

# Common Values

Québec is a democratic society based on the rule of law.



## Main Common Values

- Speaking French is a necessity.
- Québec is a free, democratic society, enriched by its diversity.
- Community life is governed by laws.
- Political and religious powers are separated.
- Men and women have equal rights.
- The priority is given to children, and the sense of family is important.
- The exercise of human rights and freedoms must respect the rights and freedoms of others and their general well-being.

### Information:

<http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/livingquebec/values/index.html>



MRC de  
*L'Islet*

## Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms

The Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms forbids discrimination against people on the basis of:

- Race
- Colour
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Religion
- Political convictions
- Language
- Ethnic or national origin
- Pregnancy
- Civil status
- Age, except as provided by law
- Social condition (your situation within society based on your income, profession and education)
- Disability or the use of any means to compensate for a disability

Examples:

- Access to housing cannot be denied to a person because of his or her ethnic origin.
- Discrimination is prohibited in job offers, hiring processes and working conditions.
- Homosexual persons have the same rights and responsibilities as all citizens.
- Police officers must abide by the same laws as the entire population.

### Filing a Complaint

You think that your rights have not been respected? To find out if you can file a complaint, contact the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse.

**Information:**  
[www.cdpdj.qc.ca](http://www.cdpdj.qc.ca)  
1 800 361-6477



## Family Violence

### Domestic Violence



Canada's Criminal Code prohibits the use of force against one's spouse. This is a crime and is called an « assault ». Attempting to use force or threatening to do so is also considered a crime.

If a police officer finds that an assault was committed in a domestic violence case, the suspect can be arrested even if the victim decides not to press charges.

Violence against children and seniors is also prohibited by the Criminal Code.

### What will happen if you call the police for domestic violence:

The police officers will listen to you and take what you say seriously. The safety of victims is their priority. They are there to help you.

In fact, police officers are trained to respond very quickly to protect victims from aggressors.

They use effective methods to ensure the safety of witnesses and people in distress, monitor risky situations and subdue dangerous individuals.

They may ask you to share what you have seen or heard, but know that reporting acts of domestic violence does not necessarily lead to having to testify in court. Your testimony can be anonymous.

### To learn more, consult:

[www.violenceconjugale.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.violenceconjugale.gouv.qc.ca)

If you witness acts of violence, dial 911.

It is your duty as a citizen.



### SOS VIOLENCE CONJUGALE

This service is free, confidential and anonymous. It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

A single phone call provides victims, their loved ones and witnesses with immediate access to information, advice and assistance (such as housing).



[www.sosviolenceconjugale.ca](http://www.sosviolenceconjugale.ca)  
1 800 363-9010



## Physical Punishment and Child Education

In Canada, parents hold parental authority. This means that they have the right and duty to take care of their children, to protect and educate them until they are 18 years old. Parents therefore have the right to punish their children and the duty to protect and educate them.

However, parents are not allowed to use unreasonable physical force to do so. For example, the following corporal punishments are prohibited, regardless of the circumstances:

- Punishment with objects such as a belt or a ruler
- Any punishment that may cause an injury
- Slaps and blows to the head
- Kicks

## There are other ways to exercise parental authority

To find out more, consult the following professional, free and confidential resources:

### Ligne Parents

(professional, free and confidential support, accessible any time of the day and all year long)  
1 800 361-5085

### Entraide Parents

[www.entraideparents.com](http://www.entraideparents.com)  
418 684-0050



## Women and Men: Equal Rights

In Québec, women and men are equal – they have the same rights and obligations.

### In the Workplace

Women practise the profession or work in the field of their choice. They occupy decision-making positions. Furthermore, women must receive equal pay as men occupying a similar position in the business.

### Sexual Relations

Women and men are also equal when they form a couple. To engage in sexual intercourse, both partners must consent, even if they are married.

1. Sexual consent is when a person informs another that he or she agrees to take part in a sexual activity.
2. Consent must be given voluntarily – the decision must be free and informed. If a person refuses to partake in sexual intercourse and he or she is forced into it, this is considered a sexual assault. It is a crime, regardless of the relationship between the aggressor and the victim.
3. Consent must be clear and given by the person partaking in the sexual activity. Consent resulting from another person's words or behaviour is not valid.
4. Not resisting does not constitute consent.

#### Information:

[www.educaloi.qc.ca/capsules/le-consentement-sexuel](http://www.educaloi.qc.ca/capsules/le-consentement-sexuel)

### Free and confidential hotline for sexual assault victims

The Centre d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel (CALACS Rive-Sud) is dedicated to women and teenage girls (14 years and older), victim of any form of sexual assault, recently or in the past.

They offer phone support, direct help and social, medical and legal information.

This service is free and confidential.  
1 866 835-8342



### For teenagers under 16

In Canada, the law provides that the minimum age to consent to a sexual activity is 16. When a person engages in a sexual activity with a teenager under the age of 16 and a complaint is filed with the police, the consent of the person under the age of 16 is not judged legally valid.

Incest refers to sexual relations between close relatives. In Canada, incest is a crime.

Examples:

Brother + sister = illegal

Parent + child = illegal



## What You Should Do: Ask For Help

If you have been threatened, sexually assaulted or are victim of family violence, do not hesitate to talk.

- If you are in danger or if you witness an act of violence, dial 911 for immediate assistance.
- Call the nearest police station or go straight to the following address to explain to police officers what is happening:

### Saint-Jean-Port-Joli police station

506, route de l'Église,  
Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, GoR 3Go  
418 598-3343



Dial 211 to find out more about other community resources, which can help and guide you. Their services are free and confidential.

Here are a few organizations offering support in the MRC de L'Islet:

- **Le Centre-Femmes La Jardilec**  
Meeting place, source of information, support, reflexion and action.
- **Le Havre des femmes**  
Help and housing for women and children victim of domestic violence
- **Centre Yvon Mercier**  
Help program for men in difficulty

## Criminal Record

If you are found guilty of a crime under the Canadian Criminal Code, you will have a criminal record. The consequences of having a criminal record are important, as shown by the three following examples:

1. It will be more difficult for you to find a job.
2. Customs officers will not let you cross the border to enter the United States.
3. Your Canadian citizenship will be harder to get.

## Interpretation Service

An interpretation service is available if needed (in the case of a police intervention, medical emergency, etc.). This service is also free.

