

TAKING ACTION on radon

Inspiring municipal initiatives





**Around 1,000 Quebecers per year,
which is nearly 3 people a day, die from lung
cancer attributable to radon exposure.**

Radon is a radioactive gas that is naturally produced when uranium in the soil breaks down. While the gas is found throughout Quebec, the quantity present varies depending on the region¹. Radon that penetrates buildings can negatively impact the indoor air quality and prove harmful to human health². After smoking, prolonged exposure to radon is the second preventable cause of lung cancer.

Given that radon is invisible and odourless, homeowners must be made aware of the risks and encouraged to take measures to favour their health and that of those around them, including tenants. Municipalities can help save lives by increasing the population's awareness of the dangers of radon and encouraging citizens to test their home and adopt mitigation measures when necessary.

Several Quebec cities and municipalities are already taking action!

This compilation of initiatives was developed to showcase and acknowledge various measures introduced thus far, with the goal of inspiring other municipalities to take action and help prevent lung cancer due to radon exposure.

Thank you for taking action and making a difference!

If your municipal initiative is not featured in this document,
please contact the [Quebec Cancer Foundation](#).

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◀◀ My world turned upside down in March 2024.
My 46-year old spouse, Éric, who never smoked,
was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer.

An incurable cancer...



In our quest to understand
what caused the disease,
we learned about radon.

Tests were conducted in our
home, and revealed extremely
high concentrations: 881 Bq/m³
in the basement, 532 Bq/m³
in our bedroom and 628 Bq/m³
in the living room, up to
four times greater than the
maximum level in Canada.

I lost my Éric to radon.
I don't want there to be
anymore victims.. ▶▶

*Caroline Lévesque
(Éric Trépanier's spouse)*

What quantity of radon is considered acceptable in indoor spaces?

There is no safe level of radon. In Canada, action is recommended if radon levels are **200 Bq/m³ or higher**.

There are stricter radon standards elsewhere. In the United States³, for example, the limit is 150 Bq/m³ and remedial action is encouraged when levels reach 75 Bq/m³. The World Health Organization⁴, in turn, recommends a limit of 100 Bq/m³ if possible.

Increasing awareness of radon's harmful effects and how to reduce them

While awareness on its own has a limited impact, it is nonetheless critical. In Quebec, despite radon levels being too high in one out of every 6 homes⁵, many people are still unaware of the risks and the measures they can take. There are a number of ways in which municipalities can inform their citizens.

Handing out existing information pamphlets

Various free tools and resources to increase the population's awareness of radon are offered by a number of reliable sources, among them the [Quebec Lung Association](#), [Take Action on Radon](#) and [Health Canada](#). These can be ordered or printed, and placed in display stands at city hall, in various libraries or in municipal buildings (such as arenas).

Creating and sharing your own messages

Web site, social networks, newsletter (e.g., during Radon Action Month, in November): every approach adopted to inform and engage the community counts.

Getting involved in annual national campaigns

Since 2016, the Quebec Lung Association has organized an annual campaign (*Villes et municipalités contre le radon*) to raise awareness and create opportunities to inform the population about radon. Each autumn, the bilingual resources provided by the organization enable municipalities to encourage their citizens to test their home for the presence of radon. Over **144 municipalities** have participated at least once (Appendix) and 10 or so of them stepped up to host the event.

Addressing a collective challenge

To date, around 20 Quebec municipalities took part in the *100 Radon Test Kit Challenge*⁶. In addition to allowing a number of its citizens to obtain a radon test kit free of charge or at a minimal cost, participating municipalities received a customized report on local results to share with community members. These reports include clear data on the issue at the local level and will hopefully prompt other citizens to take action.

Lowering the cost of purchasing a dosimeter

To promote radon testing in their territory, numerous municipalities offer financial support for the purchase of a dosimeter, either by reimbursing the device's cost after purchase or by selling it themselves at a reduced price.

