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# Accueil

[Accueil - Ligue des droits et libertés](#)

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Donate - Get Informed - Become a Member - Search  
Ongoing Struggles - Publications - Events - Training - About - Member Area

## Hero:

Because human rights are for everyone!

Against the many risks and setbacks faced by human rights, we must speak out, act, and denounce, which is what the League for Human Rights and Freedoms does tirelessly.

You can count on the LDL to work towards defending the rights of everyone. As part of the 2024-2025 fundraising campaign, support LDL's mission!

DONATE NOW (button link leading to a donation page)

# Donner/ Devenir membre

[Ligue des droits et libertés | 60 ans Droits en mouvements](#)

## Note below the menu:

Please note that the League for Human Rights and Freedoms never solicits donations or memberships in the street, subway, shopping malls, or any other public places. If you are approached in this manner by a "League for Rights," be cautious and notify our team by email at [info@liguedesdroits.ca](mailto:info@liguedesdroits.ca). Stay vigilant!

## Page Content:

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2024-2025

BECAUSE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE FOR EVERYONE!

Against the many risks and setbacks faced by human rights in Quebec, Canada, and elsewhere, we must speak out, act, and denounce. And that's what the League for Human Rights and Freedoms (LDL) does tirelessly! Through its mission, always relevant and necessary, LDL continually reminds governments of their obligations regarding human rights.

LDL IN ACTION

You can rely on LDL to analyze bills that affect rights and freedoms, to take positions on rights-related issues, and to promote human rights through public activities and publications.

Because human rights are for everyone!

MORE FUNDING, MORE ACTIONS!

Currently, LDL receives mission funding as well as funding for certain special projects. However, this is insufficient. Additional funding is needed to raise awareness of human rights beyond our usual circles, and for this, your support is essential. Donations collected during the 2024-2025 fundraising campaign will help further promote human rights to counter their trivialization and, above all, to enhance their value.

## MONTHLY DONATIONS, A KEY TO PREDICTABILITY

We invite you to support LDL through a monthly donation that ensures predictable funding. Monthly donations are automatically processed on the 1st or 15th of the month, by credit card or bank withdrawal.

Thank you very much for your support!

Alexandre Petitcherc, President of LDL

### Donation Reminder:

\$50 FOR 50 YEARS!

Another way to support human rights is to make a one-time donation in honor of a birth or a significant anniversary, such as the 50th anniversary of the adoption of Quebec's Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, resulting from actions led by LDL in the 1960s and 1970s. If you wish to make both a monthly donation and a one-time donation for this occasion, two transactions will be necessary. If you are already donating monthly, a one-time donation can also be made. Thank you for your support!

## Liste des luttes

[Nouvelles - Ligue des droits et libertés](#)

### Hero:

News

### Page:

**Title:** Pinel: Complex Cases Cry for Help!\*

[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/pinel-les-cas-complexes-crient-au-secours/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/pinel-les-cas-complexes-crient-au-secours/) ]

**Published on:** September 12, 2024

[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/pinel-les-cas-complexes-crient-au-secours/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/pinel-les-cas-complexes-crient-au-secours/) ]

**Categories:** Droits et libertés Review

[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/revue/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/revue/) ]

At the Pinel Institute and other psychiatric facilities in Quebec, authoritarian and dehumanizing practices are still used in too many cases. These methods, reminiscent of old asylums, highlight the need for reform towards a more humane approach that respects the rights of individuals.

**Title:** For the Ban on Police Interrogations Once and for All\*

[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/pour-linterdiction-des-interpellations-policieres-une-bonne-fois-pour-toute/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/pour-linterdiction-des-interpellations-policieres-une-bonne-fois-pour-toute/) ]

**Published on:** September 4, 2024

[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/pour-linterdiction-des-interpellations-policieres-une-bonne-fois-pour-toute/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/pour-linterdiction-des-interpellations-policieres-une-bonne-fois-pour-toute/) ]

**Categories:** \*Press Releases\*

[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/publications/communiques/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/publications/communiques/) ]

The League for Human Rights and Freedoms welcomes this landmark ruling in the fight against racial profiling in Montreal. For the respect of human rights, it is now up to the City of Montreal to act by banning police interrogations once and for all!

