

Quebec Superior Court Decision Maintained, Paramedics Fired

By Clare Henderson
Contributor

Apparently apathy can be a matter of life or death. In February 2001, two Quebec paramedics - Sebastien Valade and Martin Gariépy - were taking a break in their ambulance when approached by Montrealer Christopher Vaillancourt for assistance.

Vaillancourt and his

friend Janin Folchitto had been at a Montreal discotheque when Folchitto collapsed because he was having trouble breathing. Driving to a nearby hospital, they spotted the ambulance and stopped for help.

CBC has reported that the two paramedics refused to interrupt their break to help. They then directed Vaillancourt

to the hospital, which was "only two traffic lights away." After sending the two on their way,

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the paramedics drove to a convenience store where they picked up ice cream and candy.

Janin Folchitto was dead by the time his friend was able to get him through the traffic lights.

An arbitrator was

brought in to settle the case, and recommended that the two receive a thirteen month suspension. Valade and Gariépy were fired outright. The case was brought before the Quebec Superior Court which upheld the decision to fire the two men. In a last effort, the two sought to appeal but, once again, the court decided to support the earlier court's decision.



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Date: Thursday, March 4th
Where: Kelley Building, Room 210
Start: 12:15 p.m.

Pizza and pop will be available. Please confirm your attendance on the sign up list on Albert Ferris's office door, 3rd Floor, Kelley Building. For more information, call Leslie Murphy at 1-800-565-7198, extension 23 or visit our web site at www.cmans.com