



COALITION CONTRE  
l'obésité morbide

**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate publication

**The *Coalition against Morbid Obesity* pleased with MSSS intent  
to reduce bariatric surgery waiting lists**

**Montréal, June 12, 2007** – Following a report broadcast on Radio-Canada on Monday, June 11, concerning the list of surgeries that could be offered in private clinics, Josée Roy and Jennifer Schultz, cofounders of the Coalition against Morbid Obesity, are pleased that bariatric surgery appears on the preliminary list of some thirty procedures issued by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux. “The Coalition’s ultimate objective is to reduce bariatric surgery waiting lists in Québec. We will welcome all initiatives working towards this end. More than 200,000 Quebecers suffer from morbid obesity, and barely 1,000 bariatric surgeries are carried out each year in Québec. This is clearly inadequate,” declared Mrs. Roy. “To reduce waiting lists that can reach up to 7 years, it will however be necessary to significantly increase the number of bariatric surgeries that are carried out. We will closely follow this matter over the coming weeks”, Mrs. Schultz added. “We would also like to take this opportunity to ask not only those who are suffering from morbid obesity, but also, those who are concerned about the cause, to express their support by becoming members of the *Coalition against Morbid Obesity*,” Mrs. Schultz concluded.

**Coalition survey**

The first Coalition activity entails conducting a survey among people suffering from morbid obesity. Taking the form of a questionnaire, the survey aims to compile a current portrait of the situation in Québec from the perspective of people who are suffering from morbid obesity. It mainly focuses on the accessibility of healthcare resources and the support of loved ones. To date, over 300 people have participated in the survey. The questionnaire is available on the Internet at the following address: [www.lepoidsquitue.com](http://www.lepoidsquitue.com). It can be completed online or by telephone at 514-982-6748 or 1-888-439-6355. In the coming months, the *Coalition against Morbid Obesity* will organize information, awareness, and mobilization activities across Québec.

**Morbid obesity**

Morbid obesity is the starting point for different types of diseases that are often fatal, such as arterial hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, or heart disease. An individual’s obesity level can be evaluated by means of the body mass index (BMI), which is calculated by dividing the person’s weight by his or her height squared ( $\text{Kg/m}^2$ ). Morbid obesity corresponds to a BMI higher than or equal to 40, or higher than or equal to 35 if accompanied by comorbidities.

**Bariatric surgery**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), bariatric surgery is considered to be the only effective treatment for morbid obesity. Bariatric surgery includes a series of techniques that are based on two intervention principles: gastric bypass (reduced volume) and intestinal malabsorption (derivation). In Québec in 2005, the Agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé (AETMIS) tabled a report entitled "Surgical Treatment of Morbid Obesity – Update", which reviews all of the bariatric surgery techniques. The AETMIS recommended establishing an action plan in Québec to define the need for bariatric surgery and devise ways to respond to these.

**About the Coalition against Morbid Obesity**

*Created in February 2007, the Coalition against Morbid Obesity is a non-profit, Québec-based organization that draws on the strength of association to increase awareness of the issue of morbid obesity and to foster better access to bariatric surgery in Québec. Its signature, "Weight that kills", expresses the dramatic situation that is experienced by people who are suffering from morbid obesity. As its name indicates, this disease leads to a faster death for those who are afflicted. For more information, visit [www.lepoidsquitue.com](http://www.lepoidsquitue.com).*

**Photographs of Josée Roy and Jennifer Schultz are posted on:**

[http://www.lepoidsquitue.com/salledepresse\\_en.php](http://www.lepoidsquitue.com/salledepresse_en.php)

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