**Title:** General States of the Quebec Public Service\*

[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/etats-generaux-de-la-fonction-publique-du-quebec/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/etats-generaux-de-la-fonction-publique-du-quebec/) ]

**Published on:** August 28, 2024

[<https://liguedesdroits.ca/etats-generaux-de-la-fonction-publique-du-quebec/> ]

**Categories:** Briefs and Representations

[<https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/publications/memoires-representations/> ]

In the context of digital transformation, the dematerialization of government services, and the implementation of artificial intelligence, several human rights issues are emerging. It is important to act with the aim of eliminating existing barriers, and thus, the digital shift must not create or exacerbate obstacles for individuals interacting with the state.

## Page d'une nouvelle

[Le Canada doit stopper de façon urgente l'exportation d'armes à destination d'Israël - Ligue des droits et libertés](#)

### **Hero:**

Canada Must Urgently Halt the Export of Weapons to Israel

Over \$83 million worth of explosive mortar shells produced by a Quebec-based company, General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Inc, are reportedly being purchased by the United States and incorporated into the American weapons program for Israel. The League for Human Rights and Freedoms and the International Federation for Human Rights are urging the Canadian government to block this transaction and take all necessary measures to end Israel's military interventions in the Gaza Strip.

### **Article:**

Montreal and Paris, August 27, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
[melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca](mailto:melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca)

SUBJECT: Canada Must Urgently Halt the Export of Weapons to Israel

Dear Prime Minister,  
Dear Minister,

The League for Human Rights and Freedoms (LDL) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of human rights. Since its founding in 1963, LDL has influenced

several government policies and bills in Quebec and Canada and has contributed to the creation of instruments for the defense and promotion of human rights, such as the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

LDL is a member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), an international NGO comprising 188 national human rights organizations from 116 countries. Since 1922, FIDH has been committed to defending all human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and includes several Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations among its members.

Extreme violence against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank has continued since October 2023, and we were dismayed to learn that over \$83 million worth of explosive mortar shells produced by a Quebec-based company, General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Inc, are being purchased by the United States and integrated into the American arms program for Israel[1][2].

We, the League for Human Rights and Freedoms and the International Federation for Human Rights, are urging the Government of Canada to block this transaction and take all necessary measures to end military interventions by the State of Israel in the Gaza Strip.

In our joint letter dated February 23, 2024, we urged Canada to impose an immediate arms embargo on Israel as genocidal acts are being perpetrated against the Palestinian people. We also remind you that the Canadian Parliament passed a motion in March calling for an end to all arms transfers from Canada to Israel. It goes without saying that, in keeping with the spirit of this motion, it is urgent to also end any indirect transfers that might pass through another country.

On July 19, the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion[3] declaring that Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories, including the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, is illegal. This opinion clearly outlines the obligations of other states, including Canada, regarding Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories:

[...] to not maintain, with respect to the occupied Palestinian territory or parts of it, economic or commercial relations with Israel that would reinforce its illegal presence in that territory; [states] must refrain, in the establishment and maintenance of diplomatic missions in Israel, from recognizing in any way its illegal presence in the occupied Palestinian territory; and take measures to prevent trade or investments that support the maintenance of the illegal situation created by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory. [para 278]

[...] all states are required to refrain from providing aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by this presence. All states must ensure, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, that any impediments to the exercise of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination resulting from Israel's illegal presence in the occupied Palestinian territory are eliminated. Furthermore, all parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention have an obligation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to ensure that Israel complies with international humanitarian law as enshrined in that convention. [para 279]

Moreover, as we noted in our previous letter, the International Court of Justice ordered provisional measures in January 2024 to protect the Palestinian people from "a real and imminent risk of irreparable harm." As a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Canada has a legal obligation to prevent and punish genocide[4]. This is a binding legal responsibility under international law and Article 1 of the Convention, which requires Canada to take all necessary

measures to halt and punish genocidal acts perpetrated by the State of Israel against the Palestinian people.

Weapons, goods, and military technology exports to Israel also violate Canadian law, specifically the Export and Import Permits Act (sections 7.3 and 7.4), as there is evidence that Israel has committed and continues to commit violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

As human rights organizations committed to upholding international law and human rights principles, the League for Human Rights and Freedoms and the International Federation for Human Rights urge Canada to immediately block the transfer of Canadian-produced weapons intended for the American arms program for Israel. By doing so, the Canadian government would respect its own legislation and the spirit of the motion passed by the Canadian Parliament on March 18, which you supported.

Please act accordingly and in respect of Canada's human rights and international law obligations,

Alexandre Petitclerc  
President  
League for Human Rights and Freedoms (LDL)

Alice Mogwe  
President  
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

C.C.