- [Belœil](#) reimburses 50% of the cost of a dosimeter, up to a maximum of \$30.
- [Danville](#) and [Ham-Sud](#) reimburse \$45 following the purchase of a dosimeter and their receipt of the associated test report, and this through a program focused on ecoresponsible renovations (Habitation durable - Rénovation – Écogestes).
- [Prévost](#) covers 33% of the purchase cost of a dosimeter. The city does this through its environment team, which sells dosimeters to residents at a reduced cost of \$30, including taxes.
- [Vaudreuil-Dorion](#) offers dosimeters to its citizens at the low price of \$5, including postage and analysis costs.

Citizens should be allowed to benefit from financial support on more than one occasion, especially since authorities recommend doing an additional test for radon in the following circumstances:

- after works aimed at improving a home's impermeability or ventilation (insulation, caulking, window replacement, additional lining, etc.);
- following the installation of a radon mitigation system to validate its effectiveness.

Quebecers can obtain a dosimeter by contacting the [Quebec Lung Association](#) :
1 888 POUMON-9 (768-6669) | info@poumonquebec.ca



Lending of electronic testing devices

Electronic testing devices are not as precise as a passive dosimeter, but are nonetheless an adequate tool for measuring the concentration of radon in a home. Lending programs facilitate access to testing devices, spark citizens' curiosity with regard to radon and encourage the latter to take action.

ATTENTION!

There are a number of different testing devices. The device selected should be approved under the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP)⁷.



A reading taken over just a few weeks can be inaccurate. It will generate an overview, but a test must run for at least 90 days to provide reliable results, and this due to daily fluctuations in the concentration of radon⁸.

As regards a preliminary test using an electronic monitor, the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux recommends testing for **at least one month** during the cold season (between October and March)⁹. This implies that devices must be lent for at least 30 days. Once the preliminary test is completed, citizens with a result of 100 Bq/m³ or more will have the opportunity of conducting a test over a longer period of time with a dosimeter or an approved electronic device. Some libraries, such as the one in Saint-Bruno, lend devices for up to 100 days. Other libraries let citizens renew their loan as needed.

The Quebec municipalities with libraries that lend such devices are:

- [Belœil](#)
- [Candiac](#)
- [Chelsea](#)
- [Les Coteaux](#)
- [L'Assomption](#)
- [Longueuil \(succursales Claude-Henri-Grignon, Georges-Dor, Jacques-Ferron, Muriel-Anne Brown, Raymond-Lévesque\)](#)
- [Morin-Heights](#)
- [Sainte-Adèle](#)
- [Saint-Bruno](#)
- [Saint-Clet](#)
- [Saint-Henri \(La Reliure\)](#)
- [Saint-Jean-Baptiste](#)
- [Saint-Rémi](#)
- [Vaudreuil-Dorion](#)



Some municipalities also lend electronic radon devices directly at their municipal offices. The citizens of Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, for example, can borrow devices for a preliminary test over the short term by giving a deposit.

To obtain information on the process for implementing such a service and regarding resources that allow for benefiting from preferential pricing on devices, go to the site [Take Action on Radon](#).



As of 2026, the [Quebec Cancer Foundation](#) is lending radon monitors at no cost in the fall and winter, and this at its 7 regional centres (Gatineau, Montréal, Trois-Rivières, Quebec City, Lévis, Sherbrooke and Rouyn-Noranda). Devices can be reserved beginning in August.

Providing financial assistance to promote radon control measures in at-risk homes

Several municipalities offer assistance to citizens at risk of getting cancer due to a concentration of radon in excess of the Canadian standard, namely 200 Bq/m³, by reimbursing a portion of the cost of remedial measures.

- [Danville](#) and [Ham-Sud](#) reimburse \$150 of the cost of radon control measures carried out by a professional, and this through a program focused on ecoresponsible renovations (Habitation durable - Rénovation – Écogestes).
- [Pincourt](#), [Saint-Joseph-du-Lac](#) and [Vaudreuil-Dorion](#) offer a reimbursement of up to 50% of the installation cost of a radon control system, capped at \$500 per home. Certain conditions apply, among them providing laboratory evidence of the presence of radon and having the system installed by a certified contractor (C-NRPP).

