizations concerned by its recommendations. The recommendations of the Expert Committee are based on consultations with some 100 specialized organizations and online consultations with 1585 victims.

In fall 2021, the SCF, on behalf of the departments and organizations involved in the development of this strategy, also conducted [an online consultation](#) (in French only) on sexual violence. The consultation focused on issues covered less by the Rebuilding Trust report, including prevention and research needs in the area of sexual violence. A total of 268 organizations took part, mainly community organizations, but also those from the public, parapublic and research sectors.

Other work also contributed to the development of the strategy, such as that carried out by the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee of the Bureau du coroner and the [Comité de travail sur la violence faite aux femmes](#) (working committee on violence against women, in French only), coordinated by the SCF. Statutory meetings set up by the SCF during the pandemic and aimed at ensuring proper communication on current issues between organizations helping victims of domestic violence and the government, as well as the work of the MSSS and its field partners on the consolidation and development of places in shelters have also fuelled government reflection.

In 2018, the SCF coordinated a collaborative work process with organizations representing First Nations and Inuit peoples to jointly determine priorities for government action in the areas of domestic and family violence. In addition, the SCF and the SAA also established the Comité femmes autochtones (Indigenous women's committee) to ensure collaborative efforts between organizations representing Indigenous women and the Québec government. In particular, this committee was consulted in the context of the renewal of the *Government Strategy for Gender Equality Toward 2021* and the Strategy to Prevent and Counteract Sexual Violence. The recommendations of the *Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* and the *Final Report of the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec: listening, reconciliation and progress* were finally also taken into consideration in the development of this strategy.

In addition to the undeniable expertise of civil society partners in the areas of sexual and domestic violence, there is the expertise of government departments and organizations, which have developed concrete actions to respond to the current concerns they share regarding this violence.

Structure of the strategy and investments

The Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence contains 58 actions. Among these actions, 18 relate to sexual violence,⁵⁰ 24 relate to domestic violence and 16 address both issues at once. Among the actions that address sexual violence, 11 focus on the problem of sexual exploitation, and complement the *Plan d'action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la Commission spéciale sur l'exploitation sexuelle des mineurs – Briser le cycle de l'exploitation sexuelle*.

The Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence brings together 18 government departments and organizations that have worked jointly to offer a coherent response to the issues it addresses, thus releasing \$324.9 million in new confirmed credits in the 2022-2023 Québec budget⁵¹ and \$137.5 million in self-financed credits for a total of \$462.4 million over five years.

This strategy is intended to evolve over time. Considering that new specific interventions in the areas of sexual and domestic violence will continue to be developed, these new initiatives could be integrated into the strategy with a view to establishing a consistent overall vision and consolidated follow-up.

Areas of intervention and investments

The amounts are distributed according to the three areas of intervention that make up the strategy. Each of these areas are accompanied by objectives which the associated actions aim to meet:

Area of intervention 1, “Prevention, awareness and detection,” proposes seven actions in the area of sexual violence, five in domestic violence and one concerning both issues. These actions aim to:

- Continue and support efforts to raise awareness of sexual and domestic violence among persons who are victims, perpetrators, the people around them and witnesses.
- Reach and accompany a wide variety of groups and organizations in the fight against domestic violence, sexual violence, and psychological and sexual harassment.
- Ensure the prevention of violence in a romantic context and sexual violence among young people.

Total investments (new credits and self-financed credits) for Area of intervention 1 amount to \$86.14 million.

⁵⁰ It should be noted that some actions relate to sexual violence in general, while others specifically address one specific type (sexual assault, sexual exploitation or sexual harassment).

⁵¹ Among these new amounts, \$181.9 million are also allocated under the *Plan d'action gouvernemental en matière d'action communautaire 2022-2027: Engagés pour nos collectivités* (PAGAC).

Area of intervention 2, “Psychosocial, medical, legal, police and correctional interventions,” includes 4 actions in the area of sexual violence, 11 in domestic violence and 7 concerning both issues. These actions propose to:

- Improve the availability and diversity of services offered to persons who are victims and perpetrators of sexual and domestic violence throughout Québec and promote their integration.
- Support individuals who wish to leave prostitution.
- Improve the experience of persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence, including children, in the justice system and standardize legal practices.
- Increase the intervention capacities of police and correctional resources in the areas of sexual and domestic violence, particularly in the evaluation of the risk of violent acts and recidivism.

Total investments (new credits and self-financed credits) for Area of intervention 2 amount to \$370.53 million.

Area of intervention 3, “Development of knowledge, training and sharing of expertise,” presents seven actions in the area of sexual violence, eight in domestic violence and eight concerning both issues. These actions aim to:

- Ensure a coherent and continuous training offer for stakeholders from various sectors in the areas of sexual and domestic violence.
- Analyze certain current prevention and intervention practices in sexual and domestic violence with a view to proposing avenues for improvement.
- Support the development and dissemination of knowledge and data on sexual and domestic violence.
- Create opportunities for the sharing of expertise between different sectors concerned with sexual and domestic violence.

Total investments (new credits and self-financed credits) for Area of intervention 3 amount to \$5 million.

Note that \$700 000 are also allocated to the governance, monitoring and evaluation of the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence. It should also be pointed out that a significant number of actions in the areas of sexual and domestic violence are now regularly funded through the budgets of the lead departments and organizations.

Community resource funding at a glance

The government recognizes the contribution of organizations that help women who are victims of domestic violence and their children, persons who are victims of sexual violence and perpetrators of these forms of violence. Consequently, over time, it plans to increase the funding dedicated to these important networks of front-line organizations.

Community resources will receive a direct allocation of 56% of the new credits⁵² of this strategy. This funding also contributes to the objectives of PAGAC, namely that of increasing financial support for the overall mission of community organizations to promote consolidated services and sustainable interventions.

Shelters for women and children who are victims of domestic violence

The network of support centres and emergency shelters meets the needs of women who are victims of violence and their children throughout Québec, through shelter and external services. It comprises more than 100 shelters offering some 1500 places.

Second stage housing offers women and their children specialized services related to post-separation domestic violence through safe transitional housing. Thirty-five houses currently offer these services. They can accommodate 230 women and more than 170 children. More than 30 houses are in development.

Financial support for support centres and emergency shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence in Québec has recently benefited from successive increases. On the one hand, the 2021-2022 budget announced an increase of \$22.5 million over five years. On the other hand, the *Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026* have allowed for a new additional investment of \$92 million over five years for the creation or consolidation of new places in housing as well as the hiring of resources in shelters to improve external services. Thus, in 2021-2022, support centres and emergency shelters benefited from a recurring increase of \$20 million.

Under this strategy, and in accordance with the 2022-2023 Québec budget, \$138.3 million has been allocated to community resources specializing in domestic violence, in particular to support centres, emergency shelters and second stage housing services for the next five years (Actions 14, 15 and 16).

In 2021-2022, organizations offering shelter for women who have experienced abuse or who are in difficulty as well as the three provincial groups obtained financial support of \$125.2 million⁵³ from the MSSS. By the end of the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence, the MSSS will have increased recurring annual funding for shelters by \$76.1 million since 2019-2020 through this strategy, the *Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026*, the *Plan d'action spécifique pour prévenir les situations à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025* and the *2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence*.

⁵² \$181.9 million for community organizations out of the \$324.9 million in new credits.

⁵³ Data as of January 31, 2022.

Support organizations for spouses demonstrating violent behaviour

The MSSS provides funding to 36 community organizations in Québec offering an assistance program for spouses who demonstrate violent behaviour. Funding for these organizations in 2021-2022 was \$17.8 million, taking into account recent investments.

The 2020-2021 budget announced an increase in financial support for these organizations by \$5 million over five years. This increase falls under the *Plan d'action spécifique pour prévenir les situations de violence conjugale à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025* (2020-2025 specific action plan to prevent situations of domestic violence at high-risk of danger and increase the safety of victims).

The *Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026* have provided additional financial support in the amount of \$19.8 million over five years to organizations helping men who demonstrate violent behaviour in a domestic or family context.

In the wake of the 2022-2023 Québec budget, \$18.6 million will be provided over five years under this strategy to increase funding for organizations helping men who demonstrate violent behaviour (Action 22).

Support organizations for victims of sexual assault

In 2020-2021, financial support from the MSSS for organizations working with victims of sexual assault increased by \$7.8 million and was allocated to 48 resources to improve access to assistance and follow-up services, thus raising the total support granted to \$22.8 million.

Under this strategy and following the 2022-2023 Québec budget, organizations that help victims of sexual assault, including the Centres d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel, will be granted \$16 million by the MSSS by 2026-2027 for additional resources to carry out their mission (Action 20).

In addition, an envelope of \$9 million administered by the SCF will make it possible for these organizations to continue the deployment of the *Empreinte – Agir ensemble contre les agressions à caractère sexuel* program (Action 4).

Child abuse prevention organizations

Moreover, from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021, financial support for ESPACE-type organizations working to prevent violence against children, particularly sexual assault, was increased by \$2.5 million by the MSSS.

Support organizations for perpetrators of sexual assault

The MSSS increased their financial support to organizations offering assistance services to perpetrators of sexual violence by \$1.4 million in 2020-2021 for the consolidation of their support, evaluation, treatment and maintenance services.

Funding in 2021-2022 for the group and the nine organizations recognized and supported by the support program for community organizations, present in nine regions, represented an envelope of \$5.5 million.⁵⁴

Support organizations for victims of sexual exploitation

As part of the *Plan d'action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la commission spéciale sur l'exploitation sexuelle des mineurs – Briser le cycle de l'exploitation sexuelle*, the MSP, in collaboration with the SCF, the MSSS and the MTESS, will establish a program to support the overall mission of community organizations with recognized expertise and know-how in the area of sexual exploitation.

This program will make it possible to increase the sums already granted to these organizations and support their current activities. This financial support should also make it possible to ensure long-term support for the programs and services offered by these organizations, as well as the underlying partnerships.

⁵⁴ Data as of January 31, 2022.

Actions

Area of intervention 1 – Prevention, awareness and detection

Objectives

- Continue and support efforts to raise awareness of sexual and domestic violence among persons who are victims, perpetrators, the people around them and witnesses.
- Reach and accompany a wide variety of groups and organizations in the fight against domestic violence, sexual violence, and psychological and sexual harassment.
- Ensure the prevention of violence in a romantic context and sexual violence among young people.

1. Mount campaigns and support activities that raise awareness of sexual and domestic violence, making sure that they are tailored to the realities of certain groups and that some address perpetrators directly.

Plans have been made for government campaigns and to support awareness-raising initiatives arising from the field that take into account persistent or emerging issues and challenges related to sexual and domestic violence. Particular attention will be paid to initiatives relating to people of sexual and gender diversity. Different means will be used depending on the sectors and clientele to be prioritized, for example, traditional media, websites, social media, paper or digital tools and awareness-raising workshops.

Coordinator: SCF

Collaborators: All departments and organizations (from the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence)

Recommendations concerned:⁵⁵ 184, 185

2. Pursue prevention and improve the support and guidance provided to schools and centres with regard to sexual violence.

The prevention of sexual violence in schools and adult education and vocational training centres is fundamental to ensuring a healthy and safe environment for students, thus contributing to their well-being and educational success. The particularity of this form of violence and the issues it raises require taking into consideration the specific situation of the institutions. To do so, procedures ensuring the prevention of sexual violence and the support of school staff working with students (victims, witnesses or perpetrators) will be formally included in the anti-bullying and anti-violence plans of educational institutions. To this end, the MEQ will offer targeted support and guidance to the school network, namely through regional support officers and persons responsible for sexuality education.

Coordinator: MEQ

Recommendation concerned: 6

⁵⁵ Government departments and organizations were asked to identify the recommendation(s) of the Rebuilding Trust report that were concerned by each of the actions under their responsibility, whether their intervention fully or partially addresses them.

3. Develop an educational tool in sexuality education to present content on the prevention of violence in a romantic context.

An educational tool in sexuality education will be developed to present content on the prevention of violence in a romantic context. This tool will offer more specific details on the content and a template for presenting the content to secondary school students. Developed by the MEQ in accordance with ministerial orientations, it will be offered to school staff members who can either use it in its entirety or improve upon it according to student needs.

Coordinator: MEQ

Recommendation concerned: 183

4. Support initiatives aimed at raising awareness of sexual violence among secondary school students, including the deployment of the *Empreinte – Agir ensemble contre les agressions à caractère sexuel* program.

Support will be provided for prevention initiatives led by organizations helping victims of sexual assault. The main initiative concerned is the *Empreinte – Agir ensemble contre les agressions à caractère sexuel* program. This is a sexual assault prevention program for secondary school students, their parents and school staff. The objective of the program is to reduce social tolerance toward different forms of sexual violence. The program will be updated and its deployment extended to other regions of Québec. Work aimed at adapting the program to different populations (e.g. young people in special education) will also be initiated. Recurrent financial support will be offered to support these initiatives.

Coordinator: SCF

Collaborators: MEQ, MES, MSSS, SAJ

5. Support projects to raise awareness of violence in romantic relationships among young people.

New or existing field initiatives adapted to young people (from preadolescence to early adulthood) will be deployed to prevent and counteract violence in romantic relationships. In its first report, the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee recommends the promotion of egalitarian relationships in couple relationships among young people as a tool for preventing this form of violence. It is also important to help young people recognize violence in everyday intimate or romantic relationships, and encourage them to react as witnesses to a situation of violence.

Coordinator: SCF

Collaborators: MEQ, SAJ

6. Renew the [SportBienEtre.ca](https://sportbienetre.ca) web platform, namely by adding one or more sections on sexual violence.

The [SportBienEtre.ca](https://sportbienetre.ca) web platform brings together awareness and information tools on violence and sexual abuse intended for and adapted to the sports sector. The content of this platform will be revised and enhanced to make it more dynamic and inclusive, and to allow new concepts to be integrated and adapted to current realities. One or more sections relating specifically to sexual violence will be added.

Coordinator: MEQ

Recommendations concerned: 6, 8

7. Support institutions of higher education in carrying out their obligations under the *Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in higher education institutions*.

As part of the establishment of a new *Plan d'action pour prévenir et contrer les violences à caractère sexuel en enseignement supérieur 2022-2027* (2022-2027 action plan for preventing and counteracting sexual violence in higher education institutions), institutions of higher education will be further supported in pursuing the implementation of the obligations prescribed by the *Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in higher education institutions* (CQLR, c. P-22.1), according to the following three areas of intervention:

- Further support institutions in the prevention of sexual violence (training, awareness and organization of safe campuses).
- Maintain and enhance funding for institutions of higher education to ensure the continuity of support and guidance services for individuals, paying particular attention to those most at risk of experiencing sexual violence.
- Develop knowledge and share expertise to take better action, by continuing to support research and consultation between all stakeholders involved in the fight against sexual violence in institutions of higher education.

Coordinator: MES

Collaborator: SCF

Recommendations concerned: 140, 141

8. Develop and centralize tools to support workplaces in dealing with domestic, family or sexual violence.

In the context of the sanctioning of the *Act to modernize the occupational health and safety regime*, which sets out obligations for the employer in this regard in the *Act respecting occupational health and safety*, the CNESST, in collaboration with specialized partners, will make various tools available to support workplaces in their management of domestic violence occurring in the workplace. Awareness-raising and information activities on domestic violence, as well as the promotion of available tools, will also be carried out in various regions of Québec, in particular by prevention counsellors specializing in psychological health in the workplace.

Coordinator: CNESST

Recommendation concerned: 139

9. Set up a pilot project to offer prevention and psychosocial support services to people in the arts sector demonstrating behaviours at risk of sexual violence.

Plans are in place to establish, in the form of a pilot project, prevention and psychosocial support services for people from the arts sector demonstrating behaviours at risk of sexual violence. This service would make it possible to take action before problems arise in the arts sector. Artists' agents could be involved in the implementation of this program, considering their close relationship with the artists. This pilot project will provide inspiring learning opportunities leading to eventual broader development for various sectors and for the population as a whole.

Coordinator: MCC

Collaborator: MSSS

Recommendations concerned: 123, 128

10. Make immigrants and people from ethnocultural minorities aware of domestic violence and organizations working in the area of domestic violence aware of the realities of these individuals.

Workshops have been proposed on the prevention and awareness of domestic violence by and for immigrants and ethnocultural minorities. Workshops are also planned to raise the awareness of the realities of immigrants and people from ethnocultural minorities among public and community sector stakeholders working in the area of domestic violence. Awareness-raising video capsules will also be developed on the importance of recognizing domestic violence in order to prevent it.

Coordinator: MIFI

Collaborators: DCP, MSSS

Recommendation concerned: 4

11. Support structuring projects aimed at preventing domestic and family violence and meeting the needs of First Nations and Inuit women and girls who are victims of these forms of violence in urban areas and in the communities. A

Financial support is planned for structuring projects aimed at counteracting the domestic and family violence of which Indigenous women and girls are victims, in partnership with Indigenous organizations. The funded projects will make it possible to implement prevention, awareness-raising and intervention initiatives, by and for Indigenous peoples, aimed at counteracting domestic and family violence. Projects intended to train stakeholders could also be funded.

Coordinator: SCF

Collaborator: MSSS

Recommendation concerned: 16

12. Support the development of culturally appropriate projects on sexual, domestic and family violence for First Nations and Inuit men and the people around them. A

Financial support is planned for prevention and healing initiatives for men and the people around them in Indigenous communities with regard to sexual, domestic and family violence. This measure will make it possible to respond to the needs expressed by the partners, that is, to work in a more holistic manner on the problems of violence and healing by including men. Funded projects could include counselling offered by traditional caregivers, activities for the reappropriation of elements of intangible culture (e.g. Indigenous languages), reappropriation of history, talking and healing circles, healing stays in the community, etc.