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Opposition and M.P. for Carleton, Ontario  
Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party and M.P. for Burnaby South, British Columbia  
Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois and M.P. for Beloeil-Chambly, Quebec  
Ms. Salma Zahid, Chair of the Canada-Palestine Parliamentary Friendship Group and M.P. for Scarborough Centre, Ontario  
His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Ms. Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied Since 1967, Switzerland  
Ms. Nadja Pollaert, Executive Director of Médecins du Monde Canada  
Ms. France-Isabelle Langlois, Executive Director of Amnesty International Canada Francophone

[1] La Presse, "Quebec-Made Munitions to Israel? Canadian Government Silent," August 21, 2024, online:

[<https://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/politique/2024-08-21/guerre-entre-israel-et-le-hamas/des-munitions-fabriquees-au-quebec-a-israel-le-gouvernement-canadien-muet.php> ]

[2] US Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Press Release August 13, 2024, Israel – M933A1, 120mm High Explosive Mortar Cartridges, online:

[<https://www.dsca.mil/press-media/major-arms-sales/israel-m933a1-120mm-high-explosive-mortar-cartridges?ref=readthemaple.com> ]

[3] International Court of Justice, "Legal Consequences of the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Palestinian Territory Occupied, including East Jerusalem," Advisory Opinion issued July 19, 2024, online:

[<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-fr.pdf> ]

[4] Article 1 of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide ratified by Canada in 1952.

## Liste des services offerts

[Accueil - Ligue des droits et libertés](#)

### Categories:

- COVID-19  
[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/dh-et-covid-19-fr/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/dh-et-covid-19-fr/)
- Right to Health  
[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/droits-economiques-sociaux-et-culturels/droit-a-la-sante/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/droits-economiques-sociaux-et-culturels/droit-a-la-sante/)
- Right to Association  
[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/droit-dassociation/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/droit-dassociation/)
- Rights of Detainees and Prison Issues  
[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/droits-des-personnes-en-detention/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/droits-des-personnes-en-detention/)
- Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights  
[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/droits-economiques-sociaux-et-culturels/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/droits-economiques-sociaux-et-culturels/)
- Indigenous Peoples' Rights  
[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/droits-des-peuples-autochtones/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/droits-des-peuples-autochtones/)
- Environment and Human Rights  
[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/environnement/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/environnement/)
- Freedom of Expression, Right to Protest & Political Profiling  
[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/droits-civils-et-politiques/liberte-dexpression-droit-de-manifester-et-pr  
ofilage-politique/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/droits-civils-et-politiques/liberte-dexpression-droit-de-manifester-et-pr<br/>ofilage-politique/)
- Rights of Migrant People  
[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/migration-et-refugies/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/migration-et-refugies/)
- Police and Mechanisms for Monitoring Police Practices  
[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/pratiques-policieres/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/pratiques-policieres/)
- Racism, Social Exclusion, and State Secularism  
[\[https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/racisme-et-exclusion-sociale/\]](https://liguedesdroits.ca/cat/themes/racisme-et-exclusion-sociale/)

## Page d'un service

[Droits des peuples autochtones - Ligue des droits et libertés](#)

### **Hero:**

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

The lack of understanding of the situation marked by colonialism and racism in which Indigenous peoples in Canada continue to operate has significant consequences for the solidarity needed to support their struggle for recognition of their rights.

### **Page:**

**Title:** Decolonization

The lack of understanding of the situation marked by colonialism and racism in which Indigenous peoples in Canada continue to operate has significant consequences for the solidarity needed.

The LDL (Ligue des droits et libertés) aims to contribute to the development of solidarity and provide some guidelines to better understand the situation.

Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Rights

In 2015, the Ligue des droits et libertés (LDL) adopted guidelines on Indigenous peoples' rights. These principles are intended to guide the LDL's positions on issues concerning Indigenous Peoples' rights.

The LDL recognizes the Indigenous peoples of Canada as its first inhabitants.

The LDL acknowledges that Indigenous peoples in Canada continue to operate within a framework marked by colonialism and racism, both individually and structurally.

The LDL recognizes that non-Indigenous people contribute to perpetuating this colonial relationship, which leads to violations of Indigenous peoples' rights.

The LDL considers that recognition and respect for the right to self-determination of Indigenous peoples are essential to moving beyond the colonial relationship maintained by Canadian and Quebec states.

