

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fire Protection System Installers Stand Ready to Promptly Apply their Expertise and Professionalism to Meet Enhanced Safety Requirements in Private Retirement Homes

Boucherville, February 19, 2015 - It's official. The Quebec government has announced the mandatory installation of fire sprinklers in the majority of privately-operated retirement homes within a maximum of five years.

Just over a week after the release of the coroner's report on the tragic fire in L'Isle-Verte, Quebec Labour Minister Sam Hamad is moving ahead with one of the recommendations made by Coroner Cyrille Delâge: the mandatory installation of a fire sprinkler system in privately-run seniors' residences.

The *Corporation des maîtres entrepreneurs en installation contre l'incendie* (CMEICI) supports this measure and confirms that all of its members stand ready to promptly apply their expertise and professionalism in response to the government's call for enhanced fire protection systems in private retirement homes.

Active protection at all times

An automatic fire sprinkler system starts fighting a blaze within a minute of the event, thereby limiting the spread of flames and reducing the fire's intensity. Given its efficiency in quickly containing a fire from the onset, minimizing the amount of smoke produced and averting an exponential rise in temperature, this type of system optimizes both the chances of survival and the limitation of property damage. In addition, when an automatic fire sprinkler system is activated, it usually sounds an alarm simultaneously at the local fire department. Sprinklers alone may even be able to put out a blaze before firefighters arrive on the scene.

Specialized expertise

Designing and installing an automatic fire sprinkler system calls for specialized skills. A survey of the various tasks to be performed highlights the required level of expertise: evaluation of the building's specific fire protection needs, analysis of applicable codes and standards, identification of suitable systems, recommendation of the most appropriate

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system and components, evaluation of the water supply (flow, pressure, reliability), identification of areas to be protected, calculation of the discharge density, positioning of sprinklers according to the building's structure, ventilation ducts, plumbing, etc., hydraulic calculations to determine the required pipe diameters and pressure drops, and finally, the installation, activation and verification of the system itself.

All CMEICI members and their employees have completed the necessary training and obtained the required certification in order to guarantee the professional installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in compliance with the most stringent standards. As a result, these experts are best placed to help ensure the protection of seniors, who are among the most vulnerable members of our society.

CMEICI's mission

As a corporation representing fire protection contractors throughout Quebec, our mission is to inform members of new and existing legislative requirements, determine, maintain and, where applicable, improve professional standards, as well as regulate the professional conduct of member companies while continuously promoting common interests.

The CMEICI is committed to protecting the professional identity of this highly specialized trade and requires its members to adhere to the highest standards in the design and installation of fire protection systems.

The CMEICI collaborates with other key players, including the *Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec* (OIQ), the *Régie du bâtiment du Québec* (RBQ), the *Commission de la construction du Québec* (CCQ) and the *Regroupement des corporations et associations d'entrepreneurs spécialisés de l'industrie de la construction du Québec* (RCAESICQ) in order to prevent fire-related loss of life and property damage wherever Quebec residents work, live and play.

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