Coordinator: SCF

Collaborator: MSSS

Recommendation concerned: 16

13. Support awareness-raising, prevention and intervention projects by and for Indigenous women and girls in the areas of sexual assault and sexual exploitation. A

Financial support is planned for prevention and intervention projects, by and for Indigenous women and girls, aimed at counteracting sexual assault and sexual exploitation. The projects supported may target prevention, awareness, education, support, the healing process, follow-up, stakeholder training, etc. Projects may address, as a priority, Indigenous women and girls who are victims of sexual violence, but also all those affected in one way or another by these problems, including stakeholders, families, communities, etc.

Coordinator: SCF

Collaborators: MSP, MSSS

Recommendation concerned: 16

Area of intervention 2 – Psychosocial, medical, legal, police and correctional interventions

Objectives

- Improve the availability and diversity of services offered to persons who are victims and perpetrators of sexual and domestic violence throughout Québec and promote their integration.
- Support individuals who wish to leave prostitution.
- Improve the experience of persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence, including children, in the justice system and standardize legal practices.
- Increase the intervention capacities of police and correctional resources in the areas of sexual and domestic violence, particularly in the evaluation of the risk of violent acts and recidivism.

Psychosocial and medical intervention component

14. Consolidate the funding of services offered in specialized resources to intervene with persons who are victims of domestic violence. **A**

A funding increase is proposed for community organizations offering specialized services in domestic violence. In recent years, these resources, in particular support centres and emergency shelters, have been in higher demand for various projects, namely rapid intervention cells, or to support professionals who wish to intervene appropriately with persons who are victims of domestic violence or their children who have been exposed to violence. The resources must also intervene with people whose situations are complex for various reasons (e.g. due to a precarious migratory status, the fact of being allophone, etc.). These interventions are often longer and require more support. Furthermore, the occupancy rates of these support centres are constantly rising, requiring more interventions, including outpatient services. Sums are planned to help consolidate and enhance the services offered in these community organizations, including Indigenous resources in urban areas and those of communities under agreement.

Coordinator: MSSS

Recommendations concerned: 1, 3, 4, 6, 16

15. Develop new domestic violence support centres and emergency shelters.

The work of the working group on the shelter capacity of domestic violence resources, bringing together groups of shelters, domestic violence respondents from the health and social services network as well as the MSSS, has highlighted the important issue of the lack of places in certain regions of Québec. It is therefore suggested that four support centres and emergency shelters for domestic violence be developed in partnership with the community network and the SHQ, particularly in the regions of Montréal, Outaouais and Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

Coordinator: MSSS

Collaborator: SHQ

Recommendations concerned: 1, 3, 6

16. Pursue the development of the network of second stage housing. **A**

The *2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence* made it possible to consolidate the network of second stage housing. New second stage housing will open in the next few years. This action aims to continue funding services in more than 30 new second stage housing projects currently under way, including 2 Indigenous houses in urban areas.

Coordinator: MSSS

Collaborator: SHQ

Recommendations concerned: 1, 3, 6, 16

17. Implement mechanisms to reduce obstacles in the development of the network of shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence, based on established priorities.

Financial support will allow for the hiring of project managers for the development of new places within the provincial groups of shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence in order to offer their expertise, support the preparation of field projects and ensure follow-up, in accordance with the provincial and regional priorities identified by the MSSS. The creation of an interdepartmental committee to weigh in on development projects will aim to ensure the optimal alignment of government stakeholders at all stages, with a view to facilitating the deployment of new places under development.

Coordinator: SCF

Collaborators: Ministère des Finances, MSSS, SHQ

Recommendation concerned: 3

18. Conduct pilot projects that integrate services in the areas of sexual violence and domestic violence, by supporting initiatives coming from the community.

It is proposed that liaison and referral mechanisms between the partners be improved and continuums of services between them be established in order to offer better support to persons who are victims, whether or not they choose to go through the legal process. This integration of services will be implemented on the basis of existing services through actions taken at the local level, in response to provincial standards for the integration of services. Pilot projects are also planned for the integration of services without a physical location and an integrated service centre bringing together several specialized partners under the same roof. In addition, initiatives aimed at integrating services in an Indigenous context are included in the *Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Wellness of the First Nations and Inuit*.

Coordinators: MJQ, MSSS

Collaborators: DCP, MSP, SCF

Recommendations concerned: 13, 14, 15

19. Support the deployment of initiatives designed to facilitate the process for individuals who wish to leave prostitution.

Support from resource persons offering assistance in leaving prostitution will continue in the five regions covered and will be extended to four new regions of Québec. The funding to be granted will consolidate field initiatives and can be maintained. Resource persons are called upon to inform and support individuals in their efforts to leave prostitution as well as promote their social reintegration. It is with this aim that support for targeted initiatives related to housing for individuals leaving prostitution will also be considered.

Coordinator: SCF

20. Consolidate the funding of organizations for victims of sexual assault.

The Rebuilding Trust report demonstrates the need to consolidate services for victims of sexual assault, including female victims and assaulted men. Resources must be available to meet the needs of persons who are victims throughout their journey, regardless of their decision to initiate legal proceedings or not. This measure aims to respond to the increase in requests for help that continues following the wave of denunciations during the #MeToo movement.

Coordinator: MSSS

Recommendation concerned: 3

21. Equip and support specialized resources in counteracting domestic violence in connection with new information and communication technologies.

It is proposed, as a pilot project, to implement activities aimed at equipping and informing organizations that provide assistance in the area of domestic violence about the problems related to information and communication technologies that can undermine victim safety. It will be a matter of supporting the development and regular updating of reference tools in addition to offering a consulting service.

Coordinator: SCF

22. Consolidate the funding of organizations that work with men who demonstrate violent behaviour in situations of domestic violence. A

Organizations offering services to men who demonstrate violent behaviour are seeing an increase in requests in the field. Intersectoral projects on domestic violence lead various partners to seek the collaboration of these organizations. In this context, increased funding will be allocated to men's organizations to consolidate the service offer and support the teams in place. Sums are also planned for communities under agreement to support services that meet their needs in terms of prevention and intervention with perpetrators of violence.

Coordinator: MSSS

Recommendation concerned: 125

23. Set aside 100 rent supplements under the Programme de supplément au loyer d'urgence et de subvention aux municipalités (emergency rent supplement and municipal grant program) for low-income women who are victims of domestic violence.

This rent supplement provides access to affordable housing (equivalent to 25% of one's income) for low-income women who are victims of domestic violence. To do this, about 100 emergency rent supplements will be reserved specifically for this clientele and distributed in the housing offices according to regional needs determined by the MSSS. In addition, with regard to the 1000 other emergency rent supplements available in all regions of Québec, low-income women who are victims of domestic violence are always given priority when applying for funds, regardless of their residence and citizenship status.

Coordinator: SHQ

Recommendation concerned: 3

24. Continue to enhance the Programme d'amélioration des maisons d'hébergement (shelter improvement program).

The Programme d'amélioration des maisons d'hébergement is intended for non-profit organizations whose mission is to temporarily house women, their children and young people aged 30 or under who are victims of domestic and family violence. Therefore, it concerns shelters that require repairs or that lack the facilities essential to the pursuit of their mission.

By continuing to enhance this program, this measure makes it possible to improve the shelters being assisted, while contributing to the implementation of the *Plan d'action spécifique pour prévenir les situations de violence conjugale à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025*. Since 2019, an annual budget of \$2 million has been provided for under this program.

Coordinator: SHQ

Legal intervention component

25. Create a support office for services for persons who are victims of criminal offences.

The *Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery* provides for the establishment of a formal complaint and follow-up process with regard to the services offered to persons who are victims of criminal offences by various departments and organizations to improve respect for their rights.

The creation of a Bureau de soutien aux services aux personnes victimes d'infractions criminelles (support office for services for persons who are victims of criminal offences, BSVV) will make it possible to steer persons who are victims of criminal offences and support them, if necessary, in their complaint process with the departments and organizations concerned. The BSSV will also be able to guide the departments and organizations concerned in moving toward better practices in terms of services for persons who are victims of criminal offences and in improving respect for their rights.

Coordinator: MJQ

Recommendations concerned: 176, 177, 178, 179

26. Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence.

An increase to the number of staff within the DCPD assigned to cases involving sexual violence cases is proposed, in particular, so as to implement the recommendations of the Rebuilding Trust report. These recommendations suggest accompanying the victim, adding meetings before the day of the testimony at all stages of the process, continuously transmitting information to the victim, systematically soliciting the victim before the conclusion of a plea, ensuring the presence of dedicated prosecutors with victim support organizations and submitting requests for testimonial assistance before the date of the hearing.

Files relating to sexual violence require time, if only to give the victim all the attention and consideration that they deserve, thanks to specific expertise. The additional staff will ensure the quality of services offered to persons who are victims.

Coordinator: DCP

Recommendations concerned: 15, 28, 36, 38, 40, 50, 56, 57, 58, 59, 65, 92, 172

27. Protect persons who are victims of domestic or sexual violence through legislative changes.

Legislative amendments to the *Civil Code* are planned:

- in family matters, youth protection and any other civil matter, to allow the court to prevent an unrepresented party from carrying out the cross-examination of the victim themselves and order that a lawyer be appointed to do so
- to allow a parent, because of a situation of domestic or sexual violence committed by the other parent, to make certain decisions relating to the care and support of a child in the legal process without the consent of this other parent
- to ensure that family violence is taken into account when analyzing the best interests of the child

Coordinator: MJQ

Recommendations concerned: 7, 129, 130

28. Ensure the deployment of the Programme témoin enfant et autres témoins vulnérables (program for child witnesses and other vulnerable witnesses) across Québec, including Indigenous witnesses from a perspective of cultural safety. A

The purpose of the Programme témoin enfant et autres témoins vulnérables is to provide preparation and support adapted to the situation of vulnerable witnesses in a court case related to a criminal offence. In particular, the Programme témoin enfant will become accessible to all persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence, including adult victims. Among other things, it will make it possible to better support and accompany persons who are victims and witnesses in cases of sexual assault and sexual exploitation, and those related to domestic violence.

Coordinator: MJQ

Recommendations concerned: 6, 60, 61

29. Provide all persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence with free emergency legal advice and representation, regardless of income and in all areas of law.

A consultation service with a lawyer is offered free of charge to persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence, regardless of their income. They can benefit from four hours of legal consultation, in all areas of law related to this violence. A toll-free telephone line (1-833-REBÂTIR) and a website (Rebatir.ca) are available to person who are victims to access this service.

Emergency representation service by permanent legal aid lawyers has also been established for persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence, regardless of their income.

It is also expected that a partnership with Juripop will allow for the creation of a bank of specialized private practice lawyers from different areas of law trained to represent persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence who are not eligible for legal aid or during conflicts of interest, as well as for the development of specific training for these lawyers.

Coordinator: MJQ

Recommendations concerned: 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

30. Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account. A

The court specializing in the areas of sexual and domestic violence, in compliance with the rules of evidence and law, aims to rebuild the confidence of persons who are victims in the justice system and to offer them integrated and adapted psychosocial and legal services, right from the first contact with a police department.

Pilot projects are developed from a concerted perspective to both improve the experience of persons who are victims and better coordinate interventions and services. Thus, these projects propose a support model centred on the victim, and reorganizations in the courthouses to make them safer and more secure. They also provide for the offer of continued, basic and specialized training on the realities of sexual and domestic violence, intended for all the stakeholders likely to intervene in the specialized court. The Court of Québec is also responsible for seeing to the planning and legal organization of cases of sexual and domestic violence.

Coordinator: MJQ

Collaborators: DCP, MSP, MSSS, SAA, SCF

Recommendations concerned: 19, 69, 99, 100, 101, 102, 153, 154, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 163, 164, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172

Police and correctional intervention component

31. Gradually implement the use of electronic tracking bracelets in cases involving domestic violence.

Québec will be able to count on a new tool aimed at preventing violent crimes in a domestic context and reducing the risk of recidivism by the perpetrator of violence: the electronic tracking bracelet. Through geolocation, the electronic tracking bracelet will detect when an offender has breached a victim's minimum distance perimeter and immediately initiate a police intervention to secure the victim.

These devices will be deployed at the provincial level over the next two years. Eventually, it is expected that Québec will have nearly 500 bracelets at its disposal. The imposition of a bracelet will be decided by a judge when determining the conditions of release or as part of a sentencing measure.

It could also be imposed when a correctional measure (temporary leave or conditional release) is granted. This decision will depend on the willingness of the victim of domestic violence to benefit from the electronic tracking bracelet program.

Coordinator: MSP

Collaborators: DCP, MJQ

Recommendations concerned: 83, 84

32. Increase the number of police assigned to matters involving domestic violence and sexual violence.

Financial support will be granted to municipal police forces and the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) in order to increase the resources available to handle cases of sexual violence. The additional funding will also allow for an increase in police capacity in the area of domestic violence in regions that have not already benefited from the additional investment of \$27 million announced by the government in spring 2021 as part of the *Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026*. The initiatives to be funded must, in particular, allow the following objectives to be attained:

- better care and support for persons who are victims throughout the investigation process
- increased surveillance of individuals at high risk of recidivism and verification of compliance with the conditions imposed on perpetrators
- better coordination with the other networks of stakeholders, in particular in the health, justice, correctional services and community sectors

This financial support will make it possible to increase the capacity and quality of police interventions in the areas of sexual and domestic violence, and for new practices to emerge that can be exported to other police services in Québec. Ultimately, these new investments will add approximately 30 new staff members in the area of sexual violence within the SQ and municipal police forces and 11 staff members specializing in domestic violence in municipal police forces so as to better meet the needs of the population.

Coordinator: MSP

Recommendations concerned: 32, 34, 35, 41, 47, 57

33. Support the initiatives of Indigenous police forces with regard to support for persons who are victims of sexual violence and the supervision of perpetrators at all stages of the intervention continuum. A

Support is planned for the development, implementation and follow-up of projects by Indigenous police forces with regard to support for persons who are victims of sexual violence and the supervision of perpetrators at all stages of the intervention continuum. The projects will be co-developed and, for this purpose, Indigenous police forces will be able to count on the guidance and support of professionals from the shared support services structure of the Quebec Association of First Nation and Inuit Police Directors.

This initiative will have tangible effects on the quality of interventions by Indigenous police forces in the area of sexual violence, while allowing them to use intervention and support strategies specific to Indigenous populations that are based on local expertise and take into account the specific realities of their communities. The involvement of the shared support structure will also reduce the administrative burden of Indigenous police forces and ensure better sharing of information, expertise and best practices among them.

Coordinator: MSP

Collaborators: SAA, SCF

Recommendations concerned: 16, 19

34. Conduct a pilot project with certain police forces on the use of a structured domestic violence risk assessment tool such as the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA).

It is planned to document the use of a structured (actuarial) domestic violence risk assessment tool by certain police forces in Québec and to determine whether the use of such a tool leads to better results, in terms of predicting the risk of domestic violence and homicide, than the tools traditionally used by police forces, which are based on an unweighted assessment of the various risk factors.

The in-depth analysis that will be carried out will validate the relevance of its use by front-line police teams. The search for better results with regard to assessing the risk of violent acts or recidivism in the area of domestic violence is essential, as this assessment makes it possible to identify situations of high risk of danger and deploy a safety net around persons who are victims by directing them to services adapted to their situation.

Coordinator: MSP

Collaborators: CSF, MJQ

Recommendations concerned: 73, 77

35. Ensure the periodic updating of police practice in the area of domestic violence, including its appendices, and promote it to police forces.

By reviewing police practice in the area of domestic violence and its appendices every three years, the MSP will ensure that up-to-date guiding principles and orientations for police intervention in domestic violence are made available to all police forces. This periodic review will also allow for the development of police practices based on the recommendations of the Bureau du coroner and the observations made by the MSP's Direction de la vérification interne, des enquêtes et de l'inspection as part of its inspections of police forces. The next review of police practice in domestic violence will, in particular, make it possible to once again address certain recommendations of the Rebuilding Trust report, such as those in connection with the process of recovering the victim's personal effects from their home and cross-complaints, among others.

Since the review of a police practice is conducted by a committee of experts from organizations with relevant expertise in police intervention in domestic violence, this action promotes consultation and mobilization between key stakeholders in the area of domestic violence. It is also likely to directly impact the quality of police interventions with persons who are victims and offenders.

Coordinator: MSP

Collaborators: DCP, MJQ

Recommendations concerned: 9, 80, 94, 104, 105

Area of intervention 3 – Development of knowledge, training and sharing of expertise

Objectives

- Ensure a coherent and continuous training offer for stakeholders from various sectors in the areas of sexual and domestic violence.
- Analyze certain current prevention and intervention practices in sexual and domestic violence with a view to proposing avenues for improvement.
- Support the development and dissemination of knowledge and data on sexual and domestic violence.
- Create opportunities for the sharing of expertise between different sectors concerned with sexual and domestic violence.

36. Offer coherent and complementary bodies of work for training with regard to sexual and domestic violence that include addressing these forms of violence in Indigenous contexts and the realities faced by certain groups of people. A

The need for training for various stakeholders involved in the journey of persons who are victims is built into the foundation of the majority of the observations of the Rebuilding Trust report. It has been identified that the creation of flexible guidelines for procedures, vocabulary, definitions and content is essential. These guidelines will ensure consistency in the development and deployment of government training initiatives on domestic and sexual violence. The SCF assumes a coordination role, in collaboration with the MJQ in the context of the specialized court, in the review of existing training, the development of guidelines and the follow-up on the training offered.