The LDL acknowledges that Indigenous peoples will not be able to fully exercise their right to self-determination until the Canadian and Quebec states recognize ancestral titles to unceded lands occupied by Indigenous peoples.

The LDL recognizes that urban Indigenous people face specific challenges, including homelessness, housing, poverty, employment, and recognition of their rights as Indigenous peoples.

The LDL is committed to:



Contributing to education and awareness by informing the public, especially LDL members, about the historical and current obstacles faced by Indigenous peoples.

Advocating with the state and non-Indigenous people to denounce colonialism, racism, and violations of Indigenous rights, and to support the recognition and respect of Indigenous rights as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly the right to self-determination, while always considering the interdependence of various rights.

Properly recognizing and honoring unceded territories of local Indigenous peoples that are occupied by non-Indigenous people.

Contributing to mutual understanding of our peoples, enriching dialogue, and making necessary efforts to establish respectful, equal relationships with Indigenous peoples, thereby facilitating discussions on matters of common interest and exploring possible strategies and solutions.

#### Our Actions Over the Past 40 Years

For over 40 years, the LDL has advocated for the recognition and respect of Indigenous peoples' rights. It has publicly intervened to raise awareness among the Quebec population about Indigenous rights, including the right to self-determination, and to denounce racism targeting them.

The LDL joined the Coalition for Indigenous Peoples' Rights, which ensures the respect and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by Canada and Quebec.

#### - 1977

- Establishment of the Committee for Support of Indigenous Nations (CANA) for Indigenous Peoples' self-determination by the LDL.

#### - 1978

- Interventions for a public inquiry following the deaths of two Montagnais on the Moisie River.

#### - 1980

- Extensive awareness campaign "Indigenous Peoples and Us: Living Together."

#### - 1990

- The LDL intervenes multiple times during the Oka Crisis and urgently organizes a mission of European observers from FIDH.

#### - 1995

- The LDL represents FIDH in Geneva for the study of the draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

#### - 2010

- Symposium on discriminatory profiling in public spaces.

#### - 2014

- Various publications advocating for the right to access water and against hydrocarbon projects and the Plan Nord.

- 2015
  - Adoption of guidelines on Indigenous peoples' rights.
- 2016
  - Involvement in the Val d'Or case: sexual assaults by police denounced by Indigenous women.
- 2017
  - Presentation of a brief to the Viens Commission.
  - Publication of the brochure "Systemic Racism... Let's Talk About It!"
- 2018
  - Public event to celebrate the Atikamekw victory in youth protection.
- 2019
  - Production by the LDL of the video "Systemic Racism... Let's Talk About It!"  
[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fL1XK3ENnf0 \]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fL1XK3ENnf0)

## Équipe

[Conseil d'administration & équipe - Ligue des droits et libertés](#)

### **Hero:**

Board of Directors & Team

### **Page:**

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is accountable to the Board of Directors and the General Assembly for the day-to-day administration of the LDL, its operations, its permanence, its campaigns, its outreach, and its relationships with regional sections.

The Annual General Assembly elects the members of the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee 2024-2025

- President Alexandre Petitclerc
- 1st Vice-President Sam Boskey
- 2nd Vice-President Maryève Boyer
- Treasurer Louise Pelletier
- Secretary Pierre-Louis Fortin-Legris

Board of Directors

In addition to the five (5) members of the Executive Committee directly elected by the Annual General Assembly, who automatically become part of the Board of Directors, it also includes at least six (6) and no

more than ten (10) other members as decided by the General Assembly. The composition of the Board must be sufficiently diverse to adequately represent various backgrounds, ages, occupations, and groups. The reputation and social commitment of its members must ensure the promotion of the objectives of the Ligue des droits et libertés.

The Board of Directors is responsible to the members' assembly for the orientations, policies, and priorities of the Ligue des droits et libertés. Consequently, it executes the mandate entrusted by the Annual General Assembly, considering available resources and current requirements.

The Annual General Assembly elects the members of the Executive Committee and the directors who make up the Board of Directors.

Any member in good standing is eligible for the Board of Directors.

