

# QUEBEC ASSOCIATIONS HAVE FORMED A COALITION

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The *Association des Opticiennes et Opticiens du Québec* (AOOQ) has formed a coalition with a dozen other associations with an eye to changing the all-too-often abusive behaviour of the syndics. This abuse, often bordering on harassment, causes aberrations in the disciplinary system and, unfortunately, results all too frequently in irreparable human tragedies, sometimes to the point of depression and even suicide.

The system is set up in such a way that the words “syndic” and “imputability” never coexist. Protecting the public is important, and we believe that in order for everyone to do their work properly, the additional stressor of having a sword of Damocles hanging over one’s head, put there by an overzealous syndic, is not really necessary; in fact, it is detrimental to everyone.

Therefore, we are requesting that changes to the law be made requiring a code of ethics for professional order syndics and the implementation of a structure under which these syndics will be held accountable and responsible for their actions.

Following a meeting with Charles Roy, the project initiator and president of the *Association des Psychologues du Québec*, the Justice Minister asked the Québec Interprofessional Council to form a committee tasked with investigating the situation. This is good news in itself, but we want to improve things by making requests at this time for at least one association representative to sit on this committee. We will keep you posted as the situation develops.

On another note, at the time of writing, we were still awaiting a response concerning the terms of application of the payment program for eyeglasses for individuals under the age of 18, as announced in the Government of Québec’s latest budget. The RAMQ has consulted the Association on this matter and the Members of Cabinet should be making its decision sometime this summer. They have no choice in the matter; the program was announced to start in September 2019. Rest assured that you will be informed as soon as the program is underway.