

**Original : Français**

February 5, 2013

The Honourable Agnès Maltais  
Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity  
425, rue Saint-Amable, 4e étage  
Québec (Québec) G1R 4Z1

**Subject: *Regulation to amend the Individual and Family Assistance Regulation***

Dear Minister Maltais:

The Québec Ombudsman reviews all bills and draft regulations tabled in the National Assembly or published in the *Gazette officielle* and, when it deems necessary, intervenes under section 27.3 of its constituting act, which empowers it to call the attention of a chief executive officer of a public body or of the government to legislative, regulatory or administrative reforms it deems to be in the public interest.

I read the *Regulation to amend the Individual and Family Assistance Regulation*, published on December 27, 2012. Based on my examination of the draft regulation, I believe that, on the whole, it is likely to improve the situation of recipients of last resort financial assistance as well as that of certain people related to them.

Without going into the details of the numerous amendments proposed to the Regulation, I would especially like to express my satisfaction with the amendment regarding funeral expenses, which extends the deadline for filing the payment application from 30 days to 90 days. In fact, in 2012, my delegates drew the attention of Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale employees to actual cases where the Department refused to grant a person the special benefit for funeral expenses on the ground that the application was filed outside the deadline. Furthermore, the 30-day deadline helped create confusion and a lack of harmonization with the deadlines for filing an application for death benefits with the Régie des rentes du Québec.

In closing, let me reiterate my endorsement of the proposed solution. In my view, this amendment is vital to correcting the prejudicial situations we have noted and brought to the Department's attention.

Sincerely,

*[French original signed by]*

Raymonde Saint-Germain  
Ombudsperson

c.c.: Ms. Brigitte Pelletier, Deputy Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity  
Ms. Dany Hallé, Clerk, Committee on Labour and the Economy  
Ms. Anik Laplante, Clerk, Committee on Institutions