#### Directors 2024-2025

- Safa Chebbi
- Catherine Descôteaux
- Delphine Gauthier-Boiteau
- Mouloud Idir
- Diane Lamoureux
- Josiane Maheu
- Stéphanie Mayer
- Elsa Mondésir Villefort
- Jacinthe Poisson
- Paul-Etienne Rainville

#### Permanent Team

- Coordinator  
Laurence Guénette  
[direction@liguedesdroits.ca](mailto:direction@liguedesdroits.ca)

[<https://liguedesdroits.ca/a-propos/conseil-dadministration-equipe/direction@liguedesdroits.ca> ]  
514 849-7717, ext. 3223

- Administration and Finance Manager  
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[info@liguedesdroits.ca](mailto:info@liguedesdroits.ca)  
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- Communications Manager  
Elisabeth Dupuis  
[communication@liguedesdroits.ca](mailto:communication@liguedesdroits.ca)  
514 849-7717, ext. 3224  
514 715-7727 (media cell)

- Mobilization Manager  
Lynda Khelil  
[mobilisation@liguedesdroits.ca](mailto:mobilisation@liguedesdroits.ca)

# À propos

[Mission & histoire - Ligue des droits et libertés](#)

## **Hero:**

Mission & History

At the heart of several significant social struggles, the Ligue des droits et libertés (LDL) has been protecting civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights for several decades. The history of the League is closely linked to the political and social history of Quebec, the evolution of international law, and the struggles undertaken by social movements here and elsewhere. For over half a century, this independent and non-partisan organization has left its mark on the evolution of Quebec society, contributing to the recognition of the ideals of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of all humans.

## **Page:**

## **Mission**

Founded in 1963, the Ligue des droits et libertés (LDL) is an organization aimed at raising awareness, defending, and promoting the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of rights recognized in the International Charter of Human Rights. The LDL is affiliated with the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). [<https://www.fidh.org/fr/> ]

For a society where the entirety of human rights will be recognized.

Since its foundation, its actions target the entire population as well as certain groups that are placed, depending on various contexts, in situations of vulnerability: refugees and immigrants, Indigenous peoples, women, people with functional limitations, social assistance recipients, etc.

The LDL takes a stand, intervenes with governmental or other bodies, both nationally and internationally, to denounce situations of human rights violations. It conducts information, training, and awareness-raising activities aimed at widely publicizing human rights issues that relate to all aspects of social life.

History of the Ligue des droits et libertés

The LDL at the Heart of Struggles - Timeline and Key Events

Genesis

Under the Duplessis regime, some of the founders of the LDL were already very active in the field of human rights advocacy in Canada. This includes Frank Scott, who founded the Canadian Society for Human Rights in 1937, Thérèse Casgrain, a pioneer in the fight for women's voting rights and founder of

the League for Women's Rights, and Pierre Elliot Trudeau, who helped set up several groups intended to unite opposition forces against the Duplessis regime in the latter half of the 1950s.

Like many other civil society actors, these activists defended the ideal of human rights during the troubling context of the "Great Darkness." Their actions anticipated many of the significant transformations experienced by Quebec society during the Quiet Revolution.

### The 1960s

On May 23, 1963, in the context of the Quiet Revolution, the Ligue des droits de l'homme (LDH) was created. At a time when Quebec lagged in human rights, the League's initial commitments were focused on defending civil and political liberties and individual rights. During this decade, the League did not yet promote the interdependence of economic, social, and cultural rights, but it remained very active in defending women's rights, freedom of expression, and the rights of detainees.

From its creation in 1963, the Commission on the Status of Women advocated for the transformation of outdated provisions in the Civil Code that relegated women to the status of non-citizens.

The League was one of the main organizations behind the adoption in 1964 of the Law on the Legal Capacity of Married Women, which guaranteed the full legal capacity of married women, who had previously been deprived of their civil and legal rights (right to sign a contract, to pursue a distinct profession, to manage their own salary, etc.)

To obtain better recognition of the parental authority of married women, activists requested that the provincial government review the bill. The status of "perpetual minor" would no longer apply to married women. In 1968, the League defended the individual right to abortion before the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. The League's reputation was already being established.

In terms of defending freedom of expression, several issues occupied its activists. In 1964, the League publicly condemned the conduct of the police forces during the October 10 riot (also known as "Saturday of the Baton"). Three years later, the LDH was partly responsible for the creation of the Commission of Inquiry into the Administration of Criminal and Penal Justice (Prévost Commission). Its goal was to defend freedom of expression and the right to demonstrate. Continuing in this vein, the League opposed the anti-demonstration regulation adopted by the Montreal City Council in 1969 following the "McGill French" movement riots.

Meanwhile, the rights of detainees and the conditions of detention in Quebec penitentiaries also attracted the attention of activists. In 1965, to oppose the construction of new penitentiaries in the province, members organized public demonstrations.