Coordinator: SCF

Collaborators: CSF, DCP, MCC, MEQ, MES, MFamille, MIFI, MJQ, MSP, MSSS, MTESS, SAA

Recommendations concerned: 183, 186, 187

38. Update the knowledge of police forces on sexual and domestic violence.

Initially, it is planned to develop training for the exclusive use of police forces, in the form of a video, on the use of the checklist “Prévenir l’homicide du partenaire intime” (preventing intimate partner homicide). The training video and the facilitation guide to be produced will ensure the better use of the tool and greater uniformity in its application by all police officers in Québec. A better understanding of the dynamics of the domestic violence in question will also allow the police to adapt their interventions and provide referrals to appropriate support services for persons who are victims and perpetrators of domestic violence according to the level of risk observed.

Secondly, two days for updating knowledge on domestic and intrafamily violence and one day for updating knowledge on sexual violence will be organized in collaboration with the École nationale de police du Québec. This is an exceptional forum to showcase the innovative actions of certain police forces for the benefit of the entire police community. In addition, by engaging with researchers and community organizations, this initiative will provide an opportunity for networking and exchanges between participants, which is essential for sharing best practices and facilitating intersectoral co-operation.

Coordinator: MSP

Recommendations concerned: 33, 76, 77

39. Support and equip stakeholders in the health and social services network working with senior victims of sexual and domestic violence.

The training modules in the fight against the mistreatment of seniors that were developed by the MSSS to support stakeholders in the health and social services network in cases of mistreatment will be enhanced. The connection will be made with existing training on sexual assault and domestic violence. A section specifically covering sexual abuse could also be created to help identify and intervene more effectively in cases of sexual violence against seniors. The MIFI will collaborate in the work as an expert for the training elements relating to intercultural specificities.

Coordinator: MSSS (SA)

Collaborator: MIFI

40. Train school staff to intervene when students disclose sexual assault or problematic sexualized behaviours.

It is a matter of promoting training already available for school staff, offered by the Centre d’expertise Marie-Vincent in the context of sexuality education. This training aims to develop the level of comfort with which elementary school staff can intervene in situations of problematic sexualized behaviours and the reporting of sexual assault by students. Complementary training intended exclusively for professionals who work with students has also been developed. These training sessions will help to equip school staff to be comfortable in intervening in such situations and to expand the safety net around students in the school.

Coordinator: MEQ

Recommendation concerned: 183

41. Develop expertise on domestic violence and exposure to domestic violence for youth protection workers and increase consultation on the subject.

For domestic violence to be better detected, recognized and taken into account in the files reported or followed up on in youth protection, the content on the subject will be enhanced in the training to be offered to stakeholders. In fact, references to and connections with current initiatives could be made, such as rapid intervention cells, integration of services and the specialized court. The consolidation of the consultation mechanisms between the Direction de la protection de la jeunesse (DPJ) and the organizations involved in this area is also planned, by ensuring that the representatives of the DPJ in these situations actively representing and making decisions. These actions are in line with the those taken to implement the recommendations of the Laurent Commission and with the legislative amendments regarding exposure to domestic violence made to the *Youth Protection Act*.

Coordinator: MSSS

Recommendation concerned: 132

42. Establish online training for the staff of designated centres on medico-social intervention for persons who are victims of sexual assault.

In Québec, there are more than 80 designated centres (DC), generally hospitals, equipped to receive persons who are victims of sexual assault. The staff of DCs work the front line with persons who are victims of sexual assault. Given the delicate nature of this intervention and the considerable number of people to be trained regularly, it is proposed to develop provincial training that can be easily accessed at all times to ensure the sustainability of the expertise. This training is intended to complement the reference documents and other tools (medico-social intervention guide, medico-social and medico-legal kit forms, etc.) the update of which was undertaken as part of the Strategy to Prevent and Counteract Sexual Violence.

Coordinator: MSSS

Recommendation concerned: 183

43. Form a working committee to analyze the accessibility of services for persons who are victims of domestic violence who have disabilities and propose ways to improve.

The *2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence* enabled support centres and emergency shelters that wished to adapt their services to the realities of people living in vulnerable situations, particularly for women or their children living with disabilities.

This committee aims to analyze the adaptations made and then propose actions for continuing to improve the response to their needs, for example, with regard to home support or adapted transportation.

Coordinator: MSSS

Collaborator: OPHQ

Recommendation concerned: 4

44. Mandate the Table de concertation nationale sur l'intervention policière en violence conjugale (national table on police intervention in domestic violence) to carry out work to monitor and follow up on the conditions imposed by police officers and/or the court in cases of sexual and domestic violence.

A working subcommittee stemming from the Table de concertation nationale sur l'intervention policière en violence conjugale will be set up and will bring together all the stakeholders involved in monitoring and following up on the conditions imposed in cases of sexual and domestic violence. In particular, this initiative aims to standardize the interventions made by all the relevant stakeholders with persons who are victims and perpetrators following a breach of condition at the provincial level and, thus, to better ensure the safety of victims and prevent multiple recidivism.

Tools and training aimed at clarifying the roles and responsibilities of police teams and the preferred best practices with regard to the processing of breach of condition files will also be produced and distributed.

Coordinator: MSP

Collaborators: DCP, MJQ

Recommendations concerned: 94, 95, 96, 98

45. Create an interdepartmental working committee to assess the possibility of implementing legislative provisions aimed at achieving the objectives of *Clare's Law*.⁵⁶

It involves creating an interdepartmental working committee that will analyze the relevance and feasibility of including provisions in the Québec legislative corpus authorizing police services to disclose, proactively or on request, the personal information of a third party to their intimate partner to help this partner determine if they are at risk of domestic violence. A report presenting the committee's conclusions will be submitted to the authorities concerned at the end of the work.

Clare's Law could be an additional tool in the prevention of domestic violence in Québec. Nevertheless, its application is likely to pose challenges of an operational nature and with regard to the protection of personal information that must be rigorously analyzed to ensure informed decision-making by government authorities.

Coordinator: MSP

Collaborators: CSF, MJQ, SCF

Recommendation concerned: 106

⁵⁶ *Clare's Law* authorizes police departments to release information about the abuse history of a spouse or former spouse of a person whose safety may be at risk. This law was adopted in the United Kingdom in response to the death of Clare Wood, murdered in 2009 by her ex-husband. In recent years, some Canadian provinces have also adopted it.

47. Continue the activities of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee.

Established in 2018, the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee is a multidisciplinary committee composed of representatives from some 20 groups, institutions and government departments, whose mandate is, among other things, to identify the main findings and systemic issues related to such deaths, based on the analysis of the coroners' investigation files. After acquiring solid analytical tools, the committee published its first annual report in December 2020. It also submitted a brief to the parliamentary committee in January 2022, during the detailed study of Bill 15, *An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other legislative provisions*. It is now necessary to ensure that this work continues and to improve the resources allocated for the continuation of the Committee's activities.

The Committee's work has had a significant impact on the prevention of domestic homicides. The study of the circumstances in which certain homicides occurred in the past provides important information on the actions to be implemented before crisis situations arise to prevent their recurrence. By highlighting the shortcomings of the intervention processes in place and by suggesting courses of action to remedy them, this work contributes to better protect persons who are victims of this form of violence in Québec.

Coordinator: MSP

Collaborator: MSSS

48. Form a working committee mandated to study how cases of sexual assault and sexual harassment are handled in the workplace.

Noting the complexity and multiplicity of recourse with regard to sexual harassment in the workplace, the Labour Sector of the MTESS will set up a working group responsible for carrying out a comprehensive evaluation of the consistency and effectiveness of the recourses available to a victim of sexual assault or sexual harassment in the workplace, and studying the processing of these assaults occurring in a work context.

Coordinator: MTESS

Collaborator: CNESST

Recommendation concerned: 138

49. Design and computerize a clinical-administrative data collection sheet on the services offered in designated centres for medico-social intervention with persons who are victims of sexual assault.

This tool will collect information and draw up a portrait (provincial, regional or by designated centre) of the clientele of the designated centres; the types of assaults experienced; the tie to the perpetrator; the location of assaults; the tests, care and services offered; follow-ups carried out; and best practices, and, if necessary, make adjustments or issue guidelines to better serve this clientele that requires specialized care. Access to information is the first step toward improving knowledge and services to the population. Design work on the sheet was started as part of the Strategy to Prevent and Counteract Sexual Violence.

Coordinator: MSSS

50. Identify the procedures for setting up an anonymous, confidential provincial help and referral line for people who have committed or are at risk of committing sexual assault or domestic violence.

The Rebuilding Trust report suggests the establishment of a provincial help and referral line for people who have committed or are at risk of committing:

- A. sexual assault
- B. domestic violence

Such a resource could facilitate the journey of perpetrators of violence and minimize obstacles in accessing services. The terms of implementation of these lines will be analyzed and determined jointly with the partners concerned according to the specificities of each issue.

Coordinator: MSSS

Recommendation concerned: 128

51. Draw up a portrait of the services to be implemented by region or by local territory with regard to prevention among children and intervention with persons who are victims and perpetrators of sexual assault.

Following the #MeToo movement, recurring credits were granted for the consolidation of existing organizations that work in prevention among children and intervention with persons who are victims and perpetrators of sexual assault. However, these organizations cannot cover an entire region, given the size of the territory, and are not present in certain regions. This portrait, developed in collaboration with the public network and the community network, will make it possible to better define the issues, priorities and methods necessary for the development of new services.

Coordinator: MSSS

Recommendations concerned: 122, 123, 127

52. Produce and disseminate specific statistical portraits based on police data in the areas of sexual violence and violence committed in domestic contexts.

Statistical analyses of sexual offences and offences against the person committed in a domestic context recorded by Québec police forces will be released annually. They will make it possible to measure their evolution and present different portraits of their characteristics, in particular how they are spread out among the administrative regions. The profile of persons who are victims and alleged perpetrators, for example according to gender, age and nature of the relationship, will also be presented. These analyses will be published on the MSP website no later than June 30 of each year.

The MSP has been compiling and disseminating such statistics for several years, in various forms. However, it intends to optimize its methods by opting for more flexible dissemination methods in order to maximize the accessibility of this statistical data.

Work will also be undertaken to assess the feasibility of including in this data publications from the DCP, the MJQ, the Direction générale des services correctionnels and the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles.

Coordinator: MSP

Collaborators: DCP, MJQ

Recommendations concerned: 109, 172

53. Analyze intimate partner violence experienced by women with disabilities.

This action consists of establishing a statistical portrait of violence between intimate partners experienced by women with disabilities aged 15 and over. Using data from an existing population survey, the *Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces* (Statistics Canada 2019), the prevalence of violence between intimate partners in Québec within this population will be analyzed, as will certain characteristics of the violence experienced. The portrait will also provide statistics allowing for a comparison of the situations experienced by women with a disability and by those without a disability.

Coordinator: OPHQ

Collaborator: SCF

54. Study the recourse to restorative justice by persons who are victims or perpetrators of domestic violence.

In continuity with the *Les personnes victimes d'agressions sexuelles ou de violence conjugale face au système de justice pénale* (persons who are victims of sexual assault or domestic violence and the criminal justice system) study (CSF 2020), the CSF will conduct research on the experience of persons who are victims or perpetrators of domestic violence who make use restorative justice programs. The study will identify the benefits, risks, limits and conditions associated with this type of approach.

Coordinator: CSF

Collaborator: MJQ

Recommendation concerned: 147

55. Conduct a second population survey aimed at documenting the phenomenon of domestic violence in Québec.

The *2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence* was the opportunity to conduct, through the ISQ, the first population survey aimed at measuring the phenomenon of violence between intimate partners in Québec. To assess the evolution of the problem over time, particularly in the aftermath of a global pandemic, and to collect data that is still current, a second version of this survey is planned, six years after the first was held.

Coordinator: SCF

Collaborators: ISQ, MES, MJQ, MSP, MSSS

56. Advance knowledge of sexual violence experienced by female tenants and boarders.

A study on the sexual violence experienced by female tenants and boarders will be conducted to demystify the problem, assess its prevalence and identify the various elements that define it (players involved, type of violence suffered, contexts in which it occurs, etc.). The dissemination of knowledge

will involve, in particular, an information and awareness-raising campaign aimed at the housing and accommodations sector as well as the general population.

Coordinator: SCF

Collaborator: SHQ

57. Establish a reference framework for supervising intervention practices with male perpetrators of domestic violence, focusing on accountability.

The study of best practices and programs that intervene with men who demonstrate violent behaviour and that focus on accountability will allow for the development of a related reference framework. The evaluation or monitoring processes for reporting on the effectiveness of these programs will also be analyzed. This work will be carried out in collaboration with organizations specializing in intervention with perpetrators of domestic violence.

Coordinator: MSSS

Collaborator: MSP

Recommendations concerned: 120, 121

58. Work with Indigenous partners to promote the sharing of expertise in intervention with men who demonstrate violent behaviour in the context of domestic and family violence within organizations wishing to develop these specific services. A

The presence of specific services to help men who commit domestic and family violence is not equal across all regions of Québec. Collaborative work between partners from the health and social services network and organizations in Nunavik, the health region of the Cree Territory of James Bay and the Naskapi community will be carried out to promote the development of specific expertise in the field of intervention with men who demonstrate violent behaviour and to assess the needs in this area while respecting the autonomy of these territories.

Coordinator: MSSS

Collaborator: SCF

Recommendation concerned: 125

59. Promote collaboration among organizations that help persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence and organizations that support groups of people living in contexts of vulnerability to these forms of violence.

The creation of opportunities for discussion between organizations helping persons who are victims (of sexual assault, sexual exploitation and domestic violence) and those who intervene with various population groups is proposed, illustrating the diversity of realities in the face of these forms of violence.

These events, which could take the form of symposiums or forums, would allow the organizations to become more familiar with each other, to establish connections and to discuss the realities experienced in their different environments. At least three events are planned for the duration of the Strategy.

Coordinator: SCF

60. Collaborate with the Regroupement des intervenants en matière d'agression sexuelle (sexual assault stakeholders group, RIMAS) to find and implement lasting solutions to attract and retain staff working with sexual perpetrators.

RIMAS represents various stakeholders from all areas involved in the processes of assessing and intervening with minor and adult perpetrators of sexual offences in Québec. The issue of human resources of particular importance in this sector, given the scarcity of specialized resources for this problem. This measure focuses on joint efforts to allow for the attraction and retention of staff and, consequently, more services as well as reduced waiting lists and pressure for the staff involved.

Coordinator: MSSS

Governance, follow-up and evaluation

Coordination

The Rebuilding Trust report highlights the importance of strengthening the connections between the initiatives implemented by government departments and organizations in the areas of sexual and domestic violence. Increased coordination of government action will be facilitated by consolidating and expanding the role of the SCF as coordinator of government action on sexual and domestic violence. Its role and responsibilities will be intensified as part of the implementation of the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence, in keeping with the vision of the Rebuilding Trust report. The creation of the Direction de la lutte à la violence sexuelle et à la violence conjugale (department for the fight against sexual and domestic violence) within the SCF is a first step aimed at formalizing and strengthening this role. This new department is responsible for ensuring the implementation and consistency of government commitments in the areas of sexual violence, domestic violence and violence against women in general. In particular, it will play a pivotal role at the interdepartmental level and with regard to the connections to be pursued with partners in the field, such as groups of shelters or organizations working with persons who are victims.

The coordination role of the SCF will also continue through the various forums for exchange between partners that it facilitates. The SCF heads the Comité de travail sur la violence conjugale (working committee on domestic violence), bringing together, in a place for mutual sharing at the provincial level, non-governmental organizations, representatives of the research community as well as members of the government involved in counteracting domestic violence.

Note also the establishment in 2021 by certain departments and organizations of partnership consultation structures on violence related to the implementation of targeted actions, which also complement the work of the Comité de travail en violence conjugale, namely:

- the Table nationale sur l'intervention policière en violence conjugale (national roundtable on police intervention in domestic violence)
- the Table nationale de consultation sur la mise en place du projet pilote de tribunal spécialisé en matière de violence sexuelle et de violence conjugale (national consultation table on the implementation of the pilot project for a specialized court in the areas of sexual and domestic violence)

Consultation

Interdepartmental

The Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence brings together 18 government departments and organizations that have contributed, by means of their mission and their respective expertise, to its development. The departments and organizations identified as being responsible for implementing actions ensure the fulfilment and follow-up of their commitments. For their part, the departments and organizations registered as collaborators solicit their expertise to contribute to the realization of these actions.

In order to ensure effective, transparent government leadership that promotes the sharing of expertise, the SCF will once again handle the coordination of government consultation mechanisms, including interdepartmental committees. This governance structure includes three interdepartmental committees on sexual and domestic violence, more specifically one committee at the associate deputy minister or assistant deputy minister level, one at the director level and one at the professional level. These three committees include people responsible for Indigenous issues in the government departments and organizations concerned.

The Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence proposes the implementation of innovative structuring initiatives for which interdepartmental connections are essential. It is in this vein that specific interdepartmental work is also being carried out, in particular by the MJQ with regard to establishing a specialized court and jointly with the MSSS for the integration of services in areas of sexual and domestic violence.

Partnership

Meeting the Strategy's objectives also depends on the collaboration of various public, parapublic and community partners. In addition to supporting the government during the development of the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence, the partners will be involved during its implementation, whether to carry out initiatives in the field, or to share their expertise and participate in reflection activities with various authorities.

In this sense, this Strategy also makes it possible to establish new consultation mechanisms between government departments and organizations and community partners, namely:

- A committee composed of the SCF, other government partners, in particular the MSSS, the three provincial groups of women's shelters, SOS violence conjugale and *À cœur d'hommes*, proposing frequent meetings and a flexible mode of operation, which aims to take stock of housing issues and other elements relating to actions in the area of domestic violence. This select committee, under the coordination of the SCF and the function of which was tested during the context of the pandemic, is complementary to the Comité de travail sur la violence conjugale.

