Does Living in Rural Areas Make a Difference for Health in Québec?

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The health status of rural residents in Québec has not been examined systematically and extensively. A study was carried out to fill this gap and provide at least partial answers to two questions: Is it better for health to live in rural than in urban areas? Is it better to live in some parts of the countryside than in others? This study examined more than 70 indicators describing socio-economic conditions, health status, lifestyle, services use, availability of health services, etc., through a spatial grid comparing urban to rural areas, as a whole, and three different zones within the countryside. The main findings are to be presented in this seminar.

Robert Pampalon has a PhD in geography (1984) from Laval University and did post-doctoral work in epidemiology of ageing (1989-90) at the National Institute of Medical Research, Montpellier, France, and in multilevel modelling (1997-98) at the Department of Geography, University of Portsmouth, England. He has worked as a researcher since 1975 for the Community Health Department of Valleyfield, Ministry of Health and Social Services, and the National Institute of Public Health of Québec. He is also an associate professor at the Department of Geography, University of Montréal, and at the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Laval University. He has published books and scientific articles on the environment and health and the geography of health. He is now involved in research projects on social inequalities in health and local environments and health.

This free seminar is open to all interested persons
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