Since its inception, the issue of adopting a charter of rights has been a central concern of the LDH. The efforts of its members were rewarded in the following decade.

### The 1970s

The 1970s were a decade of new directions for the League. The LDH redefined its mission and objectives in 1972.

With this "second birth," the focus shifted from fighting for individual rights to fighting for collective rights.

This also meant recognizing cultural and linguistic rights and the right to self-determination for the Quebec people. In line with various social movements that were consolidating or emerging, the League's fields of activity and intervention multiplied. It was necessary to ensure recognition of the rights of socially discriminated groups, victims of exclusion, or without formally recognized rights: women, youth, immigrants, disabled individuals, detainees, social assistance recipients. In this regard, the LDH intervened with the Quebec government to implement solutions respecting youth rights. Two years later, this work led to the adoption of the Youth Protection Act in Quebec.

It was also in 1972 that the League continued its fight for detainees' rights by founding the Office of Detainees' Rights. Since then, the Office has greatly contributed to advancing detainees' rights in Quebec. Activists notably defend the right to vote, better detention conditions, and respect for legal rights for detainees.

This "refounding" of the League coincided with the arrival of a second generation of activists. The organization's leadership became more female, and new feminist issues were championed by Simonne Monet-Chartrand, Lizette Gervais Sauvé, Aline Desjardins, and Véronique O'Leary. To counter systemic discrimination against women, activists created several sub-committees to develop women's rights defense programs. In 1974, publishing the book *\*La Société québécoise face à l'avortement\** created a reference document that would support the abortion cause for many years. Aligning with the fight for women's rights, Simonne Monet-Chartrand, a very active feminist, pressured the organization to change its name. In 1978, the Ligue des droits de l'homme became the Ligue des droits et libertés (LDL).

The year 1975 was a significant victory for the League: the adoption of the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms by the National Assembly.

Having worked on this issue since its foundation, the League played a crucial role in drafting and debating the adoption of the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, as well as in the creation of the Commission on Human Rights and Youth Rights (CDPDJ), which was established the following year. It is not by chance that the Quebec government asked René Hurtubise, President of the League during the 1960s, to chair this Commission.

It was also during this period that the LDL became involved in defending the rights of First Nations in Quebec, at a time when few civil society organizations were addressing these issues. In the context of the James Bay Project, its members actively worked to defend and recognize Indigenous rights. As early as 1977, the League established the Committee to Support Indigenous Nations (CANAN) to actively defend the right to self-determination of Indigenous peoples. In 1978, its activists called for an investigation following the suspicious deaths of two Montagnais on the Moisie River. Initiated two years later, the awareness campaign "Les autochtones et nous : Vivre ensemble" aimed to raise awareness among Quebecers about issues related to Indigenous rights in Quebec and Canada. It is in this same perspective that the LDL began the next decade.

## The 1980s

The 1980s, with the rise of neoliberalism, were marked by the gradual erosion of social programs in Quebec. With economic, social, and cultural rights increasingly threatened, the League began to combat new forms of rights and freedoms violations. Its adaptation to the social, political, and economic context contributed to the League's evolution during these years of state restructuring.

The League continued its collaborations with the FIDH, notably organizing an observation mission to Labrador in 1986 to analyze the impacts of military flights on the Innu people and participating in a mission to monitor the Haitian elections the following year.

In 1982, Pierre Elliot Trudeau's government adopted the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. That same year, its activists mobilized international law and UN forums to discuss Canadian human rights issues. In connection with the Congress of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), the LDL organized the international symposium "Breaking the Silence: The Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas and those of Detained and Missing Persons."

The 1980s also saw the fight against racism in the taxi industry. The League was directly involved in the public inquiry conducted by the Commission on Human Rights. The fight against racism and discrimination was combined with the fight for the rights of immigrants and refugees. Its activists continued the struggle started in the 1970s. It was necessary to harmonize respect for fundamental rights with the specific requirements of immigration. In 1984, the LDL published and widely disseminated an informative document on "preventive" detention entitled "Face cachée de l'immigration" and intervened against the dismissal of 24 Haitian taxi drivers.

It was also during this time that the League, alongside other civil society groups, supported campaigns for the admission of refugees fleeing poverty or persecution (Haitians, Chileans, Vietnamese, etc.).

Since poverty represents a violation of human dignity and a major violation of human rights, the LDL opposed the 1983 Bill 30, which aimed to amend the Social Aid Act. Three years later, the League joined the movement opposing home visits for social assistance recipients.

