



COALITION CONTRE
l'obésité morbide

MARIE-CLAUDE DUPONT

Marie-Claude Dupont is 29 years old and is registered on the waiting list for bariatric surgery since November 2010. She will have to wait between 2 and 2½ years before undergoing her surgery.

Suffering from obesity since her teenage years and with a body mass index (BMI) of 56, Marie-Claude has tried many times to lose weight by exercising, following diets, but without meaningful success. She then came to the conclusion that she needed help. After seeking her family doctor's counsel and after reading many articles on the Internet, Marie-Claude realized that the most effective treatment was bariatric surgery.

Marie-Claude participates to a support group for the morbidly obese. She also works at Bell Mobility since many years, at the National Support Center.

Today, she wants her story to generate awareness and inform the population on the importance of this type of surgery. Marie-Claude hopes to bring a glimmer of hope to the thousands of Quebeckers, who like her, suffer from this disease.

JENNIFER SCHULTZ **Cofounder of the Coalition against Morbid Obesity**

Jennifer Schultz underwent bariatric surgery in 2004. This procedure has increased her chances of seeing her child and future grandchildren grow up, because not only does morbid obesity compromise a person's quality of life, it also shortens their lifespan. The only effective treatment for morbid obesity remains bariatric surgery.

Jennifer believes that a few hundred bariatric surgical procedures per year are clearly not enough. She wishes that every morbidly obese person would have access to the treatment that is necessary to his or her survival, just like patients suffering from heart disease or diabetes.

Jennifer is actively involved in a support group for people suffering from morbid obesity. She is the Customer Service Manager for the family business, John L. Schultz Ltd.

Jennifer Schultz, cofounder of the Coalition against Morbid Obesity, is very visible in the media and has given many interviews to build awareness in Quebec regarding this disease and promote access to bariatric surgery.