

# Recommendations for youth protection intervention with sectarian groups and closed communities

Recommendations arising from research entitled “Using a Promising Approach in Youth Protection Intervention with a Sectarian Group: Challenges, Effects, and Areas for Improvement.” (Utilisation d’une approche prometteuse dans l’intervention en protection de la jeunesse auprès d’un groupe sectaire : défis, effets et pistes d’amélioration)

## Develop the ability to respond effectively to protection needs in the context of a sectarian group/closed community

- Provide continuing education on abuse and intervention in religious, sectarian/closed community, and ethno-cultural diversity contexts to properly distinguish these contexts and their implications for practice;
- Avoid, whenever possible, “real-time” training, in an emergency context;
- Aim, in training, to make teams aware of the subject of intervention in the context of a sectarian group/closed community, but call on specialists to support them if necessary;
- Set up a permanent provincial specialized unit, available quickly when needed to support a DYP dealing with situations that appear to involve sectarian groups or closed communities.



## 2 Support clinical work in a complex and unusual intervention setting, such as a sectarian group or closed community



- Actively and objectively explore alternative interpretations, preferably with a neutral person not involved in the situation;
- Focus intervention on the mandate of protection by personalizing the intervention to each child and each family;
- Encourage, where possible, evaluation reports that are comparable to current evaluation reports;
- Provide close clinical supervision in these situations.

## 3 Plan the organization and working conditions carefully

- Maintain sufficient resources (human, financial, etc.);
- Promote co-intervention;
- Properly support coordination of the intervention;
- Relieve the workers from their usual tasks;
- Provide an adequate, willing and equipped response team;
- Ensure rapid repayment of accumulated work time;
- Pay particular attention to the transfer of files.



# 4 Support youth protection practitioners' socio-emotional health



- Ensure access to independent, responsive, early and ongoing psychological support;
- Create a space to vent and share;
- Listen to oneself and one's limits (take care of oneself in one's personal life);
- As managers, actively support youth protection practitioners.

## Research Context

The aim of the project was to understand how the so-called comprehensive approach was used in the context of a youth protection intervention with what appeared to be a sectarian group, and then to make recommendations intended to shed light on youth protection practices in Quebec. The research, conducted in partnership, focused on how teams of practitioners and managers implemented the core principles of the approach in an actual intervention situation and, more importantly, on their perspectives of the experience. The findings are based on an analysis of assessment reports as well as input from two group interviews (a total of 18 people working in referral assessment, enforcement, and litigation) and 13 individual interviews (practitioners and the DYP).

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