

PRESS RELEASE

## **CIViS wins the Prix Joseph-Beaubien, the highest distinction of the UMQ Mérite Ovation municipale**

*An integrated model transforming the path forward for victims of sexual violence*

Saint-Lambert, May 15, 2026 — The Centre de services intégrés en violence sexuelle, CIViS, a project led by La Traversée in collaboration with the Service de police de l'agglomération de Longueuil (SPAL) and the Centre d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels (CAVAC) de la Montérégie, has won the Prix Joseph-Beaubien, the highest distinction of the Mérite Ovation municipale from the Union des municipalités du Québec, across all categories. The award was presented on May 15 at the UMQ's annual Assises at the Centre des congrès de Québec.

This award recognizes an approach that remains rare in Québec — a coordinated approach that places mental health at the heart of the journey for people who have experienced sexual violence.

### **When mental health becomes the starting point**

Since opening in May 2023, CIViS has accompanied 645 people who have experienced sexual violence — children, teenagers, and adults — regardless of age or gender.

At La Traversée's premises, people can access, in a single location, psychosocial, psychotherapeutic, legal, judicial, and police services, at no cost. Everything is designed to eliminate unnecessary travel, repetition, and gaps in services.

People can receive support without having to file a complaint. They can also choose to do so, at their own pace, when the conditions are right for them.

What sets this model apart is its foundation: mental health. The priority is clear. Reduce distress. Provide a safe space. Allow the person to feel heard and to regain a sense of control over their life. This specialized clinical support — in psychotherapy and psychosocial accompaniment — changes what comes next. It makes possible steps that might otherwise feel out of reach.

*"This project is the result of years of sustained effort that would not have been possible without the collaboration of our partners. This coordinated, integrated approach minimizes barriers to healing, simplifies judicial proceedings, and facilitates coordination among the many practitioners*



Accompagner les  
personnes victimes  
de violence sexuelle

*involved — allowing people who have experienced violence to focus on what matters most: their recovery."*

*— Christine Vilcocq, Executive Director, La Traversée*

## **Concrete results**

The model delivers: over three years, 44% of people accompanied through CIViS choose to report to police, compared to approximately 5% in the general population — nearly nine times the national average. The overall satisfaction rate for services received reaches 94%. When a person feels supported and has access to specialized care, they regain the power to choose, freely, what comes next for them.

## **A model designed to spread**

Originally funded by a \$1.2M grant from the Ministère de la Justice du Québec, CIViS was designed from the outset to be replicable. Since opening, La Traversée has documented its practices, learnings, and tools so that other regions of Québec can draw on them. This award confirms that the integrated approach — centred on mental health and supported by more than 40 partners — is not only effective: it is transferable.

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## **About La Traversée**

La Traversée is a mental health care centre specializing in sexual violence, located in Saint-Lambert. For more than 41 years, the organization has provided free psychosocial support and psychotherapy services to people of all ages and genders who have experienced sexual violence, as well as to their loved ones, throughout the Montérégie region. [www.latraversee.qc.ca](http://www.latraversee.qc.ca)

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## **For more information or to schedule an interview:**

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