Implementation follow-up and evaluation

The SCF will ensure the implementation of an effective and transparent monitoring and evaluation process for the Strategy, with a view to continuous improvement. This Strategy will therefore be accompanied by an evaluation framework that will meet the requirements formulated by the Conseil du trésor in this regard. This framework will allow for the implementation of the Strategy's actions to be monitored and, ultimately, the results to be measured. It will also make it possible to assess the governance of the strategy. As departments and organizations are responsible for the actions listed therein, they guarantee the accuracy of the information provided. To better promote the government's achievements in the areas of sexual and domestic violence, and to encourage the dissemination of information between the government and civil society, a document reporting on the implementation of the Strategy's actions will also be published annually. This Strategy can be enhanced through the implementation of new actions, which would be integrated into the various reports to be produced.

Some initiatives may be the subject of specific evaluations. These mechanisms will allow practices to be updated, if necessary, and will promote their deployment and implementation. For this purpose, evaluation mandates will be carried out, in particular as part of the pilot projects for a court specializing in the areas of sexual and domestic violence, the projects of resource persons with regard to leaving prostitution and the projects of rapid intervention cells to ensure a safety net around the persons who are victims of domestic violence and the people around them. The government departments and organizations concerned, as the parties responsible for the actions, see to their evaluation.

The consolidation and formalization of the SCF's role in coordinating government action on sexual and domestic violence partially responds to recommendations 189 and 190 of the Rebuilding Trust report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Indigenous actions A

Action	Area of intervention	Coordinator(s)	Collaborator(s)
11. Support structuring projects aimed at preventing domestic and family violence and meeting the needs of First Nations and Inuit women and girls who are victims of these forms of violence in urban areas and in the communities.	1	SCF	MSSS
12. Support the development of culturally appropriate projects on sexual, domestic and family violence for First Nations and Inuit men and the people around them.	1	SCF	MSSS
13. Support awareness-raising, prevention and intervention projects by and for Indigenous women and girls in the areas of sexual assault and sexual exploitation.	1	SCF	MSP, MSSS
14. Consolidate the funding of services offered in specialized resources to intervene with persons who are victims of domestic violence.	2	MSSS	
16. Pursue the development of the network of second stage housing.	2	MSSS	SHQ
22. Consolidate the funding of organizations that work with men who demonstrate violent behaviour in situations of domestic violence.	2	MSSS	
28. Ensure the deployment of the Programme témoin enfant et autres témoins vulnérables (program for child witnesses and other vulnerable witnesses) across Québec, including Indigenous witnesses from a perspective of cultural safety.	2	MJQ	
30. Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.	2	MJQ	DCPP, MSP, MSSS, SAA, SCF
33. Support the initiatives of Indigenous police forces with regard to support for persons who are victims of sexual violence and the supervision of perpetrators at all stages of the intervention continuum.	2	MSP	SAA, SCF
36. Offer coherent and complementary bodies of work for training with regard to sexual and domestic violence that include addressing these forms of violence in Indigenous contexts and the realities faced by certain groups of people.	3	SCF	
56. Work with Indigenous partners to promote the sharing of expertise in intervention with men who demonstrate violent behaviour in the context of domestic and family violence within organizations wishing to develop these specific services.	3	MSSS	SCF

Appendix 2 – The Rebuilding Trust report and its 190 recommendations

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
1. Provide victims of sexual assault and domestic violence with psychosocial and/or legal support from the moment they disclose the violence they have been subjected to, regardless of whether they decide to report the crime to the police or not.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 14, “Consolidate the funding of services offered in specialized resources to intervene with persons who are victims of domestic violence,” Action 15, “Develop new domestic violence support centres and emergency shelters” and Action 16, “Pursue the development of the network of second stage housing.” Actions that respond to this recommendation are carried out on an ongoing basis, and responses to the other recommendations of the Rebuilding Trust report also contribute to the follow-up on this first recommendation. These include responses to recommendations regarding the specialized court, the Programme témoin enfant (child witness program), emergency financial assistance, the bill on family law reform and the <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> .	MJQ, MSSS
2. Ensure that victims receive ongoing psychosocial and/or legal support throughout the legal proceedings.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The Crime Victims Assistance Centres (CAVAC) offer services to persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence. In 2019, the CAVAC Network welcomed 17 liaison and information officers for persons who are victims of sexual violence who act as specialized resource persons for this clientele and for stakeholders. Actions that respond to this recommendation are carried out on an ongoing basis and the responses to the other recommendations of the <i>Rebuilding Trust</i> report also contribute to the response to this recommendation. Note, in particular, the responses to recommendations regarding the specialized court, the Programme témoin enfant (child witness program), emergency financial assistance, the bill on family law reform and the <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> . In addition, the funding granted for the mission by the MSSS to community organizations that help persons who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence covers, in particular, psychosocial support during legal proceedings.	MJQ, MSSS

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
3. Allot sufficient funding to victim services agencies to enable them to reduce waiting lists and improve psychosocial and/or legal support services across Québec.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counteract Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 14, “Consolidate the funding of services offered in specialized resources to intervene with persons who are victims of domestic violence,” Action 15, “Develop new domestic violence support centres and emergency shelters,” Action 16, “Pursue the development of the network of second stage housing,” Action 17, “Implement mechanisms to reduce obstacles in the development of the network of shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence, based on established priorities,” Action 20, “Consolidate the funding of organizations for victims of sexual assault” and Action 23, “Set aside 100 rent supplements under the Programme de supplément au loyer d’urgence et de subvention aux municipalités (emergency rent supplement and municipal grant program) for low-income women who are victims of domestic violence.” In addition to the 100 reserved units, victims of domestic violence are also prioritized in the allocation of the other 1000 emergency rent supplements. The Centre d’expertise Marie-Vincent also obtained a grant to reduce its waiting list and to carry out a digital platform project for online training.	MJQ, MSSS, SHQ
4. Improve and customize psychosocial and/or legal support services and extend them to victims belonging to minority groups, particularly members of the LGBTQ+ community, sexually abused men, non-status people, members of ethnocultural communities, new immigrants, people who speak neither French nor English, people living in remote or rural areas, people with disabilities, senior women and persons in situations of prostitution.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 10 “Make immigrants and people from ethnocultural minorities aware of domestic violence and organizations working in the area of domestic violence of the realities of these people,” Action 14, “Consolidate the funding of services offered in specialized resources to intervene with persons who are victims of domestic violence” and Action 42, “Form a working committee to analyze the accessibility of services for persons who are victims of domestic violence who have disabilities and propose ways to improve.”	MIFI, MSSS
5. Expand the information provided to new immigrants to Québec to include their fundamental rights, the judicial process in Québec, sex crimes domestic violence crimes.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	A pilot project aimed at supporting organizations that help immigrant women and counter violence against them was announced in October 2021. As part of this project, 15 organizations will ensure the presence of intercultural community workers in the regions of Québec. The <i>Government Strategy for Gender Equality Toward 2021</i> proposed Action 1.2.2, “Make information on gender equality available to newcomers to Québec.”	MIFI, SCF

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
6. Further develop support services for minors who are exposed to domestic violence or are victims of sex crimes.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 2 “Pursue prevention and improve the support and guidance provided to schools and centres with regard to sexual violence,” Action 6, “Renew the SportBienEtre.ca web platform, namely by adding one or more sections on sexual violence,” Action 14, “Consolidate the funding of services offered in specialized resources to intervene with persons who are victims of domestic violence,” Action 15, “Develop new domestic violence support centres and emergency shelters,” Action 16, “Pursue the development of the network of second stage housing” and Action 28, “Ensure the deployment of the Programme témoin enfant et autres témoins vulnérables (program for child witnesses and other vulnerable witnesses) across Québec, including Indigenous witnesses from a perspective of cultural safety.”	MEQ, MJQ, MSSS
7. Adopt a directive to enable a minor to receive support services with the consent of only one parent.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 27, “Protect persons who are victims of domestic or sexual violence through legislative changes.”	MJQ, MSSS
8. Ensure that government websites that publish information about sexual assault and domestic violence are systematized and direct victims to central phone referral lines.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 6, “Renew the SportBienEtre.ca web platform, namely by adding one or more sections on sexual violence.” In addition, the Secrétariat à la communication gouvernementale coordinates the migration of government websites to Quebec.ca . The content on sexual and domestic violence produced by the various departments and organizations is updated, enhanced and gradually migrated to Quebec.ca .	MEQ, SCF
9. Harmonize police practices and victim check-in procedures at all police stations and consolidate the use of central referral lines to guide victims.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The review of police practices with regard to domestic and sexual assault was completed in spring 2021. Elements relating to check-in procedures for persons who are victims of domestic violence, namely when they report to the police station to learn about their rights or request support to recover personal effects, have been added to the police practice in the area of domestic violence. In addition, the <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> provides for Action 35, “Ensure the periodic updating of police practice in the area of domestic violence, including its appendices, and promote it to police forces.”	MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
10. Enhance the services of the domestic violence and sexual assault helplines (SOS Violence conjugale and Info-aide violence sexuelle) by providing the resources needed to ensure better listening, provide better information and referrals, and promote the helplines to raise awareness of them within the general population, particularly among victims, their families and friends, and the professionals who work with them.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 4, “Deploy new activities that will consolidate the intervention of SOS violence conjugale, e.g. a 24/7 listening, referral and chat line, including a mobile application to find out about shelter availabilities in real time, as well as an interactive project to raise young people’s awareness of healthy, egalitarian romantic relationships.” Additional grants have been awarded to support the SOS violence conjugale helpline, that is, a 24/7 listening, referral and chat line, including a mobile application to find out about shelter availabilities in real time. A grant has also been awarded to the Info-Aide violence sexuelle helpline to set up an online chat room.	MJQ
11. Evaluate the services of translators and interpreters to verify their impartiality and the quality of their training, particularly in matters of sexual assault and domestic violence, and establish a pool of accredited translators and interpreters throughout Québec and ensure that it is kept up to date.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence</i> – Action 47, “Ensure that women and girls who are immigrants or from ethnocultural minorities have tools that are adapted to their circumstances and relevant to the issues associated with domestic violence.” As part of this action, the Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (round table of organizations serving refugees and immigrants) and the Regroupement des maisons d’hébergement pour femmes (women’s shelters association) are carrying out a pilot project which should, in particular, increase equitable access to interpretation services for immigrant and refugee women and women with precarious status in the context of support centres and shelters.	MIFI, MJQ
12. Set up a special contingency fund to meet the key needs of victims of domestic violence or sexual assault in emergency situations.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Plan d’action spécifique pour prévenir les situations de violence conjugale à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025</i> (2020-2025 specific action plan to prevent high-risk domestic violence and increase victim safety) – Action 9, “Set up an emergency financial assistance program to facilitate the withdrawal from a dangerous environment, in particular for victims of domestic violence.” The <i>2016-2021 Government Strategy to Prevent and Counteract Sexual Violence</i> – Action 20, “Establish rules governing the attribution of emergency financial assistance for victims” and the reform of the <i>Indemnisation des personnes victimes d’actes criminels (crime victims compensation, IVAC) plan</i> in which the deployment of emergency financial assistance for victims of sexual and domestic violence was announced (October 2021).	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
13. Consolidate intersectoral cooperation in every region, namely to ensure that all partners attend the issue tables and to promote intersectoral initiatives.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 18, “Conduct pilot projects that integrate services in the areas of sexual violence and domestic violence, by supporting initiatives coming from the community.” The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 3, “Perpetuate and improve the funding of intersectoral rapid intervention cells in order to develop new cells in all regions.” The <i>Plan d’action spécifique pour prévenir les situations de violence conjugale à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025</i> (2020-2025 specific action plan to prevent high-risk domestic violence and increase victim safety) – Action 6, “Consolidate the rapid intervention cells that monitor individuals demonstrating violent behaviour with risk of homicide and implement new cells in six regions of Québec.” The <i>Plan d’action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la Commission spéciale sur l’exploitation sexuelle des mineurs – Briser le cycle de l’exploitation sexuelle</i> (2021-2026 government action plan in response to the recommendations of the select committee on the sexual exploitation of minors – breaking the cycle of sexual exploitation) – Action 13, “Improving the Prévention Jeunesse (youth prevention) program to include a support component for regional round tables on sexual exploitation.”	MJQ, MSP, MSSS, SCF
14. Provide financial support for initiatives to integrate services offered by the community.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 18, “Conduct pilot projects that integrate services in the areas of sexual violence and domestic violence, by supporting initiatives coming from the community.” In spring 2022, the MJQ, in collaboration with the MSSS and the SCF, worked to develop a model of integration of services without a physical location to be implemented through a few pilot projects. Consultations with departments and organizations involved as well as regional organizations are also planned. Local service integration committees will be formed in each specialized court pilot project to help coordinate the implementation of the model.	MJQ, MSSS

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
15. Implement a pilot project for an integrated service centre for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence under the supervision of the Secrétariat à la coordination et l'intégration des actions en matière de violences sexuelles et conjugales.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 18, “Conduct pilot projects that integrate services in the areas of sexual violence and domestic violence, by supporting initiatives coming from the community” and Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence.” In spring 2022, developmental work began on the integrated service centre pilot project, which will be established in the judicial district of Québec. The city of Québec is coordinating this stage of the work by forming a working committee bringing together all the partners involved as well as the MJQ and the MSSS.	MJQ, MSSS
16. Develop culturally relevant sexual assault and domestic violence services for Indigenous people living in Indigenous communities or urban environments.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 11, “Support structuring projects aimed at preventing domestic and family violence and meeting the needs of First Nations and Inuit women and girls who are victims of these forms of violence in urban areas and in the communities,” Action 12, “Support the development of culturally appropriate projects on sexual, domestic and family violence for First Nations and Inuit men and the people around them,” Action 13, “Support awareness, prevention and intervention projects by and for Indigenous women and girls in the areas of sexual assault and sexual exploitation,” Action 14, “Consolidate the funding of services offered in specialized resources to intervene with persons who are victims of domestic violence,” Action 16, “Pursue the development of the network of second stage housing” and Action 33, “Support the initiatives of Indigenous police forces with regard to support for persons who are victims of sexual violence and the supervision of perpetrators at all stages of the intervention continuum.” The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action A4 “Add staff specialized in domestic and family violence within Indigenous communities to ensure better care for the victim and increased surveillance of the offender at all stages of the intervention continuum.”	MJQ, MSP, MSSS, SCF
17. Based on specific local circumstances, formally reserve a seat for the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador and/or an organization representing Indigenous people in urban environments and/or an organization representing Inuit communities at every issue table on sexual assault and domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The MSSS, through the directors responsible for cases of domestic violence in the CISSS-CIUSSS, will invite Indigenous partner organizations from all regions to sit on the round tables to encourage their involvement.	MSSS

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
18. Offer restorative justice programs to Indigenous adult victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, both outside the formal judicial system (e.g. voluntary citizen participation or alternative measures) and as part of the passing and enforcement of the sentence. Such restorative justice programs must be related to the establishment of a specialized sexual assault and domestic violence court (see section 4.7: Establishing a specialized sexual assault and domestic violence court in an Indigenous context).	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Development of the First Nations and Inuit</i> – Action 3.2.3, “Support the community justice committees that work with adult and young offenders and in the realm of youth protection in the Aboriginal communities interested” and the announcement of support for culturally relevant outreach services to support Indigenous men and women and the people around them in their healing (June 2021).	MJQ
19. Adopt the guiding principle of cultural acknowledgement and safety required to give Indigenous people more access to the justice system, both within and outside the communities.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account” and Action 33, “Support the initiatives of Indigenous police forces with regard to support for persons who are victims of sexual violence and the supervision of perpetrators at all stages of the intervention continuum.” The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action A4 “Add staff specialized in domestic and family violence within Indigenous communities to ensure better care for the victim and increased surveillance of the offender at all stages of the intervention continuum.” In addition, since their review in 2018, DCPD guidelines now take into account the different Indigenous realities. Training for prosecutors on Indigenous realities and cultural safety was also offered in 2019. This training will also be offered at the École des poursuivants (school for prosecutors). Extensive online training to raise awareness of Indigenous realities, accessible to the entire public and parapublic sectors, was also launched in 2021. In order to promote Indigenous cultures and recognize traditional ways of healing, the <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> broadened the definition of eligible services to allow, in particular, for the reimbursement of costs related to traditional Indigenous healing services.	DCPD, MJQ, MSP
20. Ensure that Indigenous personnel is better represented, namely by employing Indigenous people in aid agencies and the justice system.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Development of the First Nations and Inuit</i> – Action 3.1.6, “Promote the hiring of the Aboriginal peoples to fill jobs related to legal services.” A campaign to promote the police profession among young Indigenous people was carried out in spring 2021.	MJQ, MSP, MSSS

