

The government's first steps towards sustainable Quebec

Montreal, October 23, 2020 –

Yesterday afternoon, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Quebec (MAPAQ), Mr. André Lamontagne, unveiled his sustainable agriculture plan 2020-2030.

Parkinson Québec welcomes the intentions of this plan whose vision is to “re-establish the trust between producers and consumers in a perspective of food self-sufficiency”.

From its first orientation, this plan underlines the government’s desire to reduce the use and risks of pesticides, thus affirming that pesticides are products that are toxic to one’s health.

As mentioned later, “agricultural producers, as well as those who revolve around the company, are the first to be affected by exposure to pesticides”, and thus, their health is most at risk of deteriorating.

Parkinson Québec therefore salutes the leadership of Minister Lamontagne, who with his colleague, the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity (MTESS), “provide mechanisms [...] so that the recognition of occupational diseases can evolve more easily at the same rate as that of scientific knowledge”.

The Law on work accidents and occupational diseases already provides that the government itself can adopt a modification of the list of occupational diseases (Art. 457). Administrative changes are also provided for by the Law (Art. 454) but have been inoperative for over 35 years.

On the other hand, the link between exposure to pesticides and the development of Parkinson's disease has been unanimously recognized by the international scientific community for many years now. This evidence has led to countries like France and Sweden recognizing Parkinson's as an occupational disease.

Parkinson Québec therefore asks ministers Lamontagne and Boulet to immediately propose a regulation to the list of occupational diseases in order to include Parkinson's disease, as well as a compensation mechanism for victims of pesticides.

We are committed to continuing to work with the Government of Quebec to resolve this important issue of public health and social justice.

Contact pour les médias :

Romain Rigal, Directeur, Programmes et services, Parkinson Québec
514 361 4422 Ext: 220

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For more information and interview requests:

Gaëlle Le Duc
Senior Marketing and Communication Consultant - Parkinson Québec
t. 514 861.4422 #234. gle-duc@parkinsonquebec.ca



560, rue Ontario Est
Montréal (Québec) H2L 0B6

N° d'enregistrement: 87769 5619 RR0001

Téléphone 514 861.4422
Sans frais 1 800 720.1307

Courriel info@parkinsonquebec.ca
Web parkinsonquebec.ca