

## **The state of estate planning in Quebec: Survey finds many people don't have a will**

**Lévis (QC), October 16, 2015** – According to a 2015 survey by Desjardins Wealth Management, Quebecers expect to receive an average inheritance of \$150,000 and to leave behind approximately \$220,000 for their loved ones. Yet the survey also found that only 54% of Quebecers say they have a will.

“A will is an important part of estate planning, but it’s also important to do a financial analysis before you draft one,” says Angela Iermieri, spokesperson and financial planner for Desjardins Wealth Management. “Especially if you’re planning to leave a lot behind—without a solid tax and financial strategy in place, your loved ones could end up inheriting a lot less than you think. That’s where a wealth management advisor can help: they start by drawing up a financial plan, which involves doing a personalized analysis and determining the best investment, insurance and tax strategies to protect your assets. You spend your entire life building your estate—a good estate plan can help make sure your assets transferred as efficiently as possible to your loved ones so that they’re taken care of.”

77% of people surveyed consider leaving an inheritance to be very important or somewhat important. The heirs designated by the respondents are first their children (85%), followed by their spouse (63%).

“In addition to expert advice from our advisors, Desjardins members also have access to a range of services to help them with their planning,” says Iermieri. “With Desjardins’s [Estate Assistance Service](#), members can get free legal information about planning, settling and managing their estate. The Desjardins Foundation also offers [endowment funds](#) to members looking to support a charitable cause and benefit from tax breaks for donations.”

### **About the SOM taxation survey**

The online survey was conducted between January 16 and 22, 2015 by the SOM research firm among 2,046 adult Internet users in Quebec. Maximum margin of error  $\pm 1.3\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

### **About Desjardins Group**

[Desjardins Group](#) is the leading cooperative financial group in Canada and the fifth largest cooperative financial group in the world with assets of close to \$251 billion. It has been rated one of the 50 Best Employers in Canada by Aon Hewitt. To meet the diverse needs of its members and clients, Desjardins offers a full range of products and services to individuals and businesses through its extensive distribution network, online platforms and subsidiaries across Canada. Considered North America’s strongest bank according to Bloomberg News, Desjardins has one of the highest capital ratios and [credit ratings](#) in the industry.

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