

For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

Is it acceptable to be forced to pay in order to attend the trial of your child's accused murderer?

THE JUSTICE MINISTER GRANTED THE AFPAD'S REQUEST AND HAS CREATED AN INDEMNISATION FUND

Laval, August 14th 2018 – Justice Minister Stéphanie Vallée will be at the Montreal Courthouse this Tuesday August 14th at 2:00 PM to announce the creation of a support program for the next of kin of people who have deceased due to a criminal act. The AFPAD's numerous requests for support and indemnisation to be made available for these parents and family members, who very often impoverish themselves in order to attend the trial of their loved one's accused murderer due to lack of any financial help, have been heard. This support fund will be created at the end of fall 2018.

THE REALITY: IMPOVRISHMENT

Following a homicide, victims' families go through many financial hardships as they must assume all costs related to the death and often have a loss of revenue due to work leaves of absences many must take. These leaves of absences can last anywhere from a few months, if all goes well, while others may extend to one or two years. However, the hardship does not end there for these families. Long delays in the justice system result in that these families are living this nightmare for numerous years. Despite these long delays and the horrors they see and hear during the judicial proceedings, the majority of families feel they must attend in order to honor their loved one's memory and to defend the interests of their now departed loved ones.

« Although this is a legitimate need, numerous families aren't able to attend the judicial proceedings due to financial reasons. In many cases families lived over 300 km away from the courthouse where the trial was held and some of them even had to live in their cars. The parents of Clémence Beaulieu-Patry and Gabrielle Dufresne-Elie, who were both brutally killed, had to assume numerous costs and expenses to attend the trials such as travel, lodging and meals for this period which lasts from 6 to 8 weeks. We salute this new program which will give some financial relief to our families. Thank you Minister Vallée for hearing our call for help. » said Nancy Roy, the AFPAD'S General Director

ABOUT THE AFPAD

Since its foundation in 2005, the Association of Families of Persons Assassinated or Disappeared (AFPAD) represents hundreds of families in Quebec and pursues its mission to develop new services and tools for its members in order to overcome isolation and develop bonds of solidarity.

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INTERVIEW REQUESTS:

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