



BEI

**BUREAU DES ENQUÊTES
INDÉPENDANTES**

YOU

YOUR LOVED ONES

AND THE BEI.



YOU, YOUR LOVED ONES AND THE BEI ■

Are you or a loved one concerned by an event under independent investigation?

The Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes (BEI) has deployed a team of investigators to clarify the circumstances of this event. An investigator has also been assigned to accompany you throughout the investigation. They will be at your disposal and will keep you informed of the various stages of the process.

This brochure aims to answer some of your questions.

THE BEI

is a specialized police force, independent of other police forces. As its name suggests, it conducts independent investigations throughout the province in all cases where, during a police intervention or while in the custody of a police force, a citizen:

- Suffers a serious injury;
- Is wounded by a firearm used by a police officer;
- Dies

WHAT DOES THE BEI DO?

The BEI launches an investigation when the criteria prescribed by the law are met. These criteria do not require the presence of reasonable grounds to believe that a police officer has committed a criminal offence.



The BEI is responsible for fully and impartially investigating the incident. Investigators gather the facts of the incident and draw up a detailed report. This report is then forwarded to the Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales (DPCP), who decides whether to lay criminal charges. The BEI has no authority to lay charges against a police officer.

WHAT ARE THE FIRST STEPS IN THE BEI'S INVESTIGATION?

As soon as the BEI launches an independent investigation, it:

- Deploys a team of investigators to the scene of the event, regardless of location in Quebec;
- Designates a supervisor to coordinate the entire investigation;
- Designates a lead investigator to identify and collect all available evidence;
- Designates a scene investigator to examine the scene and collect all evidence. The scene investigator also supervises the scene examination performed by a supporting police force;
- Designates investigators to conduct witness and police interviews;

- Designates an investigator to contact relatives. The investigator makes sure to meet the person involved or a designated relative. Throughout the investigation, the investigator will be in contact with the person involved or a relative. The investigator can also provide them with references to resources adapted to their needs.
- If necessary, calls on a supporting police force (Sûreté du Québec, Service de police de la Ville de Montréal or Service de police de la Ville de Québec) to provide services that cannot be performed by the BEI in connection with a particular case. These experts always work under the supervision of the BEI;
- Contact the Coroner's Office in the event of a fatality.

YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE IS INJURED

If someone is injured during an event, he or she is quickly rushed to hospital for treatment. If the person is unconscious, the BEI takes charge of finding and meeting a relative as quickly as possible. However, due to the urgency of the situation and geographical distance, the BEI may have to ask the police involved in the event to contact a relative.

YOUR LOVED ONE HAS DIED

During the police intervention, one of your loved ones died. He or she was pronounced dead at the scene or in hospital. The body was transported to the Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale (LSJML) in Montreal, or to the hospital morgue.

The Coroner's office assigns a coroner to conduct an investigation to determine the causes and circumstances of your loved one's death. The coroner is responsible for ordering the necessary scientific expertise, including an autopsy, and for the release of the body. BEI investigators work in collaboration with the Coroner's Office and are present to act as a liaison between you and the coroner at this stage.

Recovery of Personal Effects

Some of the deceased's personal effects are in the custody of the BEI. These may be kept for expert appraisal and may be used as evidence in court, should a lawsuit be filed. These assets can only be released when the judge so decides. All items not held as evidence may be handed over by the investigator in compliance with legal obligations.



An investigation parallel to that of the BEI

The BEI's mandate is not to investigate the crime that gave rise to the police intervention or that was committed during the police intervention.

When such a situation arises, the BEI will entrust this parallel investigation to a police force other than the one for which the BEI opened an investigation concerning the police intervention.

THE EVENT IN THE NEWS MEDIA

When an event occurs, journalists sometimes report on it publicly. They want information to inform the public, and they want to hear your side of the story. They may want to know about your loved one and the circumstances surrounding the event. In order not to interfere with the investigation, the BEI does not comment on or divulge any information during the investigation other than its press releases required by regulation. It is therefore possible that information shared publicly may be inaccurate or unsubstantiated.

DOES THE BEI HAVE TO ANSWER ALL MY QUESTIONS?

You have the right to answer or refuse to answer journalists' questions. However, you should be aware that any release of sensitive information may have repercussions on the investigation in progress and, consequently, on its outcome.

