

First Palliative Care Home for Children in The Outaouais

*La Maison Papillon Enfants et Familles will add life to days
when it is no longer possible to add days to life.*

Cantley, le 15 février, 2023 - The Board of Directors of **Maison Papillon Enfants et Familles** announces the establishment of a pediatric palliative care home in Cantley, the first in the Outaouais, the 9th in Canada.

Maison Papillon will fill a critical need for the hundreds of seriously ill children in the region and the families who must deal with the harsh reality that their sick child will close their eyes forever. Maison Papillon, scheduled to open in 2024, will accompany children and families throughout the trajectory of the disease. Whether life is measured in days, weeks, months or years, Maison Papillon will support children and families through the ordeal, based on the evolution of the disease.

CARE AND SERVICES

Maison Papillon will be located on a magnificent 4-acre site on the waterfront of the Gatineau River in Cantley. It will have 8 rooms, including 2 family suites and will offer complete pediatric palliative care and respite services to often exhausted families. A complete medical care team will offer a continuum of care and services free of charge to children up to 18. Maison Papillon will offer play, art, yoga and music therapy as well as pet therapy and massage therapy. It will include playrooms, mobility and healing rooms, a multi-sensory room, an indoor pool, an outdoor playground, an illuminated walking trail, a memorial site and much more. For families, it will offer psychosocial support services to help them find the courage to face the unknown and to live as serenely as possible with their child's illness and potential death.

The respite service will be an essential component of the pediatric palliative care program at Maison Papillon. It will provide children with the opportunity to stay at Maison Papillon and receive medical care while enjoying recreational therapies and being with other children who, like them, have special medical needs. The families, for their part, will be able to take a well-deserved break and rest.

When life has spoken its last words, parents and families will find a serene place to live the last moments of their child's life in peace and dignity surrounded by professionals to support them during this deeply heartbreaking period.

Maison Papillon will also contribute to the development of pediatricians and family physicians in the region in palliative and end-of-life care, as well as to the training of medical students, which will help address a very important issue for the region and for the CISSS de l'Outaouais.

Because a sick child is first and foremost a child; because beyond the illness, there is life. La Maison Papillon will help each little butterfly take flight in complete serenity.

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Information: Brigit Viens, Chair of the Board | info@maison-papillon.org

KEY MILESTONES

In 2020 the idea took shape with the confirmation of the need. The Outaouais region has up to 300 families who could benefit from the care and services of Maison Papillon. Currently, these families must travel far from their homes to obtain this care and services since the only pediatric palliative care homes in Quebec are in Montreal and Quebec City. The Roger Neilson House in Ottawa is at maximum occupancy, and its respite services are fee-based and offered primarily in English.

In March 2021, the municipality of Cantley donated a four-acre piece of land on the waterfront of the Gatineau River, located about ten kilometers from the Gatineau Hospital and its pediatric care unit.

A few months later, the inaugural Board of Directors was established and granted charitable status.

In January 2022, the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services approved the establishment of Maison Papillon in Cantley with 8 pediatric palliative care rooms, including two family suites.

As soon as the idea was launched, support was not long in coming from the medical side, as well as from municipal and provincial elected officials, sponsors, collaborators and partners who wish to contribute to the financing and construction of Maison Papillon.

Leucan will sponsor the first fundraising activity, during the Défi des Chefs, which will take place on Saturday, March 18 at the Palais des Congrès.

The construction of Maison Papillon is scheduled for 2024.