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
21. Ensure that the general lines of referral lead to culturally safe services.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	An action of the 2022–2027 <i>Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Wellness of the First Nations and Inuit – Together for Future Generations</i> will touch (fully or partially) on this recommendation.	MJQ
22. Apply Jordan’s Principle to Indigenous victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> gives the Minister the possibility, under Chapter IV, of signing agreements, namely with organizations, for the provision of services, for example when the resources paid by the federal government do not allow for the rapid and close follow-up of Indigenous victims of a criminal offence.	MJQ, SAA
23. Provide all judges and prosecutors working with offenders and victims from Indigenous communities with ongoing training on topics including: • Underlying historical factors contributing to sexual assault and domestic violence in Indigenous communities: - Sociohistorical data - Impacts on living conditions of Indigenous people in the communities and in urban environments • Means of expression, non-verbal communication and body language: - Ways of relating to one another, social rules and skills that may adversely affect witnesses’ credibility • Different conceptualizations of the justice system: - Concepts of Indigenous justice	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Training for prosecutors on Indigenous realities and cultural safety was offered in 2019. This training will also be offered at École des poursuivants (school for prosecutors). Extensive online training to raise awareness of Indigenous realities, accessible to the entire public and parapublic sectors, was also launched in 2021. The MJQ is currently working with the Université du Québec à Montréal to develop training specific to justice and Indigenous issues, in collaboration in particular with representatives of the CSJ and the DCP, and of Indigenous organizations. The problem of domestic violence and sexual assault in Indigenous communities is one of the issues being addressed.	DCPP, Magistrature, MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
24. Establish a Centre intégré de services holistiques des Premières Nations et Inuits en matière d'agressions sexuelles et violence conjugale (integrated support and holistic services centre for First Nations and Inuit victims of sexual assault and domestic violence) that would function alongside the specialized sexual assault and domestic violence court.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	An action of the <i>2022–2027 Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Wellness of the First Nations and Inuit – Together for Future Generations</i> will touch (fully or partially) on this recommendation.	MJQ
25. Give all victims of sexual assault or domestic violence the right to four hours of legal aid in any area of law, at no charge and regardless of their income.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 29, “Provide all persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence with free emergency legal advice and representation, regardless of income and in all areas of law.” The Commission des services juridiques (commission of legal services), in partnership with the Juripop legal clinic, oversees the Rebuilding Trust project, which offers this service. The Act to create a court specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, assented to on November 30, 2020, provides for amendments to the Act respecting legal aid so as to make this service permanent.	MJQ
26. Give all victims the right to legal representation at no charge in cases where the accused wishes to file proof concerning their sexual past or access one of their private records being held by a third party.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 29, “Provide all persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence with free emergency legal advice and representation, regardless of income and in all areas of law.”	MJQ
27. Give victims of sexual assault or domestic violence broader access to legal aid in areas other than criminal law.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 29, “Provide all persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence with free emergency legal advice and representation, regardless of income and in all areas of law.” The Commission des services juridiques (commission of legal services), in partnership with the Juripop legal clinic, oversees the Rebuilding Trust project, which offers this service. The <i>Act to create a court specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence</i> , assented to on November 30, 2020, provides for amendments to the <i>Act respecting legal aid</i> so as to make this service permanent.	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
28. Ensure that legal aid lawyers and prosecutors from the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions are present in victim services organizations on a regular basis and in sufficient numbers to be able to meet the training needs of workers and to answer workers' and victims' questions on specific legal matters.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence” and Action 29, “Provide all persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence with free emergency legal advice and representation, regardless of income and in all areas of law.” Moreover, the CSJ already ensures a regular presence in certain victim support organizations.	DCPP, MJQ
29. Set up a section specializing in sexual assault and domestic violence cases in all legal aid offices.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 29, “Provide all persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence with free emergency legal advice and representation, regardless of income and in all areas of law.” The Commission des services juridiques (commission of legal services), in partnership with the Juripop legal clinic, oversees the Rebuilding Trust project, which offers this service.	MJQ
30. Establish a pool of lawyers specializing in sexual assault and domestic violence cases based on areas of law and keywords used by victims and ensure that it is kept up to date.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 29, “Provide all persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence with free emergency legal advice and representation, regardless of income and in all areas of law.” The Juripop legal clinic has created a pool of lawyers in all areas of law to refer victims who are not eligible for legal aid to lawyers trained in cases of sexual and domestic violence.	MJQ
31. Regardless of their field of expertise, provide all lawyers registered in the pool with relevant, continuous training in matters of sexual assault and domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 29, “Provide all persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence with free emergency legal advice and representation, regardless of income and in all areas of law.” The Juripop legal clinic has created a pool of lawyers in all areas of law to refer victims who are not eligible for legal aid to lawyers trained in cases of sexual and domestic violence. The Juripop legal clinic also has the mandate to train these lawyers in matters of sexual and domestic violence.	MJQ
32. Consolidate the investigative teams specializing in sex crimes and extend their services to all regions of Québec.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 32, “Increase the number of police assigned to matters involving domestic violence and sexual violence.” A meeting to present the report of the Expert Committee to the principal chiefs of police in Québec was held on April 28, 2021, by Judge Corte and Professor Desrosiers to introduce to them the recommendations that fall within their area of responsibility.	MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
33. Offer specialized training in domestic violence to patrol officers who, in some police services, are responsible for conducting all or part of these investigations.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 37, “Update the knowledge of police forces on sexual and domestic violence.” The <i>2018 -2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence</i> – Action 38, “Update the knowledge and tools used by police officers to ensure suitable and adapted police intervention in situations of domestic violence and to promote collaboration with organizations that help victims and abusers” and Action 39, “Development and dissemination of an information capsule on domestic violence intended for Québec police officers.”	MSP
34. Equip police services with investigative teams specializing in domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 32, “Increase the number of police assigned to matters involving domestic violence and sexual violence.” The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 6, “Add staff specialized in domestic violence in police forces and correctional services to ensure better care for the victim and increased surveillance of the offender at all stages of the intervention continuum.” Adding to police practice in domestic violence, to the role of investigative supervisor or of the alternate, depending on the reality of the police department, the responsibility to review the file as a whole and to ensure that the patrol officer has compiled all the evidence relevant to the case. This method is likely to make up for the lack of investigators specialized in domestic violence within smaller police forces (spring 2021).	MSP
35. Designate an officer in charge of handling domestic violence cases in every police station.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 32, “Increase the number of police assigned to matters involving domestic violence and sexual violence.” The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 6, “Add staff specialized in domestic violence in police forces and correctional services to ensure better care for the victim and increased surveillance of the offender at all stages of the intervention continuum” and the creation of the provincial round table on police intervention in domestic violence, for which all police services in Québec have designated a person responsible in the area of domestic violence (September 2021).	MSP
36. Consolidate the prosecution teams specializing in sex crimes and extend their services to all regions of Québec.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence.”	DCPP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
37. Set up prosecution teams specializing in domestic violence throughout the province.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 7, “Add domestic violence staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions to properly inform and better support victims from their first contact with the legal system.”	DCPP
38. Select prosecutors who specialize in domestic violence and sexual assault in accordance with their expertise and soft skills, and maintain permanent knowledge communities so that the teams can exchange information on best practices and reduce territorial disparities.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence.” The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 7, “Add domestic violence staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions to properly inform and better support victims from their first contact with the legal system.”	DCPP
39. Modify Directive VIO-1 to stipulate that prosecutors working on domestic violence cases are required to provide vertical prosecution services.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The amendment to Directive VIO-1 requiring prosecutors to apply vertical prosecution in domestic violence cases was published on December 15, 2021.	DCPP
40. Ensure that there is a sufficient number of prosecutors specializing in sexual assault and domestic violence to perform the tasks assigned to them, as well as the additional tasks resulting from the committee’s recommendations.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence” and the <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 7, “Add domestic violence staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions to properly inform and better support victims from their first contact with the legal system.”	DCPP
41. Ensure that there is a sufficient number of investigators specializing in sexual assault and domestic violence to conduct their investigations in a timely manner and carry out the required follow-up with the victims.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 32, “Increase the number of police assigned to matters involving domestic violence and sexual violence.” The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 6, “Add staff specialized in domestic violence in police forces and correctional services to ensure better care for the victim and increased surveillance of the offender at all stages of the intervention continuum.”	MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
42. Ensure that victims are able to report sexual assault or domestic violence in a safe place adapted to their needs.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation will be analyzed as part of the implementation of the pilot projects for the specialized court and for the integration of services in the areas of sexual and domestic violence.	MSP, MJQ
43. Ensure that professional workers are available during police operations and are present at all police stations across Québec.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation will be analyzed as part of the implementation of the pilot projects for the specialized court and for the integration of services in the areas of sexual and domestic violence.	MSP, MJQ
44. Systematically inform victims of sexual assault and domestic violence that their official statement to the police is part of the evidence and may be used in subsequent legal proceedings.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Additions to this effect were made during the latest review of police practices on sexual assault and domestic violence completed in spring 2021.	MSP
45. With certain exceptions, require that a psychosocial worker meet with the sexual assault or domestic violence victim before the police officer takes the victim's statement.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation will be analyzed as part of the implementation of the pilot projects for the specialized court and for the integration of services in the areas of sexual and domestic violence.	MJQ, MSP, MSSS
46. Develop pre-reporting intervention protocols, in cooperation with psychosocial workers, police officers and prosecutors to avoid hindering the investigation and legal proceedings, as the case may be.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation will be analyzed as part of the implementation of the pilot projects for the specialized court and for the integration of services in the areas of sexual and domestic violence.	DCPP, MJQ, MSP, MSSS
47. Keep victims continually informed of progress on the police investigation into their case, as well as the actions and steps to come.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 32, “Increase the number of police assigned to matters involving domestic violence and sexual violence.” The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 6, “Add staff specialized in domestic violence in police forces and correctional services to ensure better care for the victim and increased surveillance of the offender at all stages of the intervention continuum.” During the review of police practice on sexual assault, which was completed in spring 2021, a mention was added stipulating that the police officer must inform the victim of how they can follow the progress of their case.	MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
48. Based on the Philadelphia model, equip all police services with permanent procedures for reviewing sexual assault complaints.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	During the review of police practice on sexual assault, which was completed in spring 2021, a consideration was added for police forces so that they adopt a process to review sexual assault complaints. However, the choice of revision model is to be made by the police force according to their organizational capacities.	MSP
49. Based on the Philadelphia model, equip all police forces with procedures for reviewing domestic violence complaints.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The responsibility of reviewing the file in its entirety and of ensuring that the patrol officer has collected all the relevant evidence for the file has been added to police practice in domestic violence, to the role of investigative supervisor or of the alternate, depending on the reality of the police department.	MSP
50. Ensure that all investigation files are open at the police investigation stage and are submitted to the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions for analysis, based on the procedural model used by the Sûreté du Québec.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence.”	DCPP, MSP
51. Modify the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions directives to stipulate that in a case where the initial prosecutor examines a sex crime file and decides not to lay charges, a second prosecutor must re-examine the entire file.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation is currently under review.	DCPP
52. Require that prosecutors have the opportunity to consult with other professionals at the permission to prosecute stage.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation is currently under review.	DCPP
53. Offer continuous training on clear communication to all prosecutors working on sexual assault and domestic violence cases.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Several training sessions, on clear communication, in particular, were offered to prosecutors in 2020-2021 and in 2021-2022. This training will also be available in 2022-2023.	DCPP
54. Ensure that all judges receive continuous training on clear communication.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation falls under the responsibility of the judicial council.	Magistrature

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
55. Modify Directive VIO-1 to stipulate the requirement and conditions for a preparatory meeting prior to legal proceedings.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Directive VIO-1 was amended in 2018, specifying that a post-authorization meeting with victims of domestic violence must take place as soon as possible after laying of charges and, in all cases, before the day of the victim's testimony.	DCPP
56. Ensure that the prosecutor meets with the victim of sexual assault and domestic violence prior to the date of testimony at every stage of the legal process.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence.”	DCPP
57. Ensure that victims of sexual assault and domestic violence are continually informed of progress on their case and of the actions and steps to come.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence,” Action 32, “Increase the number of police assigned to matters involving domestic violence and sexual violence” and the <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 6, “Add staff specialized in domestic violence in police forces and correctional services to ensure better care for the victim and increased surveillance of the offender at all stages of the intervention continuum.” Moreover, during the review of police practice on sexual assault, which was completed in spring 2021, a mention was added stipulating that the police officer must inform the victim of how they can follow the progress of their case.	DCPP, MJQ, MSP
58. Save in exceptional circumstances, ensure that prosecutors systematically communicate with victims prior to the entry of a guilty plea to keep them involved in the legal process and ascertain the repercussions of the crime and possible restitution to be sought.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence.”	DCPP
59. Clearly and systematically inform victims of sexual assault and domestic violence of the terms of the court's decision.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence.”	DCPP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
60. Throughout the province, implement a child witness program that prepares children to give testimony without addressing the facts of the case.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The 2022-2027 <i>Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 28, “Ensure the deployment of the Programme témoin enfant et autres témoins vulnérables (program for child witnesses and other vulnerable witnesses) across Québec, including Indigenous witnesses from a perspective of cultural safety.” The province-wide launch of the Programme témoin enfant et autres témoins vulnérables was announced in March 2021.	MJQ
61. Throughout the province, develop and implement a program similar to the child witness program for adult victims of sexual assault or domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The 2022-2027 <i>Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 28, “Ensure the deployment of the Programme témoin enfant et autres témoins vulnérables (program for child witnesses and other vulnerable witnesses) across Québec, including Indigenous witnesses from a perspective of cultural safety.” In spring 2022, the Programme témoin enfant et autres témoins vulnérables was adapted for adult victims of sexual and domestic violence, as well as for other individuals considered more vulnerable.	MJQ
62. Modify the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecution directives to encourage the use of section 540(7) of the <i>Criminal Code</i> , which allows the prosecutor to file the victim’s written statement at the preliminary inquiry stage.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	According to a press release issued by the DCPD and sent to prosecutors in September 2021, the TEM-7 directive already responds to the recommendation, but for the sake of clarity, subsection 540(7) <i>Criminal Code</i> was to be added to the non-exhaustive list provided for in the directive. In December 2021, a press release was issued by the DCPD to the network to indicate that the amendment had been published. Paragraph 2 of Directive TEM-7 now lists two other means of proof, namely those under subsection 540(7) and section 715.01 of the <i>Criminal Code</i> .	DCPD
63. Ensure that prosecutors offer testimonial aid measures to sexual assault and domestic violence victims and request them in court.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Subsection 9(h) of Directive VIC-1 requires prosecutors to provide testimonial aid measures to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and to request them from the court. A reminder to this effect was sent to prosecutors in fall 2021.	DCPD
64. Modify the <i>Criminal Code</i> so that judges are required to order that testimonial aid measures be provided to victims of sexual assault or domestic violence upon request, except in a case where a judge deems that this would hinder the proper administration of justice.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	A letter was sent by the Minister of Justice of Québec to the Minister of Justice of Canada to inform him of this recommendation and to invite him to examine the possibility of including it in the <i>Criminal Code</i> .	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
65. Ensure that requests for testimonial aid are submitted within a reasonable time prior to the hearing and make sure the victim is informed of the result prior to the testimony date.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence.”	DCPP
66. Make sure that when the judge informs victims of their right to be represented by a lawyer during a request for evidence of past sexual behaviour or for a record held by a third party, they also inform victims of the relevant legal aid services available.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Although this recommendation falls within the jurisdiction of the judicial council, the DCPP reminds the court of its obligation under sections 278.4(2.1) and 278.94(3) of the <i>Criminal Code</i> when requests under sections 276 or 278.1 and subsections are announced or notified on a case-by-case basis and as needed.	DCPP, Magistrature
67. In partnership with the judicial actors concerned, develop a code of conduct for the examination and cross-examination of victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	A working group was set up by the Barreau du Québec to develop a guide of best practices for the examination and cross-examination of victims of sexual and domestic violence. The MJQ is collaborating in this work. This guide was published in spring 2022.	DCPP, MJQ
68. Ensure that the first workers to come into contact with victims inform them of the restitution measure, help them document the damages they have suffered and make the prosecutor aware of them.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The CAVAC Network already offers information and assistance on the restitution order before the court of criminal jurisdiction. Work is under way to improve the sharing of information (spring 2022).	MJQ
69. Ensure that measures to minimize delays are implemented at all stages of sexual assault and domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.”	Magistrature, MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
70. Promote the violent spouse assessment program at interim release hearings and make it available throughout Québec.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 6, “Add staff specialized in domestic violence in police forces and correctional services to ensure better care for the victim and increased surveillance of the offender at all stages of the intervention continuum.” The <i>Plan d’action spécifique pour prévenir les situations de violence conjugale à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025</i> (2020-2025 specific action plan to prevent high-risk domestic violence and increase victim safety) – Action 10, “Extend the Service d’évaluation des conjoints violents au stade de la mise en liberté provisoire (violent spouse assessment service at the provisional release stage) to four additional regions” and the <i>2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence</i> – Action 35, “Introduce, in some regions of Québec, an assessment service at the temporary release stage for spouses who exhibit violent behaviour.”	MSP
71. Provide for the systematic consultation of the domestic violence victim by the officer responsible for assessing the spouse exhibiting violent behaviour.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Victims are generally already consulted by the professional responsible for the assessment of the spouse exhibiting violent behaviour. However, within the time allotted for this analysis, it is not always possible to contact the victim.	MSP
72. Fund and implement coordinated action mechanisms (crisis centres) designed to prevent homicide or serious injury resulting from domestic violence throughout Québec.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Plan d’action spécifique pour prévenir les situations de violence conjugale à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025</i> (2020-2025 specific action plan to prevent high-risk domestic violence and increase victim safety) – Action 6, “Consolidate the rapid intervention cells that monitor individuals demonstrating violent behaviour with risk of homicide and implement new cells in six regions of Québec” and <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 3, “Perpetuate and improve the funding of intersectoral rapid intervention cells in order to develop new cells in all regions.”	SCF