From the moment the BEI takes charge of an investigation, it has a responsibility not to reveal any information that could harm the investigation. Nominative and personal information, as well as sensitive information, cannot be communicated to anyone during the investigation. Furthermore, by assigning an investigator to the relatives of the person involved, the BEI confirms its willingness to inform the relatives of the progress of the investigation and to answer their questions, insofar as possible.

At the time of the BEI's meeting to share the DPCP's decision with you, it is possible, subject to the prosecutor's agreement, that certain elements of the investigation file will be available for consultation only, through the investigators on file, without the provision of a copy.

FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE POLICE ETHICS COMMISSIONER

If you believe that the police officer(s) involved in the event have acted contrary to the Code of Ethics of Quebec Police Officers, you may file a complaint with the Police Ethics Commissioner. **Your complaint must be filed no later than one year from the date of the event or knowledge thereof.** The BEI investigator assigned to the relatives will provide you with the relevant documentation and guidance.

Please note that BEI investigators are also subject to the Code of Ethics of Quebec Police Officers.

CLOSURE OF THE INVESTIGATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE BEI

The Director of the BEI has the power to terminate an independent investigation, following initial investigative steps, when he or she is satisfied that the police intervention did not contribute to the death or a serious injury. The Director has the authority to terminate the investigation without submitting a final report to the DPCP unless public confidence in the police could be seriously compromised. BEI investigators will keep you informed of the decision that will be published on our website. In cases where your loved one has died, the investigators could continue to support the coroner's inquest despite the closure of the independent investigation.



HOW LONG DOES AN INVESTIGATION TAKE?

On average, investigations at the BEI are completed within a few months, although some cases require a longer investigation period depending on the particular circumstances. Our investigators meet the highest standards of professionalism and thoroughness, and take the time required to meet this important obligation. Average investigation times can be found on the BEI's website.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS



Throughout the course of its investigation, the BEI can direct loved ones who demonstrate a need for support to resources that can provide it. The BEI can also provide translation of documentation or an interpreter.

Here are some provincial resource numbers to contact if needed:

8-1-1 1-866-APPELLE 1-888-LEDEUIL

THE END OF THE INVESTIGATION THE DPCP'S DECISION

Once it has completed its independent investigation, the BEI submits its impartial report to the Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales (DPCP). The DPCP reviews the report and determines whether or not all the reported facts demonstrate that the police officer(s) committed a criminal offence.

Once the DPCP's decision is known, a BEI investigator will contact you or a designated relative. If necessary, a meeting may be set up so that the prosecutor responsible for analyzing the file can inform you of his or her decision.

If a death has occurred, the BEI will also submit its investigation report to the Coroner's Office. The Coroner's Office will also prepare a report on the causes and circumstances of the death.

The rationale for the DPCP's decision will be made public after it has been shared with you. The DPCP press release will be issued at the same time as the BEI press release, summarizing the investigation process.

The stakeholders

Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes (BEI)

The BEI investigates all cases where, during a police intervention or while in the custody of a police force, a person other than an on-duty police officer dies or suffers a serious injury or a wound caused by a firearm used by a police officer. The BEI then intervenes to shed light on the event.

Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales (DPCP)

The DPCP authorizes and directs criminal and penal proceedings on behalf of the Quebec government. It analyzes BEI reports and determines whether or not charges should be laid against the police officer involved in the incident. He is the only person authorized to act as a prosecutor in a case arising from the application of the Criminal Code.

Bureau du coroner

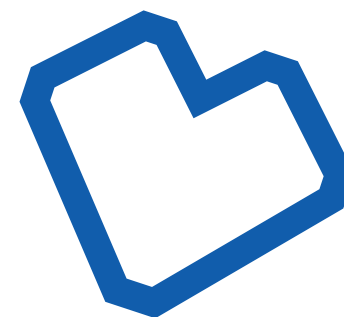
In all cases of suspicious, violent or unexplained death, the Bureau du coroner conducts investigations and prepares a public report presenting its findings. In some cases, public inquests are held. Where appropriate, the coroner also makes recommendations to prevent similar deaths in the future.

Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale (LSJML)

Through its professionals and technicians, the LSJML offers scientific expertise in a variety of disciplines, including ballistics, forensic chemistry, biology and more. The laboratory is also mandated to provide assistance to police forces at the scene of an event, when required.

