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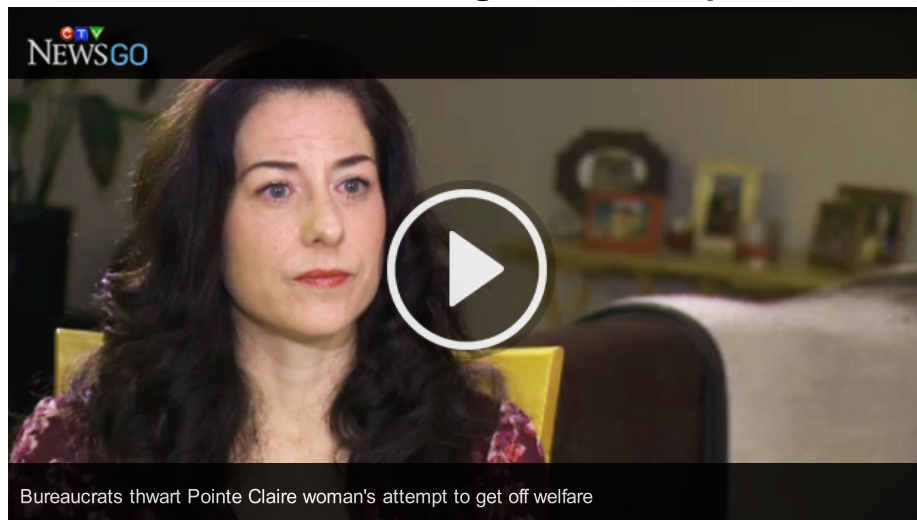
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Welfare bureaucrats nix single mother's quest for work retraining



Bureaucrats thwart Pointe Claire woman's attempt to get off welfare

Anick Boivin was on welfare after an accident and wants to go back to school, but the government says she'd lose her benefits if she does.

Extended: 'It seems they want me to stay on welfare'-single mom

Pointe Claire single mother Annick Boivin explains how she was cut from welfare to trying to get nursing training.

Extended: Quebec makes it hard to quit welfare

Project Genesis social worker Nathalie Sereda on how Quebec makes it hard to get off welfare and return to school.

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CTV Montreal

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A single mother from Pointe Claire says that welfare bureaucrats have thwarted her efforts to wean herself off of social assistance.

Anick Boivin was forced onto welfare after suffering an injured shoulder in her previous work as a landscaper and recently enrolled in a six-month course designed to help her find work as a nurse's assistant.

That initiative led welfare authorities to inform her that she would lose her assistance if she were to go through with the studies.

Boivin was stunned by the decision which came three days before the course was to begin. She has since had to put the training aside.

"I thought that they would be happy and that they would continue to help me to go to school so I can get off social assistance and stop costing taxpayers money," Boivin told CTV Montreal Thursday.

According to Emploi-Quebec rules, a full-time student cannot receive welfare unless their studies are approved by the ministry. The bureaucrats must assess the applicant's choice of study and motivation before agreeing to continue the social assistance cheques.

Advocates for the poor consider the system flawed. "They're being paternalistic with the people, choosing what's best for them instead of allowing them to choose what their career would be," said Nathalie Sereda of Project Genesis.

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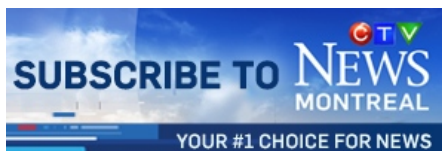
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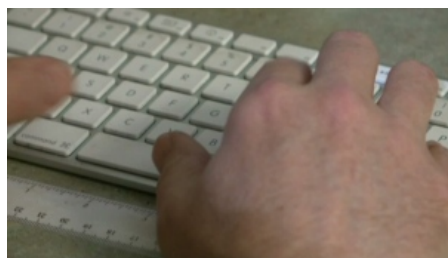
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