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
73. Identify and evaluate best practices for assessing the risk of homicide or serious injury.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 34, “Conduct a pilot project with certain police forces on the use of a structured domestic violence risk assessment tool such as the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA).” The <i>Plan d’action spécifique pour prévenir les situations de violence conjugale à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025</i> (2020-2025 specific action plan to prevent high-risk domestic violence and increase victim safety) – Action 6, “Consolidate the rapid intervention cells that monitor individuals demonstrating violent behaviour with risk of homicide and implement new cells in six regions of Québec.” The <i>2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence</i> – Action 24, “Develop a provincial training session on detecting the risk of intrafamilial and extrafamilial homicide in order to get workers and professionals in the health and social services network, in both health and other sectors, to act as sentinels.” During the last review of police practice in domestic violence, completed in spring 2021, Appendix A, “Aide-mémoire pour prévenir l’homicide du partenaire intime” (checklist for preventing intimate partner homicide) was updated. This process was carried out with the help of university researchers and in accordance with best practices and the evolution of knowledge in this area.	MJQ, MSP, MSSS, SCF
74. In collaboration with professional who specialize in dealing with victims and violent spouses, identify the best domestic violence risk assessment tools and promote their use.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Plan d’action spécifique pour prévenir les situations de violence conjugale à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025</i> (2020-2025 specific action plan to prevent high-risk domestic violence and increase victim safety) – Action 6, “Consolidate the rapid intervention cells that monitor individuals demonstrating violent behaviour with risk of homicide and implement new cells in six regions of Québec” and the <i>2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence</i> – Action 24, “Develop a provincial training session on detecting the risk of intrafamilial and extrafamilial homicide in order to get workers and professionals in the health and social services network, in both health and other sectors, to act as sentinels.”	SCF, MSSS
75. Loosen and simplify the legislative exception under Bill 180 concerning the disclosure of personal information to protect someone’s life or safety with a view to facilitating use of the exception, and ensure that it is clearly explained and understandable to frontline workers in all sectors.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	In spring 2021, the MSP produced a checklist in the form of a decision tree on the disclosure of confidential information without the consent of the person concerned for the benefit of police forces. It was distributed to all police forces in Québec in summer 2021.	MJQ, MSP, MSSS

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
76. Ensure that all professionals and workers who interact with domestic violence victims on a regular basis are offered continuous training on the risk factors for homicide or serious injury.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 37, “Update the knowledge of police forces on sexual and domestic violence.” The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 3, “Perpetuate and improve the funding of intersectoral rapid intervention cells in order to develop new cells in all regions.” The <i>Plan d’action spécifique pour prévenir les situations de violence conjugale à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025</i> (2020-2025 specific action plan to prevent high-risk domestic violence and increase victim safety) – Action 6, “Consolidate the rapid intervention cells that monitor individuals demonstrating violent behaviour with risk of homicide and implement new cells in six regions of Québec.”	MSP, MSSS, SCF
77. Ensure that police officers systematically use a tool to assess the risk of homicide or serious injury if they suspect domestic violence when handling a distress call or a request for information about a spouse or former spouse, so they can properly identify, evaluate and document the situation.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 34 “Conduct a pilot project with certain police forces on the use of a structured domestic violence risk assessment tool such as the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA)” and Action 37, “Update the knowledge of police forces on sexual and domestic violence.”	MSP
78. Ensure that police dispatchers have access to all calls, regardless of the district or police service that handled the call.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	The MSP is reflecting on the feasibility of responding to this recommendation. The variety of calling card management systems in the territory as well as the department’s limited powers in overseeing activities of the Centres secondaire d’appels d’urgence (secondary emergency call centres) are issues that could limit the power of intervention of the MSP in this regard.	MSP
79. Revise the classification of requests for action or calls so that it excludes the designation “family squabble” or “normal conduct” from domestic violence call histories.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Work is currently under way at the Sûreté du Québec to revise the classification codes in the Modules d’information policière (police information modules) related to this type of call.	MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
80. Develop and implement a province-wide protocol that, among other things, would provide for victims to be accompanied by a police officer when recovering their personal belongings.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	During the last review of police practice in domestic violence, completed in spring 2021, the committee for the review of police practice in domestic violence examined this issue as part of its work. The main elements relating to the recovery of personal belongings have now been integrated. This recommendation will be reviewed again as part of the <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 35, “Ensure the periodic updating of police practice in the area of domestic violence, including its appendices, and promote it to police forces.”	MSP
81. Ensure that in emergency situations, victims of sexual assault and domestic violence receive the necessary public services, even if they are unable to produce identification or other documentation.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	In the context of emergency financial assistance, the victim’s documents are not requested. A person who is not a Canadian citizen and who is the victim of a crime in Québec can file an application with the IVAC.	MJQ, MSSS
82. Ensure that victims can have free-of-charge access to rapid intervention tools such as emergency phones to help keep them safe.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	To benefit from financial assistance under the <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> , such as protective measures as part of social reintegration, the person who is a victim can file an application for qualification with the IVAC. These measures could be covered by immediate assistance as soon as an application for qualification is filed and before a decision is rendered. Moreover, the government has preferred to rely on other technological tools for the protection of victims of domestic violence, such as electronic tracking bracelets. In addition, the government is currently assessing the relevance of promoting the implementation of the alarm system protocol among police services in collaboration with their local partners as part of the <i>2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence</i> – Action 40 “Assess the relevance of promoting the implementation of the alarm system protocol among police departments in collaboration with their local partners.”	MJQ, MSP
83. Promote the use of other technological methods likely to improve victims’ safety and ensure that IVAC quickly and easily reimburses all related costs.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 31, “Gradually implement the use of electronic tracking bracelets in cases involving domestic violence.” The <i>2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence</i> – Action 40, “Assess the relevance of promoting the implementation of the alarm system protocol among police departments in collaboration with their local partners.” Moreover, the <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> provides for the reimbursement of certain methods of ensuring the victim’s safety, in particular alarm systems.	MJQ, MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
84. In certain situations, consider having the accused wear an electronic bracelet as a means of further protecting the victim.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 31, “Gradually implement the use of electronic tracking bracelets in cases involving domestic violence.”	MSP
85. Ensure that the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions and the Judicial Procedures Division of the City of Montréal Municipal Court remind prosecutors of the criteria to be met to replace criminal charges with a peace bond under section 810 of the <i>Criminal Code</i> .	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Training on the application of our directives, including Directive ENG-1, was offered to prosecutors of Montréal’s municipal court in 2020.	DCPP
86. Ensure that all prosecutors use statistical indicator “A” to identify files concerning commitments in matters of domestic violence under section 810 of the <i>Criminal Code</i> , as well as all violations of these commitments under section 811 of the <i>Criminal Code</i> .	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	This obligation is already contained in subsection 3 of Directive ACC-3.	DCPP
87. Ensure that police officers are aware that this new statistical indicator is being applied to commitments under <i>Criminal Code</i> sections 810 and 811 and that its purpose is to improve their actions and investigation in the event that conditions are violated.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation will be the subject of discussions between the MSP and DCPP.	MSP
88. Ensure that victims and professional workers are aware of the benefits and disadvantages of obtaining a civil protection order.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence</i> – Action 36, “Promote access to and the use of civil protection orders.” As part of the implementation of this action, a research contract was awarded to a team from Université de Montréal. Financial support was granted in 2019-2020 to Quebec Native Women for the production of information capsules for victims of sexual assault and the people around them on their rights and recourses following an assault. The issue of civil orders is one of the remedies discussed.	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
89. Ensure that police officers are aware of the binding power of a civil protection order and of the measures to be taken in bringing a charge of disobedience if the order is violated.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation will be the subject of discussions between the MSP and DCP.	MSP
90. Ensure that all prosecutors handling sexual assault or domestic violence cases consider the possibility of seeking a restraining order on behalf of the victim, even if the accused is detained.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	This obligation is already provided for in subsection 12 c) of Directive VIC-1.	DCPP
91. Ensure that the police officers and professional worker involved verify that the victim has submitted all the information required to establish the conditions governing the release of the accused, when the purpose of said conditions is to ensure the victim's safety, and that this information is recorded in the file by the police officers and made available at the bail hearing.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The MSP is of the opinion that the processes in place already respond to this recommendation.	MSP
92. Ensure that someone is put in charge of contacting victims, as soon as possible and never more than 24 hours after the accused is released, to inform them of the conditions imposed on the accused by the court.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The 2022-2027 <i>Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence.”	DCPP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
93. Promote technologically current methods of communication (i.e. text messaging, email, etc.) to ensure that victims can be contacted quickly.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Plan d'action pour contrer les impacts sur les femmes en contexte de pandémie</i> (action plan to counteract the impacts on women in the context of a pandemic) – Action 4.3, “Support organizations offering direct services primarily to women who are victims of criminal offences by funding various initiatives, namely those using new technologies.” This action made it possible to provide funding to 95 projects. The chat feature on the SOS violence conjugale website is already operational, following a daily schedule, and a grant was awarded to Info-Aide violence sexuelle to develop a similar service. The new investments will allow the organization to offer the service 24/7. Moreover, resorting to means of communication that use current technology (text messaging and email) is already common practice in some police forces. Discussion continues on how the use of current means of communication could be fostered to allow the Services correctionnels and the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles (CQLC) to contact victims.	MJQ, MSP
94. Ensure that the information concerning the conditions imposed on the accused is sent electronically to victims who have this type of communication technology.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 43, “Mandate the Table de concertation nationale sur l'intervention policière en violence conjugale (national table on police intervention in domestic violence) to carry out work to monitor and follow up on the conditions imposed by police officers and/or the court in cases of sexual and domestic violence,” and Action 35, “Ensure the periodic updating of police practice in the area of domestic violence, including its appendices, and promote it to police forces.” The guiding principles set out in police practice in matters of domestic violence and sexual assault do not specify the method of communication to be used to communicate this type of information. This aspect will be addressed in the next review of these practices. When the conditions are imposed by the CQLC, the law provides that it informs the victim. The CQLC is currently working on developing a process to oversee the sending of certain documents to victims who have requested access to the decision by secure email. Work is also under way at the MJQ to determine the best way to respond to this recommendation.	MJQ, MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
95. Clearly inform the victim of the conditions imposed on the accused and make sure the victim fully understands these conditions and knows how to report any violation of them.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The 2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust – Action 43, “Mandate the Table de concertation nationale sur l’intervention policière en violence conjugale (national table on police intervention in domestic violence) to carry out work to monitor and follow up on the conditions imposed by police officers and/or the court in cases of sexual and domestic violence.” Work is under way to determine the best way to respond to this recommendation, in particular within the framework of the specialized court. The guiding principles set out in police practice in the area of domestic violence and sexual assault already provide for the communication of information and the actions to be taken in the event that a condition is violated, in addition to providing information for re-establishing contact with the police force. When the conditions are imposed by the CQLC, the law provides that it informs the victim. The CQLC has established an agreement with the CAVACs (PRIDO) to ensure the communication of information to victims in granting files. Furthermore, the documentation it sends to victims includes the contact details of the CQLC so that they can ask their questions directly to one of its liaison officers by telephone.	MJQ, MSP
96. Provide the victim with a document (checklist) indicating the steps to be taken if the accused violates the conditions imposed by the court.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The 2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust – Action 43, “Mandate the Table de concertation nationale sur l’intervention policière en violence conjugale (national table on police intervention in domestic violence) to carry out work to monitor and follow up on the conditions imposed by police officers and/or the court in cases of sexual violence and domestic violence,” as well as reflections currently under way regarding the development of a checklist on the steps to be taken in the event the accused violates the conditions imposed on them.	MSP
97. Increase monitoring to ensure that the conditions imposed by police or the court are not being violated due to sexual assault or domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 6, “Add staff specialized in domestic violence in police forces and correctional services to ensure better care for the victim and increased surveillance of the offender at all stages of the intervention continuum.” The <i>Plan d’action spécifique pour prévenir les situations de violence conjugale à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025</i> (2020-2025 specific action plan to prevent high-risk domestic violence and increase victim safety) – Action 12, “Evaluate the relevance of extending the Programme de surveillance accrue (enhanced supervision program) to include all offenders who have received a sentence for domestic violence.”	MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
98. Mandate a working committee to examine monitoring and follow-up of the conditions imposed by police or the court, with particular focus on handling violations of the conditions cited in sexual assault and domestic violence cases.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The 2022-2027 <i>Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 43, “Mandate the Table de concertation nationale sur l’intervention policière en violence conjugale (national table on police intervention in domestic violence) to carry out work to monitor and follow up on the conditions imposed by police officers and/or the court in cases of sexual and domestic violence.”	MSP
99. In all courthouses, implement intake and counselling measures for victims to give them a sense of security.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The 2022-2027 <i>Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” As part of the work on the specialized court, the identified courthouses are making changes to reduce contact between the victim and the accused as much as possible.	MJQ
100. Ensure that the CAVAC informs the court clerk of the victims present in the building and that they are called discreetly by telephone, rather than by an intercom that can be heard throughout the courthouse.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The 2022-2027 <i>Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.”	MJQ
101. Ensure that the room reserved for victims is accessible to all aid organizations and set up to accommodate the professionals and trusted individuals who are working with and accompanying the victims.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The 2022-2027 <i>Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” As part of the work on the specialized court, service rooms for persons who are victims will be available for the various partners, namely victim support organizations.	MJQ
102. Equip all courthouses and points of service with a sufficient number of testimonial aid tools (e.g. remote testimony, screen, device for blocking the victim’s view of the accused, etc.) and rooms where the victim can provide testimony remotely.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The 2022-2027 <i>Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” The <i>Plan d’action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la Commission spéciale sur l’exploitation sexuelle des mineurs – Briser le cycle de l’exploitation sexuelle</i> (2021-2026 government action plan in response to the recommendations of the select committee on the sexual exploitation of minors – breaking the cycle of sexual exploitation) – Action 30 “Encourage the participation of victims of sexual exploitation in the legal process, in particular those who are minors, through measures to facilitate testimony.”	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
103. Ensure that training is offered to future police officers and new prosecutors to raise their awareness of the elements that will enable them to identify the victim's main aggressor and differentiate an aggressive move from a defensive one.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	The issue of cross-complaint, particularly at the legal level, will be the subject of work as part of the next review of police practice in the area of domestic violence. Only once the guidelines have been established with the DCPD will it be possible to consider training/information measures for police officers.	DCPD, MSP
104. Ensure that police practices in matters of domestic violence reflect the importance of conducting an exhaustive investigation to identify their main, dominant aggressor and require that cross-complaints be mentioned in all applications submitted to the prosecutor to institute proceedings.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 35, “Ensure the periodic updating of police practice in the area of domestic violence, including its appendices, and promote it to police forces.”	MSP
105. Establish a process for allowing cross-complaints to be submitted at the same time where possible, or allowing officers from another police service to consult the other file on the spouse involved.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 35, “Ensure the periodic updating of police practice in the area of domestic violence, including its appendices, and promote it to police forces.”	MSP
106. Consider adopting <i>Clare's Law</i> .	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 44, “Create an interdepartmental working committee to assess the possibility of implementing legislative provisions aimed at achieving the objectives of <i>Clare's Law</i> .”	MSP
107. Revise the <i>Act respecting the Québec correctional system</i> to incorporate the victims' rights and update practices in the field.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The processes in place already respond to this recommendation. The <i>Act respecting the Québec correctional system</i> already provides that victims have the right to obtain specific information concerning the release measures from which their incarcerated perpetrator could benefit, the perpetrator's final release or the fact that the perpetrator has escaped or is unlawfully at large. The Act also provides that victims may make written representations regarding their incarcerated perpetrator.	MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
108. Strengthen the mechanisms for cooperation between provincial organizations and federal victim services offices to ensure that victims are aware of the obligation to register with the Correctional Service of Canada or the Parole Board of Canada, which is required for a follow-up to be conducted when the detainee serves a prison sentence of two or more years.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The processes in place already respond to this recommendation. When persons who are victims contact the Services correctionnels du Québec by phone while their incarcerated perpetrator is under federal responsibility (Correctional Service of Canada), they are directed to the federal government's National Office for Victims. In addition, when victims send written representations or requests for information to the Services correctionnels du Québec while their incarcerated perpetrator is under federal responsibility, these documents are systematically sent to the National Office for Victims. Moreover, these practices have been in place for many years. This partnership is also bilateral.	MSP
109. Remedy the lack of data in the <i>Act respecting the Québec correctional system</i> concerning the implementation of provisions for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The 2022-2027 <i>Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 50, “Produce and disseminate specific statistical portraits based on police data in the areas of sexual violence and violence committed in domestic contexts.” In addition, the replacement of the DACOR system by the Horizon project should also allow, in the longer term, for the improvement of the data available on activities and the clientele of Québec's correctional services, both in terms of offenders and victims. Currently, in its annual management report (AMR), the CQLC publishes the number of communications made with victims and the number made by the CAVACs. It also includes the number of victims to be contacted and the number of written representations and requests for information received. The Secrétariat de la CQLC also monitors and processes complaints, all of which is published in its AMR.	MSP
110. Revise, standardize and adapt the information tools used by the Ministère de la Sécurité publique, the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles and other organizations bound by the <i>Act respecting the Québec correctional system</i> to make victims throughout Québec better aware of their rights and the obligations owed to them.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Brochures informing victims of their rights are systematically mailed to all victims through the mailing system of MJQ. In addition, this brochure is also available in all CAVAC offices. Lastly, it is available on the website of the MSP. A toll-free telephone line is also available to victims and the people who work with them. The Services correctionnels du Québec considers these measures to be sufficient. Reflection continues on the subject of revising, standardizing and adapting the tools used by the CQLC. Furthermore, the <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> adds certain obligations to any private or public organization, including that of adopting a declaration of services for persons who are victims as well as a complaint processing procedure. The Minister of Justice may also audit these organizations to monitor the performance of their obligations and, if necessary, impose corrective measures on them, including support or follow-up. This new obligation could have an impact on the dissemination of policies and directives concerning information to persons who are victims in the <i>Act respecting the Québec correctional system</i> .	MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
111. Improve and disseminate the policies and directives of the Ministère de la Sécurité publique, the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles and other organizations bound by the <i>Act respecting the Québec correctional system</i> , designed to inform victims, encourage their involvement and ensure their safety and that of their families and loved ones.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Since November 2021, a new edition of the MSP's Declaration of Services to Citizens has been posted on the Quebec.ca website. This document discusses the commitments of the MSP with regard to the information sent to victims of criminal offences in accordance with the terms set out in the <i>Act respecting the Québec correctional system</i> . In addition, reflection on improving the dissemination of CQLC policies and directives aimed at informing victims is ongoing. It should be noted that the <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> adds certain obligations to any private or public organization, including that of adopting a declaration of services for victims and a complaint processing procedure. The Minister of Justice may also audit these organizations to monitor the performance of their obligations and, if necessary, impose corrective measures on them, including support or follow-up. This new obligation could have impacts on the dissemination of policies and directives concerning information to victims in the <i>Act respecting the Québec correctional system</i> .	MSP
112. Offer specialized sexual assault and domestic violence training to professionals working with the various organizations having obligations toward victims at the sentence enforcement stage (i.e. detention facilities, probation offices and Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles).	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Plan d'action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la commission spéciale sur l'exploitation sexuelle des mineurs – Briser le cycle de l'exploitation sexuelle</i> (2021-2026 government action plan in response to the recommendations of the select committee on the sexual exploitation of minors – breaking the cycle of sexual exploitation) – Action 17, “Offer initial and follow-up training on intervention with persons who are victims of sexual exploitation for police officers and correctional service officers” and the <i>Plan d'action spécifique pour prévenir les situations de violence conjugale à haut risque de dangerosité et accroître la sécurité des victimes 2020-2025</i> (2020-2025 specific action plan to prevent high-risk domestic violence and increase victim safety) – Action 11, “Develop a specific tool for the assessment of people convicted of a domestic violence offence.” In addition, the training given by Christine Drouin, “Formation sur les situations à risque d’homicide” (training on homicide risk situations) (May-June 2022), as well as that prepared by the Regroupement des maisons d’hébergement pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale, both under the aegis of the specialized court, will be mandatory for all probation officers in districts covered by the implementation of pilot projects for the court specializing in sexual and domestic violence. These training sessions will also be given to members (by the end of 2022 – members-only session) and to liaison officers of the CQLC (May-June 2022 – intersectoral sessions by district).	MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
113. Improve the skills and training of workers from the victim services network on the rights victims may exercise under the <i>Act respecting the Québec correctional system</i> , to ensure that the workers are well equipped to advise and support the victims in the steps to be taken at the end of the legal proceedings.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	By March 2023, an information session for workers in the CAVAC Network on the rights that victims may exercise under the <i>Act respecting the Québec correctional system</i> and on the services offered by Services correctionnels du Québec will be provided. In addition, the CQLC regularly makes presentations on victim rights and on its activities to CAVAC workers as part of the PRIDO program. Training on psychosocial intervention in matters of sexual assault also took place in the health and social services network in spring 2021. In collaboration with the research community, the MJQ is developing similar training for its network. Modules will be developed on the legal aspect and could be shared with the health and social services network.	MSP, MSSS
114. Establish victim services offices within the Direction des services correctionnels du Québec and the Commission des libérations conditionnelles du Québec.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	The Service correctionnels du Québec already offers services to victims through its provincial victim line. Reflection with regard to the creation of a victim services office in the CQLC is ongoing.	MSP
115. Designate individuals to be in charge of developing policies, directives and ministerial guidelines, and evaluating programs and practices for victims of criminal acts offered by the Ministère de la Sécurité publique, the Direction des services correctionnels du Québec and the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The MSP is of the opinion that the processes in place already respond to this recommendation. There are already individuals designated for each of these roles. Furthermore, the <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> sets out obligations for any private or public organization that provides services to victims or that intervenes with them. In particular, these organizations are required to adopt a specific declaration of services for victims and complaint processing procedure. The Minister of Justice may also audit these organizations to monitor the performance of their obligations and, if necessary, impose corrective measures on them, including support or follow-up. The new obligations are added to existing obligations (e.g. a specific declaration of services).	MSP
116. Consult victim services and victims' rights organizations in developing the policies and directives of the Ministère de la Sécurité publique, the Direction des services correctionnels du Québec and the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The MSP is of the opinion that the processes in place already respond to this recommendation. In fact, specialized organizations are consulted in the development of government action plans, and the MSP takes an active part in these consultations. Consequently, the resulting measures, commitments and directives take into account the recommendations received.	MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
117. Systematically consult victims of domestic violence when evaluating offenders sentenced to serve six months or more in prison.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	By May 2022, the MSP will send a press release to the correctional services network recommending that probation officers communicate with victims to offer them the opportunity of being heard as part of the evaluation process of incarcerated individuals serving six months or more. At this time, this practice has been adopted by many professionals, but it does not constitute a legal obligation. That being said, when evaluating sentences of more than six months, the professionals consult the court files, including, in particular, the statements made by the victims (police documents and DCPD documents), which constitute an important source of information in this regard.	MSP
118. Improve the Written Submissions form to avoid duplicating the information already provided in the Witness Statement filed in court and allow victims to add new elements that may have an impact on the evaluation of the danger posed by the incarcerated individual, the development of the offender's correctional intervention plan and the decisions relating to the offender's conditional release.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	Reflection by the MSP and the CQLC on the possible improvements to be made to the Written Submissions form is ongoing.	MSP
119. Ensure that the statement concerning the consequences of the crime prepared by the victim for criminal court is systematically forwarded to the CLCQ and the Service Correctionnel du Québec.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	The response to this recommendation cannot be met at this time as it is still undergoing analysis.	MJQ
120. Draw an accurate portrait of the programs and clientele and assess the quality and effectiveness of the services offered to perpetrators of sexual assault and domestic violence, particularly in regard to re-offending.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 55, “Establish a reference framework for supervising intervention practices with male perpetrators of domestic violence, focusing on accountability.” The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 2, “Increase funding for organizations supporting men demonstrating violent behaviour to respond more quickly to needs in crisis situations and allow for the implementation of a digital application to better reach men who are reluctant to seek help.”	MSSS

