

For immediate release

March 26th , 2021

Press release

Québec coroner's public inquiry process

Dear Madams:

Dear Sirs:

Dear family members, employees, volunteers and partners:

The CHSLD des Moulins, one of Groupe Santé Arbec's centres, has been asked to take part in an inquiry process by the Québec coroner's office in connection with the deaths of seniors and vulnerable people that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. As you all know, Québec's chief coroner, Pascale Descary, has ordered a sweeping public inquiry into some of the deaths that occurred in CHSLDs, private seniors' residences and other residences for people who are vulnerable or with reduced autonomy. This entirely public process, which will ultimately lead to recommendations in view of better protecting seniors and avoiding more deaths in residences, seeks to inform Quebecers of the facts raised during the hearings and enable them to follow the discussion about this important societal issue.

The inquiry process will begin in our CHSLD des Moulins on Monday, March 29th. Interviews will be conducted over four days, from March 29th to April 1st, inclusively.

During the hearings, we will stress the value we place on each and every one of our residents, whom we consider to be family, and all the means that we deployed to care for them during the pandemic in order to ensure their quality of life, their health, their well-being and their dignity. Unfortunately, and despite all of our sustained efforts, we lost many residents to this terrible virus that we have been relentlessly battling head on for over a year now. These deaths did not result from deficiencies or any lack of rigour, attention, compassion or skill on the part of our staff, which we will demonstrate during the public hearings.

The loss of a loved one is always a difficult and painful event, regardless of the circumstances, and we feel the greatest compassion for the families and employees who are grieving.



As we did for those we lost, we will continue to devote all our energy, all our care and all our attention to our residents. Our equipment is up-to-date and our inventory is well stocked. Our residents' health and safety remain our priority. We will win this battle.

In closing, on behalf of our entire team, I want to thank the family members of our residents, our volunteers as well as our partners for your trust and support. I also want to thank all our employees: you make us strong and we need you.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Benoit Valiquette". The signature is written in a fluid, cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Benoit Valiquette
Director General