

Put The Safety of Children in Your Hands With SIGN4L!

Montreal, May 25, 2018 – This morning, the Missing Children's Network commemorated International Missing Children's Day by holding a press conference at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School where the organization proudly announced the creation of SIGN4L, an application that can save the life of a child. The development of this app was made possible thanks to a generous grant by TELUS.

As of today, SIGN4L is available free of charge on most Apple and Android smartphones as well as tablets, and allows users to store up-to-date photos and vital physical descriptions of their child which they can then instantly email or text to the relevant authorities, allowing them to save time in the event of an emergency. The information that will be saved by parents on their child is not stored in any database. Only parents or guardians will be able to access their children's data sheet.

Parents can also rely on the reminder function, which varies according to the age of the child, allowing them to update their child's profile at any time in the application. SIGN4L also includes safety tips for children as well as the 4 crucial steps to follow in the moments following the disappearance of a child.

"In the event that a child gets lost in a public area, on their way home or, possibly even disappearing altogether, a complete and up-to-date description of the child can save valuable time and will allow police forces to respond more quickly in initiating searches for the missing child." says Pina Arcamone, Director General of the Missing Children's Network. "The financial support of the TELUS Montreal Community Board has allowed us to update an important tool that can help us save a child's life."

The launch of SIGN4L is enthusiastically received by the police community in Quebec. The spokesman for Montreal Police and member of the Working Committee for Missing Children and Runaway Youth, Commander Patrick Lavallée said: "The SPVM welcomes any initiative that allows parents to act quickly when a child goes missing or runs away." The Commander reiterated some important safety tips, such as the importance for parents to be familiar with the network of parents of their child's friends and to have their contact information.

Isabelle Huot, Chair of the TELUS Montreal Community Board and owner of Kilo Solution, reiterated the importance of supporting the creation of such a tool: "The user friendly SIGN4L application allows parents to react quickly if their child goes missing. This is a concrete example of how technology can now be used to help families."

Also commemorating this special day, were more than 4,300 preschoolers who walked in honour of missing children. This Second Edition of our Tiny Tots Walk for Hope brought together over 50 child care facilities across the province. It was held to remind families that their missing children will never be forgotten. Thanks to the generous support of Groupe Jean Coutu, the Missing Children's Network was able to give all the participants a copy of their latest publication *Juliette and Jacob Stay Safe*, a fun and engaging activity book that is designed to help parents foster their preschoolers' safety competence.

Finally, in an unprecedented show of solidarity, Montreal City Hall will be illuminated in green to mark National Missing Children's Day.

To download SIGN4L:

App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/sign4l-child-id/id1370089417?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

Google Play Store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ong.reseauenfantsretour.sign4l>

2017 Statistics Regarding Missing Children for the Province of Quebec

Abduction by a stranger	Accident	Wandered Off	Parental Abduction	Runaway	Unknown/Other	TOTAL
9	5	19	27	5,639	1,326	7,025

Source : www.canadasmising.ca

About - International Missing Children's Day

Missing Children's Day was first recognized by former President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, on May 25, 1983. May 25th is the date that six-year-old Etan Patz disappeared from a New York City street corner on his way to school. Etan's case remains one of thousands of unsolved missing children's cases and serves as an annual reminder of our responsibilities to ensure the well-being and safety of our children. In 1986, the Solicitor General of Canada declared May 25th to be National Missing Children's Day in Canada.

About the Missing Children's Network

Founded in 1985, the Missing Children's Network is the only non-profit organization in Quebec dedicated to the search for missing children and the prevention of their disappearance. Regardless of the reason for the disappearance, from runaways to parental or criminal abductions, the Missing Children's Network's team supports, assists and advises the families of missing children.

In addition, the team works closely with law enforcement, child welfare agencies and the media to find these children and bring them home safely. Since its inception, the Missing Children's Network has helped law enforcement to recover 1,365 children, and has educated more than 200,000 students how to remain safe in their daily lives, both online and offline.

The Missing Children's Network is a front-line partner of the **AMBER Alert Program** in Quebec and a recognized partner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) **National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR)**.

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