



## Executive Summary 2013

For close to two years now, a highly motivated team made up of members from the municipal court registry, the legal affairs department, the police department and the recreation, sports and community life department have been working to develop a **project to make courts more suitable to people who are living with mental health problems, intellectual disabilities or pervasive developmental disorders, or who are homeless.**

After giving the project considerable thought and studying several similar projects carried out in Canada, the United States and elsewhere in the world, the IMPAC tribunal (whose letters stand for *Interventions Multisectorielles Programmes d'Accompagnement à la Cour* in French, or “multi-sectoral interventions – court accompaniment programs” in English) seeks to **introduce alternative ways to deal with cases, at different stages throughout the judicial process, in a move towards more community-based justice.**

In fact, we want to introduce the concept of “Problem Solving Courts,” based on the idea that tribunals are not just there to punish, but also offer a public service that should work in harmony with the community and help it make positive progress. The project is also part of the ***Plan interministériel en itinérance 2010-2013*** (interdepartmental plan regarding homelessness) since it proposes, among other things, the introduction of a “designated collector and attorney” type program, an action recommended in the interdepartmental plan under priority 4, objective 4.1 *Foster social cohesion between the various citizen groups and come up with alternatives to going to court.*

The **project anchors** are the court’s social mission, urban safety and social development, which are associated with the “attractive city – quality environment” direction in the City’s strategic plan.

The first phase of the project involves **introducing four specific programs:**

- The “**Nouvelle vision de la perception**” (*new vision of collection*) program seeks to propose various solutions for managing cases or the debt of people who are homeless, to avoid the use of imprisonment;
- The “**Tribunal à trajectoire spécifique**” (*special track tribunal*) program offers a court tailored to people living with mental health problems, intellectual disabilities or pervasive developmental disorders. The situation of these people will be studied by a multidisciplinary team for the purpose of proposing a lasting solution;
- The “**Accompagnement pour les personnes en situation d’itinérance**” (*accompaniment for homeless people*) program aims to support court accompaniment initiatives and initiatives to provide information to this clientele in their community;
- The “**Traitement de la toxicomanie**” (*drug addiction treatment*) program will make it possible to take a different approach with offenders struggling with drug problems to help them overcome their addiction.

**The objectives** of these programs are to:

- Increase a sense of security in the community and promote an attractive living environment;
- Reduce recidivism;
- Help settle debts without the use of imprisonment while helping people get back on their feet;
- Implement solutions that last and are better suited to the situation of target clienteles;
- Promote access to justice;
- Improve the processing of these types of cases at the Québec City municipal court;
- Adapt the legal process and promote on-going supervision and follow-up in the community as a means of reintegrating offenders targeted by the project.

The project team is made up of the following people, who can be contacted at [Tribunalimpac@ville.quebec.qc.ca](mailto:Tribunalimpac@ville.quebec.qc.ca):

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Ms. Sylvie Thibaudeau, Advisor at the recreation, sports and community life department.