



Original: Français

Québec, May 24, 2012

Mr. Michel Beaudoin
President and Chief Executive Officer
Régie du bâtiment du Québec
545, boulevard Crémazie Est, 3^e étage
Montréal (Québec) H2M 2V2

Subject: Draft regulations amending the Building Code and the Safety Code

Dear Mr. Beaudoin,

The Québec Ombudsman reviews all draft regulations published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. When the Ombudsman deems it necessary, it may intervene under section 27.3 of its constituting act, which grants it the power to call to the attention of the chief executive officer of a public body or to the attention of the Government the necessity of such legislative, regulatory or administrative reform as it deems to be in the public interest.

I therefore read the draft regulations amending the Building Code and the Safety Code, published in the May 2, 2012 edition of the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. These draft regulations are mainly intended to amend the construction requirements to limit the temperature of hot water coming from shower heads and bath faucets in private senior citizens homes and care facilities. The regulations also require these homes and facilities to set the temperature limiting devices on thermostats to no more than 43°C.

In July 2010, following an intervention in a residential and long-term care centre, the Ombudsman issued a recommendation that appropriate standards be enacted making it mandatory for the temperature of hot water to be limited in all residential and long-term care centres. In fact, a resident in a residential and long-term care centre died after suffering from severe burns caused by prolonged exposure to water that was too hot. Our recommendation was intended to ensure the safety of residents in these facilities.

It appears to me that the proposed regulations respond to this safety requirement, and I thank you for having taken our comments on this matter into consideration.

I believe that these regulations will improve the living conditions of seniors residing in these facilities and private senior citizens homes, by ensuring that they are safer when using the installations in these residential facilities. The Ombudsman is in favour of these new regulations.

Sincerely,

[French original signed by]

Raymonde Saint-Germain
Ombudsperson

c.c.: Ms. Lise Thériault, Minister of Labour
Ms. Dominique Vien, Minister for Social Services
Ms. Marguerite Blais, Minister responsible for Seniors
Mr. Éric Thomassin, Clerk for the Committee on Labour and the Economy
Ms. Anik Laplante, Clerk for the Committee on Health and Social Services
Mr. Cédric Drouin, Clerk for the Committee on Institutions