

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GOOD CITIZENS

Decorations and distinctions

When acts of good citizenship involve considerable danger to the rescuers, the latter may be honoured by the Québec government and receive a decoration or distinction for their acts.

Nominations

To nominate someone, complete the form provided by the Secrétariat du Comité sur le civisme. Please note that you may not nominate yourself.

Decorations and distinctions may be awarded even if the rescuers did not avail themselves of the measures provided under the *Act to Promote Good Citizenship*.

Nominations must be submitted to the Secrétariat du Comité sur le civisme no later than May 1 of the current year and must report only acts of good citizenship that took place between January 1 and December 31 of the previous year.

Secrétariat du Comité sur le civisme

Direction des communications
Ministère de la Justice
1200, route de l'Église
Québec (Québec) G1V 4M1
Website: www.justice.gouv.qc.ca

Information:

Telephone: 418 643-5140
1 866 536-5140
E-mail: information@justice.gouv.qc.ca



SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

To receive indemnities or make use of the services provided under the *Act to Promote Good Citizenship*, complete and sign the *Application for Benefits* form, which can be obtained from the Direction de l'IVAC, either on its website or from the regional offices of the CSST.

For further information, contact the Direction de l'IVAC.

Contact us

Bureau central de la Direction de l'IVAC
1199, rue De Bleury
C.P. 6056, Succursale Centre-ville
Montréal (Québec) H3C 4E1

Telephone: **514 906-3019**
1 800 561-4822
Fax: **514 906-3029**

Office hours

Office hours are **8:30 a.m.** to **noon** and **1:00 p.m.** to **4:30 p.m.**, Monday to Friday.

E-mail: renseignements_generaux_ivac@csst.qc.ca

Also visit our website: www.ivac.qc.ca.



HELPING

The Act to Promote Good Citizenship

IVAC

Indemnisation
des victimes
d'actes criminels



Acts of good citizenship happen all the time...

Bill notices that his neighbour's house is on fire. He rushes over and is severely burned while trying to save a sleeping baby. Carl drowns while attempting to rescue some people whose boat has capsized. Catherine sprains her lower back and ruins her clothing while trying to free an accident victim from his car.

You don't have to be a hero or show outstanding courage to help someone in danger. Acts of good citizenship are often done by reflex or because someone has the presence of mind to respond to a situation.

What happens when Good Samaritans are injured, lose their life or sustain property damage while performing acts of good citizenship?

THE ACT TO PROMOTE GOOD CITIZENSHIP

In Québec, any person who is injured or sustains property damage while benevolently coming to the assistance of another person who is in danger of losing his life or suffering bodily harm may take advantage of the measures provided in the *Act to Promote Good Citizenship*.

If the rescuer dies while performing an act of good citizenship or as a result of it, his or her dependents may receive an indemnity.

At the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CSST), the Direction de l'indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels (IVAC) is responsible for analyzing whether applications for benefits submitted by citizens under the act are eligible, and for processing them.

Time limit

The application for benefits must be filed within two years after the occurrence of the property damage, or the injury or death of the rescuer.

Compensation and services provided

Indemnities for temporary total disability

Rescuers may receive indemnities during the period in which they are unable to work or carry out most of their usual activities.

Medical aid

Certain expenses may be reimbursed, including:

- ambulance transportation
- medication
- travel expenses
- orthotic devices or prostheses
- physiotherapy treatments

Permanent disability benefits

If there are permanent sequelae following treatment, the person will receive indemnities proportionate to his or her degree of physical disability or mental impairment.

Property damage

Property damage sustained by the rescuer can be reimbursed up to \$1,000.

Rehabilitation services

Some services may be offered under social and vocational rehabilitation programs, and specific expenses may be reimbursed, such as:

- professional treatments (psychotherapy)
- home support services
- training, refresher or job search programs, etc.

The practitioners consulted are required to be members of a recognized professional order. To obtain a refund for expenses incurred, original bills or receipts must be submitted.

Death benefits

The dependents of a deceased rescuer may receive indemnity compensation, which is determined based on the rescuer's income and the number of dependents.

Funeral expenses are reimbursed up to \$5,000. The amount of this indemnity is adjusted on January 1 of each year. The cost of transporting the rescuer's remains is reimbursed up to \$500.

Exclusion

Any person whose assistance is accepted or required by a municipal fire department to help out in an incident may be considered a worker employed by the authority in charge of the department. If the person is injured or dies under those circumstances, the claim must be filed with the CSST under the *Act Respecting Industrial Accidents and Occupational Diseases*.

Review of decisions

Any decision that has been rendered can be contested by way of an application for review or an application for administrative reconsideration. The application must be made in writing in the days following receipt of the decision. Administrative review decisions may be appealed before the Administrative Tribunal of Québec.