Preventing radon infiltration during the home building phase

Seeing to the installation of physical barriers to prevent underground gases from entering the home and including radon control measures during the building phase is much simpler and less expensive than correcting future problems. In October 2025, the Construction Code of Quebec (part of the province's *Building Act*) was amended to include such measures¹⁰. Municipalities play a major role in the Code's application.

Municipalities are, in fact, entitled to pass even stricter regulations in their respective communities¹¹. They can also support these measures by means of grants.

- With regard to the building of a new home, the sustainable homes program (Habitation durable) offered by certain municipalities in the Centre-du-Québec region, including [Dixville](#), awards points when a radon mitigation system is included. The overall grant extended is based on the total points awarded for eligible measures.

To learn more

Health Canada created an online guide, the [Radon action guide for municipalities](#), which notably grants a municipality the power to regulate the presence of radon in various public areas frequented by its citizens. Look over the guide to obtain further information.

Vaudreuil-Dorion: a winning combination of complementary actions



Aware of the radon issue, the city of Vaudreuil-Dorion undertook in 2017 and 2018 to measure radon in its municipal buildings. The levels detected were mostly low. This being said, the city understands that levels can vary widely within a same territory. Based on a recommendation made by its environmental committee in February 2019, it introduced a radon action plan combining awareness and the grants awarded as part of its environmental policy. Today, Vaudreuil-Dorion has a large number of strategies to effectively battle the hazard that is radon.

Detecting radon for \$5 or less!

On April 1, 2019, Vaudreuil-Dorion began offering citizens a radon testing device (including postage and analysis) at the low price of \$5, and this as part of its environmental grants. The program, which is still in effect today, accepts requests from citizens as of the month of September. Following this, the city distributes the devices over a two-day period, in the fall; citizens must notably go pick them up. Over the course of these two days, citizens can also attend an information session on the radon test and the measures to take depending on the results. At the end of winter, citizens can bring their dosimeter to city hall, which will send devices for testing at no cost to citizens, or mail it to the laboratory themselves.

Between 2019 and 2025, 1,244 dosimeters were provided to citizens. The initiative cost the city approximately \$50,000, with annual costs varying between \$3,440 and \$10,960, depending on demand. If necessary, citizens can obtain another device the following year to evaluate the effectiveness of remedial measures or test the extent to which renovations (often insulation works, such as adding plastic lining or caulking around windows) helped reduce radon levels.

The city library of things also lends, free of charge, electronic radon monitors for short-term tests or follow-up.

Increasing the population's awareness

The city participated in two national awareness-raising initiatives following its public announcement regarding grants for dosimeters. In November 2019, it hosted the 4th annual radon campaign of the Quebec Lung Association and took part in the Take Action on Radon's 100 Test Kit Challenge. Nearly a third of the 74 homes tested on this occasion had high levels of radon, while an additional 31% had concentrations just shy of the acceptable limit. A public [webinar](#) was organized to present results to the population and remind citizens of the importance of radon tests, while also encouraging the latter to benefit from the municipal grant.

Supporting persons at risk

In 2021, the city of Vaudreuil-Dorion assisted citizens whose homes had radon levels in excess of the standard of 200 Bq/m³ when tested, by offering an additional amount to purchase a radon control system. This assistance makes it possible to obtain a reimbursement of up to 50 % of the cost of the works, capped at \$500 per home.

Between 2019 and 2025, the city helped 79 homeowners address the issue of radon. A total of nearly \$40,000 was paid out, \$17,000 of it in 2022, a record year for the number of radon tests conducted.



