

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Police cars to be equipped with defibrillators in the city of Saint-Jérôme**

**Saint-Jérôme, June 18th, 2012** – Agence de la santé et des services sociaux des Laurentides and Service de police de la Ville de Saint-Jérôme are proud to announce that they have signed an agreement to equip police vehicles of the city of Saint-Jérôme with defibrillators. With this agreement, the Agence and the police service hope to reduce response times in situations where a person suffers cardiorespiratory distress, which will undoubtedly save many lives.

“I am very happy to announce that our partnership with Agence des Laurentides will provide the citizens of Saint-Jérôme with increased first-response services that will help every one who might experience cardiac distress”, stated mayor Marc Gascon.

Each year in the Laurentians region, hundreds of people are victims of cardiac arrest, ranging from children, adolescents and young adults to senior citizens. For these patients, each minute spent waiting to be placed on an automated external defibrillator (AED) reduces their chance of survival.

In the urban area of the Laurentians, the average response time of ambulances to cardiorespiratory calls is 9 to 10 minutes, whereas police officers or firefighters respond in three to five minutes. “In the municipality of Saint-Jérôme, I estimate that police officers will use the AEDs in their patrol cars approximately 50 to 70 times per year, which means that 20 patients will be defibrillated and therefore five to ten lives will be saved,” declared Dr. Laviolette, regional medical director of the pre-hospital emergency services at Agence des Laurentides. “Urban sectors who have been using the police force to speed up deployment of their AED program have documented that survival rates during emergencies have doubled, if not tripled”, further stated Dr. Laviolette.

“We are happy to be able to contribute to increasing survival rates for people suffering cardiorespiratory distress”, mentioned Mr. Louis Bruneault, director of the city police force. Thanks to special training by the Fondation des maladies du cœur du Québec, police officers learned how to operate and understand the machine, which has proven to be safe and easy to use.

The team at the pre-hospital emergency services of Agence des Laurentides wants to express their thanks to the police service and the city of Saint-Jérôme for their open minds in considering and concluding this agreement. "The mission of pre-hospital emergency services is to reduce mortality rates on the territory and this agreement will help further our objectives to save even more lives", indicated Claudette Larivée, coordinator of pre-hospital emergency services at Agence des Laurentides.

Twelve police cars have been equipped with defibrillators and the training has been dispatched to all police officers and even civilians.

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**Source :**  
Service des communications  
Agence de la santé et des  
services sociaux des Laurentides

Direction des communications  
Ville de St-Jérôme

**Pour renseignements :**  
Marie-Josée Grondin , agente d'information,  
Agence de la santé et des services sociaux des Laurentides  
450 432-8711

Louis Parent,  
chef de la Division des communications Ville de Saint-Jérôme  
450 436-1512, poste 3040