

**At the initiative of Vestechpro, École de mode students are mobilizing
to make face coverings for the CIUSSS-NÎM**

Montreal, May 27, 2020 – Since the start of the health crisis, Vestechpro, apparel research and innovation center, has played a key role in mobilizing players in the Quebec clothing industry, in particular, to respond to the urgent need for personal protective equipment (PPE). With its expertise in the development and production of clothing products and medical personal equipment, Vestechpro has responded to the request from the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (CIUSSS-NÎM) by quickly setting up a production module for face coverings in its technical workshops located at École de mode du Cégep Marie-Victorin.

Since May 22, wearing non-medical masks has been strongly recommended by government authorities; an additional protective measure in public and professional spaces where two-meter social distancing is often difficult to maintain. The CIUSSS-NÎM is concerned about the safety of these employees and has therefore mandated Vestechpro to make 14,000 face covers to meet the needs of the institutions for which it is responsible on its territory.

Vestechpro decided to rise to the challenge by calling on the next generation in the fashion industry. Students also saw an opportunity in this initiative to become involved in a social project that would allow them to pursue their citizen participation process. It was the beginning of a great adventure for those who wished to utilize their skills in community service and participate in a unique experience that combines both the clothing industry and public health.

Paulette Kaci, Vestechpro Executive Director explains: “Not only are we helping CIUSSS-NÎM workers protect themselves, but we are also providing Cégep Marie-Victorin students who wanted to invest in a major project and gain community and professional experience.” More than thirty students responded to our invitation at the end of this academic semester, added Mrs. Kaci.

At the start of the pandemic, Vestechpro published the *Guide for Making Non-Medical Masks* (available on the Vestechpro website) and designed several face cover prototypes, including three distinct models, developed according to the French Standards Organization (AFNOR), that are now being provided to public and parapublic institutions and organizations.

To be continued ...



The creation of the face cover production module was made possible thanks to the support of Cégep Marie-Victorin management, and the know-how and creativity of the Vestechpro team. Mr. Sylvain Mandeville, Marie-Victorin General Director is delighted to see the next generation channeling its commitment and talent into supplying quality face covers.

About Vestechpro

Vestechpro is a college transfer centre (CTC) that specializes in clothing and affiliated with Cégep Marie-Victorin, as well as a technology access centre (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada), and a member of Synchronex and QuébecInnove.

Since its foundation in 2011, its mission has been to support companies and organizations in the clothing industry in developing innovative products and projects, by providing technical support, training, strategic information dissemination, and applied research.

Vestechpro prioritizes the following niche research areas: smart clothing, adaptative and medical clothing, anthropometry and the circular economy.

- 30 -

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