

CATHII INFO



COMITÉ D'ACTION CONTRE LA TRAITE HUMAINE INTERNE ET INTERNATIONALE

October 2021

Here is an update on the CATHII's activities and some shared reflections from the start of this year already well under way.

The relocation of the CATHII

After an extensive search, the CATHII finally moved to a new location last May. It is a warm and comfortable place, housing not only the CATHII, but also the Québec Coalition on Human Trafficking. The Board of Directors held a first meeting on the new premises and saw firsthand that our facilities are fully adequate. You will be notified of the date for an open house activity once sanitary conditions permit.

Application for registration with the CRA

Steps with the Canada Revenue Agency are being taken to have the CATHII be recognized as a charitable organization. We took the opportunity to clarify the wording of our mission and intervention components. A special General Assembly of members made it possible to adopt this new wording, which will be included on our website shortly.

Although it may not sound like it, this process with the CRA takes time and energy. We hope that it will be completed during the fall.



France Laforge & Nelson Tardif, new room, May 11, 2021



Main advocacy of the CATHII

Last June, a letter was sent to our elected provincial officials, reminding them of the importance of the fight against human trafficking and the need for a provincial plan that covers all forms of trafficking: sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced marriage, etc.

Advocacy for a provincial action plan continues into the fall. A letter signing campaign will take place during these weeks, providing details on the essential elements to be included in this action plan: prioritize the most vulnerable populations, provide funding for the missions of organizations that work with victims or survivors, raise awareness of the entire population on the realities of human trafficking here in Quebec, offer assistance and resources to current or past victims of trafficking. These essentials are the result of a collective reflection led by the members of the CATHII.

Other actions with elected officials and legislators will follow.



The research of the CATHII

Since January, the CATHII has begun **participatory research on the empowerment and reintegration of human trafficking victims.**

Now that the literature review is completed, Lead Researcher, Renaude Grégoire, can seek community organizations for discussions about good “empowerment” practices that they experiment with, as well as the challenges and issues that arise on survivors’ journeys .

Training at the University of Ottawa – October 5, 2021

On October 5th, the CATHII offered training on human trafficking at the University of Ottawa in a course called: Race, Colonization and Decolonization. The session looked at modern slavery.

The training was followed by a rich exchange on the reflections and questions from students (women only!), specifically, on male-female relationships and the need to find ways to build more egalitarian relationships.

Study Day on Migrant Labour with the CJF

Last June, the Coordinator participated in a Study Day on Migrant Labour organized by the Centre Justice et Foi, which ultimately shed light on Canada and Quebec's vision of migrants through programs for temporary migrant workers.

Some facts to know and elements of reflection put forward during this study day and in the compilation of texts released by the Centre Justice et Foi *:

- The programs for temporary foreign workers in Quebec and Canada are numerous, having multiplied in recent years. The criteria for selecting workers are getting more specific, seeking to meet the needs of companies, as much for skilled workers as for low-skilled jobs. These programs seek to address the labour shortage and thereby, contribute to the economic recovery. They are designed to accommodate a *temporary, flexible, usable as needed and renewable* workforce, according to utilitarian and neoliberal logic. With this in mind, migrant workers who participate in these programs will be welcomed in person on a temporary basis, received here especially for their workforce and used as such.
- While some of the jobs advertised offer good working conditions, many of them lead to insecurity and are far from fulfilling the promises of recruitment agencies for temporary foreign workers: good jobs, good conditions, access to permanent residency and ultimately, to citizenship.
- The closed work permit, which gives access to a single employer, is issued in several of these programs. In the event of abuse or exploitation by employers, workers cannot quit their jobs on their own and seek other employers. In such cases, the option available to workers to put an end to situations of abuse is to report the employers, in which case, they face several risks: dismissal, reprisals, loss of work permits, repatriation, being "blacklisted" and not being re-employed in the future.

A recent agreement with the federal government will allow Quebec companies to double their number of temporary immigrant workers, from 10% to 20%. In this situation, the CATHII sees the importance of ensuring that the government grants open work permits to temporary foreign workers as a tool to prevent and protect against possible abuse, a right that is also granted to all workers in Quebec.

France Laforge, Coordinator of the CATHII

* *Management of Migrant Labour Under a Neoliberal Regime*, available in French at: <https://cjf.qc.ca>