Commissaire à la déontologie policière

The Commissaire à la déontologie policière ensures compliance with the Code of Ethics of Quebec Police Officers. In accordance with the Police Act, the commissioner receives and handles complaints and reports concerning any person subject to the Code.

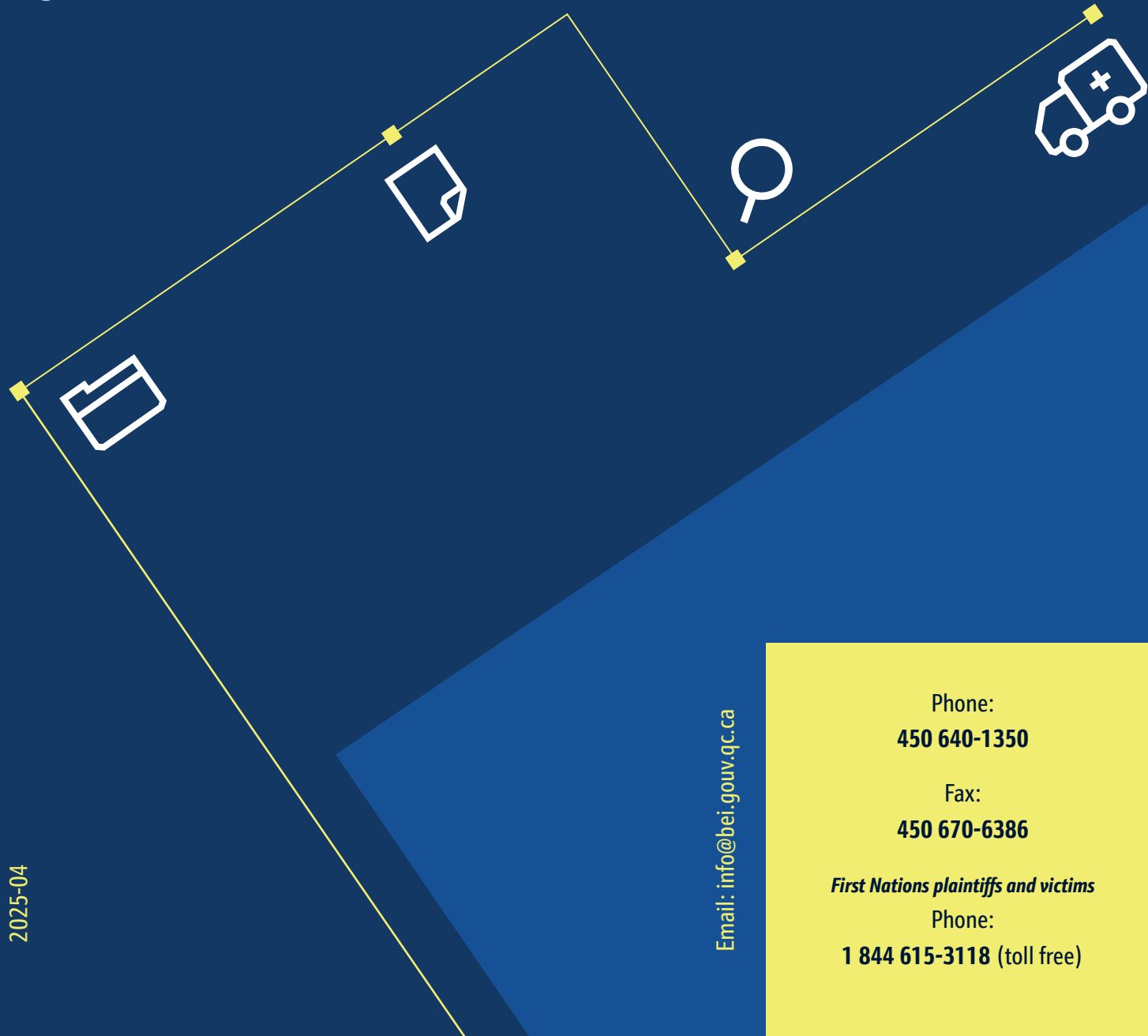




*WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A RESOURCE?
HAVE A CONCERN?*

**DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ONE
OF OUR INVESTIGATORS.**





2025-04

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First Nations plaintiffs and victims

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