



Vaudreuil-Dorion

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **November is Radon Awareness Month**

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, November 5, 2020** – The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion is taking advantage of Radon Awareness Month to urge its citizens to measure concentrations of this gas in their homes. The City also provides its residents with radon detectors at the low cost of \$5, including analysis and mailing fees. Exposure to radon increases the risk of developing lung cancer and is believed to be responsible for the deaths of nearly 1,200 Quebecers each year.

At this time last year, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion partnered with the Quebec Lung Association in support of its Radon Awareness Program “Villes et municipalités contre le radon”, in addition to taking part in the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge, organized by the national initiative Take Action on Radon. According to a report obtained by the organization, 31% of the 74 homes that were tested in Vaudreuil-Dorion measured levels above 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>, which is the Canadian guideline. Beyond this concentration, radon mitigation work is required. Because concentrations can vary from home to home in the same neighbourhood, the only way to know the level in your home is to test for it.

### **How do I measure radon levels in my home?**

Citizens of Vaudreuil-Dorion can purchase a radon detector at City Hall for only \$5. Due to the current situation, appointments must be made in advance with the Environment Department by calling 450 455-3371, option 1 or by e-mail at [environnement@ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca](mailto:environnement@ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca). Citizens will be required to provide proof of residence and submit the completed form which is available on the City's website under Environment/Protection of the Environmental/Environmental Grants. The test should be carried out during the winter over a minimum period of three months.

### **What is radon?**

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the decay of uranium which is found in the soil. The gas, which is colourless, odourless and tasteless, is released into the air where it combines with ambient gases. The natural concentration is initially too low to represent a potential hazard, but it can seep into buildings where it can accumulate. Depending on the concentration, this can lead to health problems. Health Canada estimates that approximately 16% of lung cancer deaths are related to radon exposure in homes. It is believed to be the leading cause of this type of cancer in non-smokers.

To learn more: [takeactiononradon.ca](http://takeactiononradon.ca) or [poumonquebec.ca](http://poumonquebec.ca)