

**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate publication

**Risks of Spreading COVID-19:  
The CISSS de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue  
Has Requested Medical Care Space**

**ROUYN-NORANDA (April 6, 2020)**—Faced with the challenges brought on by the current health crisis, the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (CISSS or Abitibi-Témiscamingue Integrated Health and Social Services Centre) has asked the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue to free up space, reserved from now until further notice for public healthcare, within the Male Students' Residence Hall on the Rouyn-Noranda Campus.

The exceptional situation that prevails requires particular measures to which the CEGEP is already following up on.

“Our foremost mission is to work for the education of future generations, but our role as an important stakeholder of the community is to be there for the common good when circumstances require it. This is the case, and the CISSS can count on our full collaboration to meet the challenges that we are facing. Together we will manage to overcome the spreading of this virus,” indicates Sylvain Blais, Director General of the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

In practical terms, the request of the CISSS consists at this time in occupying different rooms within the Male Students' Residence Hall, which is annexed to the Rouyn-Noranda Campus. Patients who will be accepted there are individuals who do not show symptoms of COVID-19, which means no suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the college residence hall. The health and safety of the patients will be ensured by the CISSS.

Approximately 20 occupants of the Male Students' Residence Hall will be relocated to another building, the Female Students' Residence Hall, which is also situated on the Rouyn-Noranda Campus and where a few female students still occupy the premises.

As enacted by an official notice from the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (Quebec Ministry of Education and Higher Education), only students who cannot do otherwise than stay at the residence hall are authorized to remain there. In light of this fact, the personal belongings of occupants of the Male Students' Residence Hall, whose living space must now be used by public health services, have been stored safely. It will be possible for these students to get their belongings when the situation gets back to normal.

It goes without saying that the actions ordered by the health crisis disrupt the habits of the whole college community but also and especially those of the whole population.

Each person's commitment is necessary to stop the spreading of the virus as much as possible so that the situation can get back to normal as quickly as possible.

-30-

**Source:**

Dany Bouchard  
Communications and International Coordinator  
Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue  
[dany.bouchard@cegepat.qc.ca](mailto:dany.bouchard@cegepat.qc.ca)

**For information:**

Karine Aubin  
Communications Advisor  
Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue  
Cell phone: 819-290-1527  
[karine.aubin@cegepat.qc.ca](mailto:karine.aubin@cegepat.qc.ca)