This Quebec government program aimed to "measure the honesty" of individuals receiving social aid. It was, in fact, part of a control logic that directly attacked the right to privacy of Quebec citizens.

By publishing its 1986 brochure "Gérard et Georgette, citoyens fichés," the LDL continued its fight against state surveillance and repression. The document highlights the repressive nature of the various information systems used to collect personal data. The brochure became very popular among the public, MPs, and journalists.

## The 1990s

With the Oka Crisis erupting in 1990, the League was called to intervene quickly to mediate in this conflict. It urgently contacted the FIDH and organized an observation mission with 68 European members. At the end of the crisis, the LDL worked to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities closer together. Five years later, during the study of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the League represented the FIDH at the UN Human Rights Commission. At the same time, the fight against racism and discrimination was also reflected in the publication of the book "Les Skin Heads et l'extrême droite" (1991) and the report "Violence et racisme au Québec" (1992).

By participating in the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, the LDL joined the international movement of human rights NGOs while forging links with these organizations. It presented its first alternative report to the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCR), followed by a second in 1998. Based on its experience in Vienna, the League redefined its mission around the interdependence of all rights. The League considers that ESCR are necessary for the full realization of civil and political rights, and vice versa.

The interdependence of rights means recognizing that the realization of one right is closely linked to the realization of other rights. Advances in one right will have positive repercussions on other rights.

For example, the right to education allows for greater citizen participation in democratic issues. Conversely, setbacks in the realization of one right will have negative consequences for other rights. For example, when the right to protest is curtailed, organizations are prevented from making gains in housing, education, or sufficient income rights.

The League's international interventions multiplied: World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, Social Summit in Copenhagen the same year, presentation in 1996 to the UN of the report "La violence à l'égard des femmes au Canada et au Québec," and more.

In 1998, the LDL celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with an extensive program of activities. On this occasion, the League reminded that human rights are interdependent and that governments and civil society organizations must coordinate projects that respect the principles of justice, freedom, equality, and solidarity that underpin the universalist ideal of human rights.

## The 2000s

The first decade of the second millennium was marked by surveillance of civil liberties, the right to protest, and police overreach. The year 2001 provided a somber portrait in this regard.

In the spring of 2001, the Summit of the Americas took place in Quebec. The meeting of high-level leaders focused on creating the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). At the Peoples' Summit, held a few days prior, the League opposed this project by demonstrating, during the Human Rights Forum it organized, that it was incompatible with human rights. Furthermore, its activists led a mission to observe police actions during the Summit. In 2005, the League denounced, before the UN Human Rights Committee, mass arrests and the use of dangerous weapons against protesters. Two years later, in the context of the Montebello Summit, the LDL called for a public inquiry into police repression during the Summit.

Following the September 11 attacks, the LDL had to confront unprecedented breaches of civil liberties in the context of the "war on terror." National security became the priority for governments, accompanied by repressive measures.

The LDL warned civil society about discrimination and profiling practices against Arab and Muslim communities. This struggle, which it began in 2002 by opposing the adoption of the anti-terrorism bill C-36, lasted several years.

The League helped found the Coalition for the International Monitoring of Civil Liberties in 2002. Three years later, the LDL published a memorandum to the Canadian Parliament titled "The Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001: A Law Still Useless, Deceptive, and... Dangerous."

Continuing its fight for privacy protection, the LDL established the Collective on Electronic Surveillance in 2002. Two years later, within this same perspective, the League launched the campaign "Our Freedoms Are Our Security." The special powers conferred on police forces regarding telecommunications



surveillance represented potential severe breaches of privacy. In 2009, the League published a booklet on communication surveillance, which was sent to MPs in Ottawa.

The LDL also deepened its international engagement. From 2005 to 2008, several reports produced by the LDL were presented to the UN before various committees. The League remained active in protecting human rights, and its interventions continued to nourish both local and international bodies.

The year 2008 also saw the tragic death of Fredy Villanueva, shot by a police officer from the SPVM in Montreal-Nord. Following this event, a coalition led by the League called for a public inquiry.

The coroner's investigation revealed complacency in police investigations of police conduct and uncovered internal studies from the City of Montreal demonstrating racial profiling and racism within the SPVM. The following year, the League campaigned within another coalition for the defense of freedom of expression. In solidarity with the Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique (AQPLA), the Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes (RQGE), and Écosociété, this campaign led to the adoption of an anti-SLAPP law. Simultaneously, the League initiated exploratory work on the links between the environment and human rights with the RQGE.

