

Sexual education in jeopardy during the current crisis

MONTRÉAL, JANUARY 21ST, 2021

An increase in STI cases¹, a lack of prevention and testing resources due to the COVID-19 crisis², an increase in domestic violence³, a major new wave of denunciations of sexual assault and sexual misconduct on social media platforms⁴: the issues related to the well-being and sexual health of the Quebec population are accumulating. There is clearly no doubt that the need for sexual education is critical!



Teachers, who have been assigned the responsibility of providing sexual education without being consulted by the government, are already overwhelmed this year, and therefore do not always have the time to address these topics, which remain compulsory content nonetheless.

While waiting for greater collaboration between the government, schools and community organizations on these issues, the members of the ÉduSex Coalition unite to demand the implementation of measures that guarantee the right to quality sexuality education for all young people in Quebec. To this end, the Coalition is launching an awareness campaign as well as a petition to both mobilize the population and call on the government to take action.

Sexual education: a societal issue

Sexual education is the purview of every participant involved in providing sexual education, including community groups. The government can no longer ignore the essential role of community organizations in this learning, and must ensure that they are represented on the committee which analyzes the compulsory content in sexual education.

Currently, less than 5\$ per student⁵ and less than two days of training⁶ for teachers are allocated to sexual education in Quebec schools. We need to do more, and we need to do it better!

1 [Analysis: Rise in STDs an indicator of COVID-19 resurgence in Montreal, Chlamydia et gonorrhée | Espace ITSS | INSPQ](#)

2 [ITSS : Interventions cliniques en période de pandémie de coronavirus COVID-2019. Orientations de la direction de la prévention des ITSS du MSSS.](#)

3 [Les appels aux lignes d'aide pour femmes en hausse](#)

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5 [Québec dépense moins de 5\\$ par élève pour l'éducation sexuelle](#)

6 [Calendrier des formations | Ministère de l'Éducation et Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur](#)



Furthermore, we believe that sexuality education professionals (sexologists and community organizations) must be involved in the decision making process and in the teaching of these contents.

Our demands

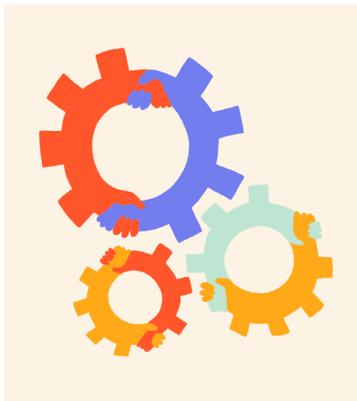
The ÉduSex Coalition demands that the following actions be prioritized:

Demand 01

Increase funding for schools and community groups to ensure quality sexual education

Demand 02

Implement adequate support systems for educators so they can develop the proficiency and sensitivity to address the various issues



Positive impacts of adequate sexuality education

Positive, inclusive and anti-oppressive sexual education leads to positive societal changes: a reduction of violence in intimate relationships, a reduction of violence based on gender identity and/or expression and sexual orientation, a decrease in risky sexual behaviours and STI transmission rates⁷. It also helps equip youth all over Quebec with a solid knowledge of their rights in terms of sexuality.

The ÉduSex Coalition

The ÉduSex Coalition was formed in 2018 following the return of sexual education compulsory content to elementary and high schools in Quebec. Community groups and labor organizations have united to ensure that the sexual education that is offered is representative of different realities and identities, while also fighting persistent social inequalities through education.

Sign the [petition](#) to support the demands of the ÉduSex Coalition.



⁷ [Action Canada](#)