

Opération Sévigny-Chartrand

Weapons and school: a dangerous combination

The following is based on real events. Only the names and places have been changed.

The call

It is a morning like any other... but not quite. Mr. Pilon is on his way to the hospital to see his father when he notices a suspicious-looking youth near the Sévigny-Chartrand high school. He is roughly 17 or 18, is wearing jeans and a beige jacket with a hood concealing his face, and he is holding a gun. Without a moment's hesitation, Mr. Pilon notifies the police.

Sergeant Hugo Lizotte, local coordinator in community police, hears the call on the Sûreté du Québec radio frequency. He calls the school authorities and asks them to initiate the **Response Plan for Safe Educational Establishments**. As soon as this is done, Sergeant Lizotte immediately dispatches a vehicle to the scene. He then notifies Captain Martin, who is in charge of the station, and asks Lieutenant Marchand, his second in charge, to come and help him with the operation.

The initiation of the Response Plan for Safe Educational Establishments

Patrol officers arrive at the scene. **The lockdown code is initiated, and school personnel springs into action.** Captain Martin, who has arrived on the school grounds, takes charge of the operation. He contacts Lieutenant Talbot, of the emergency response team. The emergency response team is mobilized.

At this moment, all students are confined to their classrooms, the doors are barricaded, and there is total silence in the school. No one can enter or exit the school, as the entrances are all under police surveillance.

The rapid deployment

Everything is now set for the rapid deployment. **The captain gives the patrol officers the order to enter the school and to inspect the premises in order to find and neutralize the threat.**

Meanwhile, the emergency response team arrives at the scene and prepares to intervene.

The police inside the school finish their inspection of the premises. There is nothing to report. Had there been an active shooter, he would already have taken action.

The evacuation

The evacuation code is initiated. Students are evacuated classroom by classroom, with the police still present inside the school.

The interception

Soon after the students were evacuated, a member of the emergency response team sees the young suspect in the school parking lot. He is holding the gun and is showing it to a

friend. The information is transmitted to the patrol officers and the school authorities. **The youth is intercepted.** He confirms his whereabouts and says that he bought the weapon, an air gun, the day before. He wanted to show it to his friend.

Jonathan is a student at the school. He did not know that the school was in lockdown because of the possible presence of a firearm in the school. When he saw that the entrances were under police surveillance, he decided to go into the woods to play with his new weapon.

The end?

That day, by bringing his weapon onto school grounds, Jonathan not only caused the initiation of the Response Plan for Safe Educational Establishments and the mobilization of over 10 police officers, he also risked his life. He could have become a police target during the rapid deployment.

Anastasia's Law

Anastasia's Law, named in honour of Anastasia de Sousa, a victim of the Dawson College shootout in September 2006, prohibits in particular the possession of firearms in:

- educational institutions at all levels;
- public transit and school transportation.

Any offender is liable to a fine varying between \$500 and \$5000.

In addition, any school or transit employee must report any behaviour that could threaten public safety.

Whether a real firearm, an air gun (airsoft gun) or a toy, no firearm is permitted at school.

Need help?

In addition to family and friends, there are other people who can help you if you have a problem or need to confide in someone:

TEL-JEUNES
1 800 263-2266

<http://teljeunes.com/>



www.jeunessejecoute.ca

To **report a crime** confidentially (drug dealing, bullying, threats, sexual or physical assaults, etc.) you can contact:



<https://echecaucrime.com//>

Signature of the PIMS officer