## The 2010s

In June 2010, the LDL and the Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal (RAPSIM) organized the conference "Discriminatory Profiling in Public Spaces." The aim was to find common intervention strategies to counter various forms of profiling (racial, social, and political) in public spaces. In October, the LDL denounced, before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the FIDH, the rights violations during the G20 in Toronto. The League also organized a human rights training tour for community groups that year.

If the LDL had called for an independent inquiry into police violence during the Saint-Jean-Baptiste celebrations in 1971, in 2011, it continued its fight against police impunity with its campaign aimed at promoting an independent investigative mechanism when a person is injured or killed by the police. One year later, forty organizations supported the call and endorsed the Joint Declaration: For a Civil, Transparent, Impartial, and Independent Process. This struggle continues to this day.

In 2011, the LDL also resumed its fight against SLAPPs and, in line with the work of the Collective on Electronic Surveillance, published the document "Privacy and Personal Information."

During the 2012 student strike, the LDL reminded the relevant authorities that civil liberties are essential to defending all our rights. Very active on this issue, it called for a public inquiry and submitted a brief to Montreal City Hall, warning the administration about the arbitrary nature of bylaw P-6. Since 2016, P-6 has no longer been used by police forces. Several articles of the bylaw were invalidated by the courts in 2016 and 2018, and in 2019, the City of Montreal repealed the bylaw entirely, a long-standing demand!

In 2013, the LDL celebrated its 50 years of defending rights and freedoms by acknowledging the exceptional contributions of activists who have worked within the organization. Half a century of contributions were documented in the magazine "Ligue des droits et libertés, 50 ans d'action." Over these decades, the LDL has participated in various struggles against discrimination and abuse of power, for the defense of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. Its actions have influenced several government policies and contributed to the creation of institutions dedicated to defending and promoting

human rights. The LDL coordinated that same year the "Report on the State of Human Rights in Quebec and Canada," covering all violations committed by the Quebec and Canadian governments.

The following year, the LDL published several texts linking human rights and the environment. It thus positioned itself in favor of the right to water access, against hydrocarbon projects, and the Plan Nord.

In 2015, it organized a campaign calling for greater independence and effectiveness in the interventions of the future Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes (BEI). It published the manifesto "Solidarity Against Security and Identity Obsession," calling for rejecting the spiral of security and identity panic that leads to increasingly repressive and discriminatory measures, and responding with solidarity. In the same year, the LDL published a report on the right to protest in Quebec between 2012 and 2015: "Manifestations et répression." It highlighted the political profiling carried out by law enforcement and political authorities.

Taking advantage of the consultations and public hearings on the Act Respecting the Religious Neutrality of the State, notably aimed at regulating religious accommodation requests in certain organizations, the League presented a brief in 2016.

It called for the withdrawal of Bill 62, denouncing its discriminatory nature. The contradiction of some of its provisions with the principle of state neutrality was also highlighted. On another front, the LDL engaged with the issue of sexual assaults by police officers reported by Indigenous women in Val d'Or. The following year, it submitted a brief to the Commission of Inquiry on Relations Between Indigenous Peoples and Certain Public Services.

This brief notably invited the Quebec government to recognize the existence of systemic racism in the province.

The publication of the brochure "Systemic Racism... Let's Talk About It!" in 2017 received widespread distribution. Nearly 10,000 printed copies were distributed, in addition to online dissemination. That same year, the LDL continued its interventions regarding the Leclerc Detention Facility, a women's prison. The goal was to protect and restore the rights of the women detained there.

During the G7 Summit held in Quebec in 2018, the LDL and Amnesty International Canada Francophone conducted a joint mission to observe civil liberties. Several violations of the right to protest and freedom of expression were observed and denounced. Adopting a deterrence and intimidation approach, the police authorities violated the exercise of these rights rather than facilitating it.

The League of Rights and Freedoms intervenes nationally to defend all rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, both economic, social, and cultural as well as civil and political. It demands that governments make these rights effective and respect the commitments they made when ratifying various international treaties and conventions.

For information on the various areas of action and reflection covered by the League, consult the "Current Struggles" section.

This historical presentation is directly inspired by the magazine "Ligue des droits et libertés, 50 ans d'action." It does not reflect all the interventions, actions, and publications of the League but aims to provide a general introduction to the organization's history.

# Nous joindre

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## FAQ

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