



For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE “Extreme Dialogue” launches in Québec

Montréal, February 18, 2021 — The Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV) is proud to launch the Québec version of the “Extreme Dialogue” project initiated by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) with the support of two international partners: Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation and the production company Duck Rabbit.

An effective tool for prevention specialists in educational settings

This joint project will strengthen the resilience of young people facing radicalization and equip education practitioners with better prevention skills in the fight against this phenomenon. They will have access to better interactive educational resources incorporating films in which former extremists and survivors of extremism in Québec recount their experiences.

“Putting a face to people who have renounced violent radicalization brings the phenomenon into focus and opens a window onto the process for getting out of or, better yet, avoiding this path altogether. The videos to be produced will provide an additional tool to help frontline professionals facilitate discussion and deliberation about the issue among those who may be at risk,” said Roselyne Mavungu, CPRLV executive director.

More specifically, this joint project aims to:

- Reach French Canadians and the Québec population through new educational material and workshops in French aimed at preventing radicalization and violent extremism;
- Strengthen the resilience of young people faced with radicalization by providing them with the knowledge, skills and values needed to discuss extremism openly in school and community settings;
- Provide education professionals and parents with means to respond proactively to radicalization in their communities;

- Develop long-term resilience among the Québec population by implementing a sustainable education model in which the CPRLV will train its extensive network in the education community to use the project's educational resources.

“Extreme Dialogue” will be rolled out over two years and promises to offer the same kind of positive benefits for participants that it has delivered in English Canada and Europe. Led by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, the project has touched the lives of more than 500,000 educators, parents and young people. Nearly 250 international practitioners have been trained to lead workshops presented to more than 1,000 young people. According to Jennie King, senior policy manager at the ISD, “‘Extreme Dialogue’ has proven to be a key resource in helping to develop critical thinking skills that are essential to young people dealing with the threat of propaganda and recruitment into violent extremism. The Institute for Strategic Dialogue is proud to have played a central role in this project over the last seven years, having witnessed the positive impact it has had on teachers, young people, community workers and students in a number of countries through the organization of constructive discussion around issues that are sensitive but extremely important.”

Rooted in a partnership of complementary expertise

Preventing the phenomenon of radicalization leading to violence and hateful acts needs to begin early in working with young people, and the school environment has a crucial role to play in addressing the issues involved. For this reason, the CPRLV and its partners are bringing their expertise together to provide education and develop skills within the framework of this major project. The CPRLV will be assuming a leading role in coordinating the project in Québec, while the development of educational tools and the production of testimonial videos will be overseen by partners Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation and Duck Rabbit.

“We are pleased to carry the torch in Québec for such an innovative and impactful project that has proven itself elsewhere. This initiative joins many other awareness-raising activities of the CPRLV,” said Mavungu.

“We are delighted to be associated with the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence, Duck Rabbit and Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation for this new Québec incarnation of the project. Telling the stories of real people touched by violent extremism has never been more important than in this age of polarization. It will be truly exciting to watch the project develop in this new context,” said King.

About the CPRLV and its partners of choice

The Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV) has been supported by the City of Montréal and the Québec Ministry of Public Security since 2015. CPRLV uses education, awareness-raising and prevention to strengthen the resilience of individuals who are most vulnerable to violent extremism. The organization encourages community support and coexisting over social exclusion.

The Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) is an independent organization based in London, England. By combining research, analysis and advisory work for the government with service delivery

programs, the ISD has developed concrete responses based on more than ten years of proven results in dealing with the challenges of radicalization and violent extremism.

The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation is a British charitable organization created in 1995 in memory of two young boys, Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball, who were killed when a bomb planted by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) exploded in 1993. The foundation is active nationally and internationally in working for peace and the nonviolent resolution of conflict.

Duck Rabbit is a film and training production company specialized in producing videos of sincere personal stories for commercial and charitable clients, as well as for broadcast. The company also organizes storytelling, production and audiovisual communication training in the United Kingdom and abroad.

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Sources:

Fatou Thiam
Communications and Partnerships Advisor
CPRLV
info@info-radical.org

Josh Phillips
Manager, Technology, Communications &
Education
ISD
jp@isdglobal.org