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
121. Improve, support and evaluate the programs for violent spouses and see that they receive certification.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 55, “Establish a reference framework for supervising intervention practices with male perpetrators of domestic violence, focusing on accountability.” The <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 2 “Increase funding for organizations supporting men demonstrating violent behaviour to respond more quickly to needs in crisis situations and allow for the implementation of a digital application to better reach men who are reluctant to seek help.”	MSSS
122. Ensure that adequate, recurrent funding is provided to enable existing services for sex crime offenders to be extended to regions where they are not currently offered, provide faster access to services and reduce or eliminate the fees charged to recipients of such services.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 49, “Draw up a portrait of the services to be implemented by region or by local territory with regard to prevention among children and intervention with persons who are victims and perpetrators of sexual assault.”	MSSS
123. Ensure adequate funding to enable resources for sex crime offenders throughout Québec to develop services for non-adjudicated individuals who ask for help.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 9, “Set up a pilot project to offer prevention and psychosocial support services to people in the arts sector demonstrating behaviours at risk of sexual violence” and Action 49, “Draw up a portrait of the services to be implemented by region or by local territory with regard to prevention among children and intervention with persons who are victims and perpetrators of sexual assault.” Moreover, the credits granted by the <i>Plan d’action en santé et bien-être des hommes</i> (action plan for the health and well-being of men, PASBEH) targeted this aspect in particular.	MCC, MSSS
124. Ensure that police officers systematically refer sex crime offenders to the telephone helpline for perpetrators of violence.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation was taken into consideration during the last review of police practice with regard to sexual assault in spring 2021, but this orientation was not retained. Instead, it was decided that a consideration be added to police practice in matters of sexual assault relating to the importance of police officers being familiar with the resources in their area, both organizations working with victims and those for perpetrators, in order to share information during interventions (April 2021).	MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
125. With a view to promoting accountability, make programs for violent spouses available throughout Québec.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 56, “Work with Indigenous partners to promote the sharing of expertise in intervention with men who demonstrate violent behaviour in the context of domestic and family violence within organizations wishing to develop these specific services” and Action 22, “Consolidate the funding of organizations that work with men who demonstrate violent behaviour in situations of domestic violence.” The <i>2018-2023 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence</i> – Action 17 “Provide financial support to enable organizations for spouses with violent behaviour to adapt their services to the realities of their clientele” and the <i>Actions prioritaires pour contrer la violence conjugale et les féminicides 2021-2026</i> (2021-2026 priority actions to counteract domestic violence and femicides) – Action 2, “Increase funding for organizations supporting men demonstrating violent behaviour to respond more quickly to needs in crisis situations and allow for the implementation of a digital application to better reach men who are reluctant to seek help.”	MSSS
126. Ensure that police officers systematically refer perpetrators of domestic violence to the violent offenders help and referral line.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	During the last review of police practice in domestic violence, completed in spring 2021, this recommendation was taken into consideration. The referral of perpetrators of violence to community resources was already part of the practice and was reiterated in the main guidelines. The practice now also provides for a referral to the SOS Violence conjugale line.	MSP
127. Improve and fund the services offered throughout Québec to childhood victims of sexual assault who are at risk of committing or have committed sexual assault, with the objective of establishing programs to make up for the lack of such services.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 49, “Draw up a portrait of the services to be implemented by region or by local territory with regard to prevention among children and intervention with persons who are victims and perpetrators of sexual assault.”	MSSS
128. For persons who have committed or are at risk of committing sexual assault or domestic violence, implement a province-wide, anonymous and confidential help and referral line that acknowledges the cultural identities of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and can direct callers to the appropriate services.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 9, “Set up a pilot project to offer prevention and psychosocial support services to people in the arts sector demonstrating behaviours at risk of sexual violence,” and Action 48, “Identify the procedures for setting up an anonymous, confidential provincial help and referral line for people who have committed or are at risk of committing sexual assault or domestic violence.”	MCC, MJQ, MSSS

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
129. Modify the <i>Civil Code of Québec</i> to take domestic violence into consideration in determining the “best interests” of the child in family law.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 27, “Protect persons who are victims of domestic or sexual violence through legislative changes.”	MJQ
130. Take sexual assault and domestic violence issues into account in the upcoming reform of family law legislation.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 27, “Protect persons who are victims of domestic or sexual violence through legislative changes.”	MJQ
131. Look into the possibility of implementing a voluntary family facilitation program designed for domestic violence situations. This study would be conducted in collaboration victim services partners and organizations and take the following into consideration: • Victims must be under no obligation to participate and no negative inference can be drawn from their refusal to do so. • In-person meetings or direct contact between the victim and the violent spouse are never mandatory. The facilitator acts as the link between the parties. • Facilitators must have access to all information relevant to the assessment of risk, including the information concerning criminal, civil and youth law proceedings. • The program must offer legal counselling sessions. • The program’s services must be provided free of charge, as is done in family mediation cases where no domestic violence is involved.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	A research project will be carried out by Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières in collaboration with the Comité des organismes accréditeurs en médiation familiale (committee of accrediting organizations in family mediation, COAMF). It will assess the implementation of a domestic violence screening tool among family mediators and the impact of its use.	MJQ, MSSS

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
• The victim may be accompanied by a person other than the facilitator, who will play a supporting role and may advocate for the victim's rights. • The program must not aim to achieve a compromise between the parties or cite a communication problem as the cause of domestic violence. • Facilitators must be adequately and continuously trained in matters of sexual assault and domestic violence, namely to be able to identify power relationships and their implications. • Judges must refrain from making any comments aimed at encouraging the victim to participate in the program or achieving a settlement. • The program must be evaluated to determine its effectiveness and capacity to address victims' needs.			
132. Modify section 38 of the <i>Youth Protection Act</i> to create a separate category of maltreatment for cases where children are exposed to or are victims of domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 40, “Develop expertise on domestic violence and exposure to domestic violence for youth protection workers and increase consultation on the subject.”	MSSS
133. Provide a sufficient number of accessible, safe locations for facilitating and supervising visitation rights.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	As part of a call for projects from the federal government, the MSSS obtained non-recurring funding of \$6.7 million to improve services for supervised access rights in Québec. The agreement is in effect from January 20, 2022, to March 31, 2026. Under this agreement, the MSSS, in collaboration with the Regroupement québécois des ressources de supervision des droits d'accès, undertakes, in particular, to improve the access to services for supervised access rights offered by community organizations in all regions of Québec so as to meet increased demand and reduce backlogs caused by the pandemic. To meet this objective, the project aims to bring the provision services for supervised access rights back to its pre-pandemic level and to meet the additional needs caused by the pandemic.	MSSS

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
134. Ensure that there is a sufficient number of workers to supervise visits or exchanges of custody and provide them with specialized training in matters of domestic violence.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	Work in this regard is forthcoming.	MSSS
135. Review and simplify the procedures for breaking a lease due to domestic violence or sexual assault under section 1974.1 of the <i>Civil Code of Québec</i> .	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> and its implementation regulations allow for the partial resolution of this problem insofar as these costs can be advanced by the Direction générale de l'indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels.	MJQ
136. Ensure that the lease cancellation takes effect as soon as the public officer has approved the application.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	This recommendation was intended to prevent the victim from having to advance the cancellation fees (two months' rent). The <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> and its implementation regulations allow for this problem to be addressed insofar as these costs can be advanced by the Direction générale de l'indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels.	MJQ
137. Adopt policies to prevent the identities of victims of sexual assault or domestic violence who ask for police protection from being revealed to the Canada Border Services Agency.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation involves cross-cutting issues, particularly of a legal nature, which will have to be discussed with the police forces and federal partners. In the coming months, the MSP will assess the possibility of submitting this question for study to the advisory committee of senior officials responsible for justice and public security at the federal-provincial-territorial level.	MSP
138. Set up a working group to study the ways in which sexual assault and sexual harassment are handled in the workplace and the consistency, simplicity and effectiveness of the available remedies.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 46, “Form a working committee mandated to study how cases of sexual assault and sexual harassment are handled in the workplace.”	MTESS
139. Create an obligation that requires employers to ensure that employees who are victims of domestic violence are protected at work.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 8, “Develop and centralize tools to support workplaces in dealing with domestic, family or sexual violence.” The <i>Act to modernize the occupational health and safety regime</i> , assented to in October 2021, provides that an employer must take the necessary steps to ensure the protection of an employee exposed in the workplace to a situation of physical or psychological violence, including domestic, family or sexual violence.	CNESST

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
140. Examine the application of the <i>Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in higher education institutions</i> (CQLR, chapter P-22.1) and ensure follow-up with the institutions concerned.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 7, “Support institutions of higher education in carrying out their obligations under the <i>Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in higher education institutions</i> .”	MES
141. Commit resources to the implementation of CQLR, chapter P-22.1, particularly in regard to the desired awareness-raising and prevention measures to be implemented in the college and university community.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 7, “Support institutions of higher education in carrying out their obligations under the <i>Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in higher education institutions</i> .”	MES
142. Conduct an in-depth review of the <i>Crime Victims’ Compensation Act</i> and the functioning of the organization in charge of its application, with particular focus on the difficulties encountered by victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> came into force in October 2021. It provides for several specific measures for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and violence suffered during childhood, in particular the abolition of the limitation period for filing a claim. The Act also provides that all crimes against the person are now eligible (sexual exploitation, trafficking, etc.).	MJQ
143. Ensure that the pre-testimony preparation program can be tailored to different areas of law and is systematically offered to all victims of sexual assault or domestic violence, regardless of the legal forum involved.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	The response to this recommendation cannot be met at this time as it is still undergoing analysis.	MJQ
144. Ensure that victims of sexual assault or domestic violence have access to separate waiting rooms in all legal institutions concerned.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	The response to this recommendation cannot be met at this time as it is still undergoing analysis.	MJQ
145. Ensure that victims of sexual assault or domestic violence have access to testimonial aid measures in all areas of law.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Video-link testimony rooms and testimonial aid equipment in courthouses are currently used for hearings in other jurisdictions. In connection with Recommendation 102.	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
146. Modify the rule of relevancy of evidence to avoid introducing myths and prejudices into the assessment of the sexual assault or domestic violence victim's credibility.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	The response to this recommendation cannot be met at this time as it is still undergoing analysis.	MJQ
147. Review and assess the restorative justice programs available to victims of sexual assault or domestic violence to ascertain whether they take the specifics of these types of crimes into account, ensure the safety of the victims and address their needs.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust – Action 52, “Study the recourse to restorative justice by persons who are victims or perpetrators of domestic violence.”</i> The Direction des programmes d’accessibilité et de justice réparatrice of the MJQ continuously monitors the programs and initiatives put in place. In addition, the identification and assessment of restorative justice programs available to victims of sexual assault or domestic violence are planned as part of the assessment of the PMR-VC Atikamekw.	CSF, MJQ
148. Work in cooperation with Indigenous experts in restorative justice on the process to review and assess existing restorative justice programs to benefit from their knowledge in this area.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The Direction des programmes d’accessibilité et de justice réparatrice of the MJQ continuously monitors the programs and initiatives put in place. The review and assessment of restorative justice programs available to victims of sexual assault or domestic violence are planned as part of the assessment of the PMR-VC Atikamekw.	MJQ
149. Look into the feasibility of implementing a Unified Family Court in Québec as part of the family law reform.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Research has been entrusted to the Institut québécois de réforme du droit et de la justice to study the conditions for establishing and implementing of a unified family court in Québec. Ultimately, the research will specify the changes needed within the justice system to implement a unified family court in Québec.	MJQ
150. Raise awareness of the power of the Youth Division of the Court of Québec, in hearing an adoption or protection case, to issue court orders concerning the exercise of parental authority and child custody, emancipation and guardianship, and encourage its use.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	This recommendation falls under the responsibility of the judicial council.	Magistrature