Sample resolution for adopting financial assistance measures

CONSIDERING THAT radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Quebec;

CONSIDERING THAT the Quebec Lung Association's radon map shows the presence of this radioactive gas in (___ %) of the dwellings in our region that were tested;

CONSIDERING the high level of unfamiliarity with the gas and the small percentage of Quebecers that detected the presence of radon in their home;

CONSIDERING THAT work will need to be done in some homes to obtain a radon measurement below the Canadian Radon Guideline level;

CONSIDERING the impact of a high radon level on property values.

It is PROPOSED BY _____

ACCEPTED BY _____

and RESOLVED (unanimously/by a majority) THAT:

- the municipality, through a (newsletter or social media post) notify its citizens and invite them to take steps to test their home for the presence of radon during Radon Action Month, which is in November;
- a new grant (regarding air quality) be offered to make it easier to detect radon in homes by (terms and conditions): ...
- that a second grant, this one regarding the installation of a radon control system, provide for a reimbursement of up to ___% of the installation costs, capped at \$___ per home.

APPENDIX

Cities and municipalities that have participated in the Quebec Lung Association campaign over the years

By administrative region

Abitibi-Témiscamingue	Kipawa, Palmarolle, Preissac, Rémigny, Rochebaucourt, Saint-Dominique-du-Rosaire, Trécesson
Bas-Saint-Laurent	Albertville, Dégelis, Les Hauteurs, Notre-Dame-du-Portage, Price, Saint-Alexandre-des-Lacs, Saint-Clément, Saint-Cyprien, Saint-Honoré-de-Témiscouata, Saint-Guy, Saint-Marcellin, Sainte-Marguerite-Marie, Sainte-Rita
Capitale-Nationale	Deschambault-Grondines, La Malbaie (2025 host), Saint-Alban, Saint-Marc-des-Carrières, Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré
Centre-du-Québec	Drummondville, Fortierville, Nicolet, Plessisville, Saint-Félix-de-Kingsey, Sainte-Brigitte-des-Saults, Saint-Eugène, Victoriaville, Wickham
Chaudière-Appalaches	Beaulac-Garthby, Issoudun, Lac-Etchemin, Lac-Poulin, Laurier-Station, L'Islet, Saint-Fabien-de-Panet, Saint-Isidore, Saint-Magloire, Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies, Scott, Sainte-Aurélie, Tourville
Côte-Nord	Aguanish, Baie-Trinité, Franquelin, Sept-Îles
Estrie	Canton de Bedford, Chartierville, Cookshire-Eaton, Dudswell, East Angus, Lambton, Maricourt, Marston Canton, Notre-Dame-des-Bois, Ogden, Saint-Adrien, Saint-Isidore-de-Clifton, Stanbridge Station, Wotton
Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	Carleton-sur-Mer, Cascapédia-Saint-Jules, Grand-Métis, Matapédia, Paspébiac
Lanaudière	Crabtree, Saint-Ambroise-de-Kildare, Saint-Côme, Saint-Pierre, Village Saint-Pierre
Laurentides	Canton de Gore, Harrington, Labelle, Lorraine, Mirabel, Mont-Tremblant, Oka, Saint-Placide, Sainte-Adèle (2024 host), Sainte-Thérèse (2023 host), Saint-Hippolyte, Saint-Joseph-du-Lac (2020 host)
Mauricie	Lac-Édouard, La Tuque, Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade
Montréal	Beauharnois, Beloeil (2022 host), Boucherville, Contrecoeur, Hemmingford, Île-Perrot, Massueville, Mont-Saint-Grégoire, Mont-Saint-Hilaire (2017 host), MRC de Pierre-De Saurel, Otterburn Park, Pointe-Fortune, Rougemont, Saint-Aimé, Saint-Amable, Saint-Basile-le-Grand, Saint-Bernard-de-Michaudville, Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, Saint-Hugues, Saint-Joseph-de-Sorel, Saint-Lambert, Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu, Saint-Mathieu-de-Beloeil, Saint-Ours, Saint-Robert, Saint-Roch-de-Richelieu, Saint-Valérien-de-Milton, Saint-Zotique, Sainte-Julie (2016 host), Sainte-Victoire-de-Sorel, Sorel-Tracy, Upton, Varennes, Verchères, Vaudreuil-Dorion (2018 host)
Montréal	Beaconsfield, Hampstead, Montréal-Est
Nord-du-Québec	Matagami
Outaouais	Campbell's Bay, Chelsea, Clarendon, Denholm, Fort-Coulonge, Lac-Simon, Messines, Sainte-Thérèse-de-la-Gatineau, Sheenboro
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	Chambord, La Doré, Roberval, Saint-Edmond-les-Plaines, Sainte-Rose-du-Nord

