

# GAP-Santé Research Unit

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## Risk and Stress

### Risk and Stress: Uncertainty Management and Empowerment



**2008 – 2011, SSHRC, \$110 000**

This research program furthers our SSHRC work on psychological stress and risk by examining in depth the concept of uncertainty, as well as its management, at the individual and community levels in order to enhance empowerment, personal and collective sense of efficiency, adaptation, preparation, and resilience. The perception and the communication of uncertainty among the public, organizations, and communities will be integrated into a general psychosocial risk management framework based on contemporary and applied hazards such as terrorism, environmental events, and health risks.

### Risk and Stress: Anticipation and Perception in Psychosocial Management of Terrorist Threats

**2004 – 2007, SSHRC, \$81 000**

The terrorism threat is a current risk and source of stress for Canadians. This research project seeks to examine the psychological processes of the general public in managing the psychosocial aspects of the threat of terrorism. This project aims to:



- **investigate the strongest and most feared aspects of terrorism by the general public**
- **document the important dimensions of risk as they relate to actual and perceived risks**
- **validate these findings in the context of different terrorism threats for four target groups: traditional first responders, non-traditional first responders, government officials, and the general public**
- **test a psychosocial intervention and its impacts on perceptions of risk, vulnerability, stress and distress as well as on beliefs and attitudes**

#### Project Relevant Publications:

- [Lemyre, L., Turner, M., Lee, J.E.C., Krewski, D. \(2006\). Public Perception of Terrorism Threats and Related Information Sources in Canada: Implications for the Management of Terrorism Risks. Journal of Risk Research, 9, 7, 755-774.](#)