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
151. Modify section 37 of the Québec <i>Code of Civil Procedure</i> to give the Court of Québec the power to award child support or a compensatory allowance, raise awareness of this new power among citizens and lawyers and encourage them to use it.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	Research has been entrusted to the Institut québécois de réforme du droit et de la justice to study the conditions for establishing and implementing of a unified family court in Québec. Ultimately, the research will specify the changes needed within the justice system to implement a unified family court in Québec.	MJQ
152. Design and implement a “One Family, One Judge” pilot project for sexual assault or domestic violence cases involving both the Criminal and Youth divisions to harmonize and improved their progress and processing.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	Research has been entrusted to the Institut québécois de réforme du droit et de la justice to study the conditions for establishing and implementing of a unified family court in Québec. Ultimately, the research will specify the changes needed within the justice system to implement a unified family court in Québec.	Magistrature, MJQ
153. Create the position of Court Coordinator to improve the sharing of information between courts and ensure better case coordination and consistency in the decisions rendered.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.”	MJQ
154. Adopt guidelines to favour the consistent application of information communication and case coordination measures.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.”	MJQ
155. Maintain the communication and coordination measures put in place using technology developed in symbiosis with the Transformation Organisationnelle de la Justice (organizational transformation of law) project.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Currently, the Lexius project has delivered a phase in penal matters only. The criminal component will be addressed in the final phases of Lexius, that is, in 2025 according to the current schedule. However, the construction strategy for the Lexius project is being revised to enable action to be taken on this recommendation.	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
156. Establish a specialized sexual assault and domestic violence court in the Court of Québec.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” The <i>Act to create a court specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence</i> was adopted on November 26, 2021, and assented to on November 30, 2021. The Court of Québec is responsible for seeing to the planning and legal organization of these cases to which the rules of criminal law are applicable. The specialized court also provides for training and for the development of a support model centred around the victim. The resources required to carry out the project are also provided for in the budget.	DCPP, MJQ, MSP
157. Deploy the specialized court with a view to serving all of Québec by taking urban and regional realities into account.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” The <i>Act to create a court specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence</i> was adopted on November 26, 2021, and assented to on November 30, 2021. Ten judicial districts have been identified for the pilot project, which began in March 2022. All specialized court pilot projects must end no later than November 30, 2024. The permanent specialized court will then have to be deployed throughout Québec by November 30, 2026.	DCPP, MJQ, MSP
158. Provide a safe, welcoming environment for victims and their loved ones and ensure that the physical facilities allow for the minimization of contact with the accused.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” An analysis of the situation in each courthouse is under way, and solutions are being put forward to improve the safety and reception of victims.	MJQ
159. Reserve safe hearing rooms for victims with roles specifically designed for sexual assault and domestic violence cases.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.”	Magistrature, MJQ
160. Make testimonial aid measures available in all courthouses and points of service.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” In connection with Recommendation 102.	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
161. Provide everyone working in the specialized court, from judicial officers to specialized professionals, with specific, continuous training on sexual assault and domestic violence issues.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” Training on sexual violence for judicial workers is being developed at the MJQ, in collaboration with researcher Delphine Collin-Vézina. The subsidy granted to Juripop for the creation of a pool of specialized lawyers also provides for the creation and provision of training for people wishing to join the pool. A training plan is being finalized for judicial workers working in the specialized court. The training to be given by Christine Drouin, “Formation sur les situations à risque d’homicide” (training on homicide risk situations) as well as that prepared by the Regroupement des maisons d’hébergement pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale, both under the aegis of the specialized court, will be mandatory for all probation officers in districts covered by implementation pilot projects of the court specializing in sexual and domestic violence. These training sessions will also be given to members (members-only session) and to CQLC liaison officers (intersectoral sessions by district). It will then be a question of determining, together with the MJQ, how this training can be made permanent. Basic and specialized training for Québec police officers in matters of domestic and sexual violence is currently covered by the basic training program, mandatory for all police cadets in Québec, and by the specialized training program in criminal investigation, which are offered by the École nationale de police du Québec (ENPQ). The MSP is of the opinion that these two training programs, which are periodically updated for the ENPQ, are adequate and sufficient to meet the basic and specialized training needs of Québec police officers. With respect to continuing education in the area of domestic and sexual violence, the work carried out to date has established that only a legislative change would make it possible to impose an obligation of continuous training such as that desired for all police officers likely to intervene in a situation of domestic or sexual violence. Bill 18 (<i>Act to amend various provisions relating to public security and enacting the Act to assist in locating missing persons</i>) presented to the National Assembly by the Minister of Public Security in December 2021 provides for the authorizations and powers necessary to allow for the creation of such a continuing education obligation. Only once these legislative amendments have been adopted, as the case may be, will the MSP be able to determine the terms and conditions for implementing a continuous training path that would be mandatory at certain intervals for all police officers likely to intervene in situations of domestic and sexual violence. Although Bill 92 gives the MJQ the responsibility of ensuring that the departments and organizations concerned take adequate measures in terms of training in matters of domestic and sexual violence, the departments and organizations, in this case the MSP, remain responsible for the training of workers in its network.	MJQ, MSP

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
162. Provide judges sitting on the specialized court with specific, continuous training on sexual assault and domestic violence, with particular focus on legal knowledge and skills, as well as sensitivity to the issues and victims.	The recommendation has not been implemented.	The <i>Act to create a court specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence</i> provides for: • The undertaking of the candidate for the office of judge or presiding justice of the peace to complete the professional development program if appointed. • A retired judge or retired presiding justice of the peace must have completed the professional development program to be authorized to exercise judicial functions. • The judicial council establishes a professional development program on the realities relating to sexual violence and domestic violence. To this end, it consults the persons and organizations it deems appropriate based on their experience, expertise, sensitivity or interest in connection with such matters. • No later than March 31 of each year, the council submits to the Minister a report on the implementation, in the preceding year, of the development program on the realities relating to sexual violence and domestic violence.	Magistrature
163. Provide prosecutors assigned to the specialized court with specific, continuous training on sexual assault and domestic violence, with particular focus on legal knowledge and skills, as well as sensitivity to the issues and victims.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” Training on sexual violence for judicial workers is being developed at the MJQ, in collaboration with researcher Delphine Collin-Vézina. The subsidy granted to Juripop for the creation of a pool of specialized lawyers also provides for the creation and provision of training for people wishing to join the pool. A training plan is being finalized for judicial workers working in the specialized court.	DCPP, MJQ
164. Apply the vertical prosecution principle as part of the specialized court proceedings.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.”	DCPP
165. Encourage better, proactive management of cases by specialized court judges and develop guidelines on the handling of sexual assault and domestic violence cases.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Under the responsibility of the judicial council, not the MJQ. The MJQ cannot impose a practice on judges. The Court of Québec announced the ACCESS division on September 28, 2021.	Magistrature

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
166. Equip the specialized court with a court coordinator to ensure that all relevant information is shared between the various legal authorities.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” In connection with Recommendation 153.	MJQ
167. As part of the specialized court, have trained, dedicated professionals offer support services for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” In connection with Recommendations 14, 15, 60 and 61. The MJQ is also working to develop a model to ensure support for the victim within the specialized court.	MJQ, MSSS

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
168. As part of the specialized court, ensure that the following services are offered to adequately respond to the victims' needs: • Translation/interpretation and communication aids • Liaison with police services specializing in sexual assault and domestic violence • Liaison with designated centres and medical resources • Referral to legal aid or a pool of lawyers specializing in areas other than criminal law • Liaison with the central referral lines, e.g. SOS violence conjugale and Info-aide violence sexuelle • A comprehensive mechanism for information on the conditions governing the release of the accused (including follow-up in case of violation) • Liaison with the crisis unit for at-risk cases in the region • Liaison with the testimonial aid program for adults and minors • Liaison with programs for violent spouses • Liaison with programs for sex offenders • A resource person to help victims fill out forms and prepare statements, including applications to IVAC and the application for compensation under the <i>Criminal Code</i>	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” A guidance model specific to the specialized court is proposed. It will be scalable and flexible, in particular to ensure alignment with local realities.	MJQ, MSSS

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
169. Offer all integrated services for Indigenous people through the Centre intégré d'aide et de services holistiques des Premières Nations et Inuits en matière d'agressions sexuelles et de violence conjugale (centre for integrated support and holistic services for First Nations and Inuit victims of sexual assault and domestic violence).	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.”	MJQ
170. Mandate a multidisciplinary committee made up of representatives of the stakeholders of the specialized court to ensure that the court meets the established objectives and adopt the changes deemed necessary for its success.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” A governance structure has been implemented and includes government and civil society partners.	MJQ
171. Equip the specialized court with a research section mandated to document best practices and compile the information the committee requires to carry out its work.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.” The <i>Act to create a court specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence</i> provides that the pilot project, lasting no more than three years, will have to be evaluated.	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
172. Ensure that more detailed statistics are kept on sexual assault and domestic violence in accordance with the principles of gender-based analysis and, more specifically: • Categorization of reasons given by the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions for closing cases • Number of guilty pleas • Number of charges dropped • Number of times legal proceedings have been substituted for a peace bond under section 810 of the <i>Criminal Code</i> • Frequency of use of the peace bond under to section 810.1 of the <i>Criminal Code</i> • Collection of statistics on the use of testimonial aids • Collection of statistics on the imposition of a restitution when requested	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 26, “Increase the number of staff within the office of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions who are assigned to files involving sexual violence,” Action 30, “Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account,” and Action 50, “Produce and disseminate specific statistical portraits based on police data in the areas of sexual violence and violence committed in domestic contexts.” In spring 2022, the work was already under way.	MJQ
173. Improve the process of providing information to the victim by using more up-to-date communication tools such as email and text messaging.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	This recommendation is ongoing and is associated with Recommendation 94.	MJQ
174. Ensure that professionals receive better information, namely concerning victims’ rights, the obligations of the various bodies involved and the mechanisms put in place, to enable them to provide better support for victims.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> sets out the rights of persons who are victims and provides for the establishment of a complaints office, the mandate of which would be to receive complaints from victims against departments and organizations, and to work with them to better meet the needs of victims. Training was offered in 2021 to CAVAC workers working in the general alternative measures program.	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
175. Ensure wider dissemination of information concerning the rights and remedies set out in the <i>Canadian Victims Bill of Rights</i> to various organizations across Québec (e.g. victim services network, legal aid, provincial support organizations, etc.).	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> sets out the rights of persons who are victims and provides for the establishment of a complaints office, the mandate of which would be to receive complaints from victims against departments and organizations, and to work with them to better meet the needs of victims. Some training sessions have been offered, some are under way and others are forthcoming, including “Promoting the recognition and participation of victims,” “For a better exercise of the rights and recourses of victims in the justice system,” “Victims of criminal acts before the Review Board for mental disorder” and “The cultural safety of the CAVAC Network for services adapted to the realities of Indigenous peoples.”	MJQ
176. Implement quick, simple mechanisms and tools for receiving and handling complaints filed by victims who feel that their rights to information, protection, participation and restitution have been violated.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 25, “Create a support office for services for persons who are victims of criminal offences.” The <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> provides for the establishment of new mechanisms by all the departments and organizations concerned, namely the obligation to adopt a declaration of services detailing each of the services they offer to victims or each of the activities that bring them to intervene with victims. The Act also provides that this declaration of services must include a procedure relating to the receipt and examination of complaints made by victims regarding the services they offer or the activities mentioned.	MJQ
177. Ensure annual reporting and evaluation of the handling and follow-up of complaints filed.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 25, “Create a support office for services for persons who are victims of criminal offences.” The <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> provides that the departments and organizations concerned must send the office dedicated to assisting victims of crime each year pre-determined information about the complaints received and processed in the previous year, that is, the number of complaints filed by victims, the nature and outcome of these complaints, as well as the changes made as a result of the outcome of these complaints to improve the quality of services offered to victims of criminal offences. This information will, in fact, be forwarded to the Bureau de soutien aux services aux personnes victimes d’infractions criminelles. Every fiscal year, the Minister of Justice will report to the National Assembly, in accordance with the law, which all of this information will therefore be made public.	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
178. Establish a Québec Ombudsperson's Office for victims of criminal acts to update and consolidate the rights and remedies set out in the <i>Canadian Victims Bill of Rights</i> and, more specifically: • Inform and advise victims on the steps to be taken to file a complaint with governments departments or agencies in the first instance. • Ensure impartiality in handling complaints filed by victims who have exhausted all mechanisms of the government departments and agencies for processing complaints. • Analyze the data collected and report the results to the Legislative Assembly. • Conduct systematic reviews of the issues affecting victims of criminal acts and the various challenges they face in exercising their rights and remedies. • Make recommendations likely to improve laws, social policies and practices that may help strengthen victims' rights and remedies.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 25, "Create a support office for services for persons who are victims of criminal offences." The <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> entrusts new mandates to the office dedicated to assisting victims of criminal acts, including that of supporting victims in filing a complaint with the departments or organizations that intervene with them. To do so, a support office for services for persons who are victims of criminal acts has been created and will provide better support to victims by informing and advising them in the filing a complaint in the event they are dissatisfied with these service providers.	MJQ
179. Use various means to promote information on victims' rights and remedies with a view to reaching a greater number of victims as well as the general public.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 25, "Create a support office for services for persons who are victims of criminal offences."	MJQ
180. Support and promote the use of the <i>Canadian Victims Bill of Rights</i> and the measures, services and programs that enable victims to exercise their rights and remedies.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Some training sessions have been offered, some are under way and others are forthcoming, including "Promoting the recognition and participation of victims," "For a better exercise of the rights and recourses of victims in the justice system," "Victims of criminal acts before the Review Board for mental disorder" and "The cultural safety of the CAVAC Network for services adapted to the realities of Indigenous peoples."	MJQ

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
181. Recognize and provide financial support for initiatives to ensure and consolidate implementation of the <i>Canadian Victims Bill of Rights</i> .	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	Some training sessions have been offered, some are under way and others are forthcoming, including “Promoting the recognition and participation of victims,” “For a better exercise of the rights and recourses of victims in the justice system,” “Victims of criminal acts before the Review Board for mental disorder” and “The cultural safety of the CAVAC Network for services adapted to the realities of Indigenous peoples.”	MJQ
182. Revise the <i>Act respecting assistance for victims of crime</i> to ensure it is updated and aligned with the <i>Canadian Victims Bill of Rights</i> .	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery</i> came into force in October 2021. It sets out the rights of victims, in accordance with the <i>Canadian Victims Bill of Rights</i> .	MJQ
183. Ensure that all psychosocial, legal and medical professionals receive general, multisectoral and continuous training on sexual and domestic violence, with particular focus on the various aspects under study by the committee.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 3, “Develop an educational tool in sexuality education to present content on the prevention of violence in a romantic context,” Action 36, “Offer coherent and complementary bodies of work for training with regard to sexual and domestic violence that include addressing these forms of violence in Indigenous contexts and the realities faced by certain groups of people,” Action 39, “Train school staff to intervene when students disclose sexual assault or problematic sexualized behaviours,” and Action 41, “Establish online training for the staff of designated centres on medico-social intervention for persons who are victims of sexual assault.”	MEQ, MJQ, MSP, MSSS, SCF
184. Ensure that prevention and awareness-raising campaigns are maintained and that some are tailored to the specific realities of certain groups.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 1, “Mount campaigns and support activities that raise awareness of sexual and domestic violence, making sure that they are tailored to the realities of certain groups and that some address perpetrators directly.”	SCF
185. Ensure that some of the prevention and awareness-raising campaigns directly target the perpetrators of sexual assault or domestic violence.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 1, “Mount campaigns and support activities that raise awareness of sexual and domestic violence, making sure that they are tailored to the realities of certain groups and that some address perpetrators directly.”	SCF

Recommendation	Situation overview	Government interventions and details	Departments and organizations responsible for following up on the recommendation
186. Identify and document all training programs and sexual assault and domestic violence awareness-raising campaigns in each area of intervention.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 36, “Offer coherent and complementary bodies of work for training with regard to sexual and domestic violence that include addressing these forms of violence in Indigenous contexts and the realities faced by certain groups of people.”	CF
187. Make the Secrétariat à la coordination et à l’intégration des actions en matière de violences sexuelles et conjugales (secretariat for the coordination and integration of actions in matters of sexual assault and domestic violence) responsible for documenting, evaluating and coordinating the development of training programs and awareness-raising campaigns.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – Action 36, “Offer coherent and complementary bodies of work for training with regard to sexual and domestic violence that include addressing these forms of violence in Indigenous contexts and the realities faced by certain groups of people.”	SCF
188. Ensure that the government departments responsible for the commitments set out in the various action plans set up a joint funding plan.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	When extending and renewing action plans and the government’s strategy on sexual and domestic violence, the SCF submits a request for credits for all the departments and organizations to the Ministère des Finances. This request details the needs per department and organization.	SCF
189. Set up the Secrétariat à la coordination et à l’intégration des actions en matière de violences sexuelles et conjugales as the authority accountable at the highest level of government.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – the “Governance, follow-up and evaluation” section.	SCF
190. Make the Secrétariat à la coordination et à l’intégration des actions en matière de violences sexuelles et conjugales responsible for coordinating, incorporating and evaluating all actions taken in matters of sexual assault and domestic violence, including those stemming from implementation of the recommendations set out in this report.	The recommendation has been implemented (fully or partially).	The <i>2022-2027 Integrated Government Strategy to Counter Sexual and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust</i> – the “Governance, follow-up and evaluation” section.	SCF

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