Cities and municipalities that have participated in the Quebec Lung Association campaign over the years

In alphabetical order

Aguanish, Albertville, Baie-Trinité, Beaconsfield, Beaulac-Garthby, Beauharnois, Beloeil (2022 host), Boucherville, Campbell's Bay, Canton de Bedford, Canton de Gore, Carleton-sur-Mer, Cascapédia-Saint-Jules, Chambord, Chartierville, Chelsea, Clarendon, Contrecoeur, Cookshire-Eaton, Crabtree, Dégelis, Denholm, Deschambault-Grondines, Drummondville, Dudswell, East Angus, Fort-Coulonge, Fortierville, Franquelin, Grand-Métis, Hampstead, Harrington, Hemmingford, Île-Perrot, Issoudun, Kipawa, L'Islet, La Malbaie (2025 host), La Tuque, Labelle, La Doré, Lac-Édouard, Lac-Étchemin, Lac-Poulin, Lac-Simon, Lambton, Laurier-Station, Les Hauteurs, Lorraine, Maricourt, Marston Canton, Massueville, Matagami, Matapédia, Messines, Mirabel, Montréal-Est, Mont-Saint-Grégoire, Mont-Saint-Hilaire (2017 host), Mont-Tremblant, MRC de Pierre-De Saurel, Nicolet, Notre-Dame-des-Bois, Notre-Dame-du-Portage, Ogden, Oka, Otterburn Park, Palmarolle, Paspébiac, Plessisville, Pointe-Fortune, Preissac, Price, Rémigny, Roberval, Rochebaucourt, Rougemont, Saint-Adrien, Saint-Aimé, Saint-Alban, Saint-Alexandre-des-Lacs, Saint-Amable, Saint-Ambroise-de-Kildare, Saint-Basile-le-Grand, Saint-Bernard-de-Michaudville, Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, Saint-Clément, Saint-Côme, Saint-Cyprien, Saint-Dominique-du-Rosaire, Saint-Edmond-les-Plaines, Saint-Eugène, Saint-Fabien-de-Panet, Saint-Félix-de-Kingsey, Saint-Guy, Saint-Hippolyte, Saint-Honoré-de-Témiscouata, Saint-Hugues, Saint-Isidore, Saint-Isidore-de-Clifton, Saint-Joseph-de-Sorel, Saint-Joseph-du-Lac (2020 host), Saint-Lambert, Saint-Magloire, Saint-Marc-des-Carrières, Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu, Saint-Marcellin, Saint-Mathieu-de-Beloeil, Saint-Ours, Saint-Pierre, Saint-Placide, Saint-Robert, Saint-Roch-de-Richelieu, Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies, Saint-Valérien-de-Milton, Saint-Zotique, Sainte-Adèle (2024 host), Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade, Sainte-Aurélie, Sainte-Brigitte-des-Saults, Sainte-Julie (2016 host), Sainte-Marguerite-Marie, Sainte-Rita, Sainte-Rose-du-Nord, Sainte-Thérèse (2023 host), Sainte-Thérèse-de-la-Gatineau, Sainte-Victoire-de-Sorel, Scott, Sept-Îles, Sheenboro, Sorel-Tracy, Stanbridge Station, Tourville, Trécesson, Upton, Varennes, Vaudreuil-Dorion (2018 host), Verchères, Victoriaville, Village Saint-Pierre, Wickham, Wotton.

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