

# zone Régulvar

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www.regulvar.com

## New intercoms

for the schools in the **Commission scolaire des Samares**

### A need for change

School. For most of us, it's a word that evokes memories of people and events but also of the places where we grew up ... places that have aged along with us!

The average age of Canadian school buildings is assessed at 20 years, and a little more in Québec. The average age of the buildings used by the commission scolaire des Samares (CSS) is 45 years. That means that to remain adequate, the buildings and their systems need to be maintained and renovated. Some devices that have become obsolete need to be replaced or updated: this is true for the intercoms at several CSS schools.

Different solutions were assessed, but without a satisfactory result. For example, IP telephones unfortunately did not meet the sound criteria. As for the products available on the market, it was difficult, and at times impossible, to integrate them into the building automation system.

### A modern solution

The CSS therefore decided to hire a building automation specialist to create a customized solution. **Régulvar** put its R&D team to work in order to propose a concept that would go beyond the notion of a simple intercom and take full advantage of current technologies.

The final decision involved a multifunction device with added value, including a clock, bells, lighting and temperature controls, absence list management and intrusion control. Integrated alerts are also an interesting advantage for schools because they connect them to the Sureté du Québec's PRES program\* and provide the option of displaying a Code Orange, i.e., the procedure to be followed in the event of a school shooting.

In addition to the optional functions, the product offers a customized and customizable graphic interface (e.g., displaying the rooms on a map or in a list format), a Web-based application for remote management and a computer application for administrative personnel. ►

\*Plan de Réponse pour des  
Établissements Sécuritaires (PRES)  
[safe school response plan] (in French only)



*In this season of celebration, it is with great pleasure  
that we extend our appreciation for your cooperation and  
that we offer you our best wishes for a successful year.*

*The team at Regulvar*

## Implemented in two schools

So far, the team has installed 94 intercoms in the **Aubier school in St-Lin-Laurentides** and the **Notre-Dame school in St-Roch-de-l'Achigan** (existing parts and expansions), and there are more to come.

To limit expenses and the need to modify existing structures, certain aspects were kept and connected to the new system, for instance trumpet speakers, wiring and amplifiers in the common areas, as well as the existing wiring in classrooms used to power the new devices.

The wireless technology used for the communication network is ideal for renovation projects because it requires little physical intervention, for instance adding antennae. It can be easily integrated into wireless networks with the required stability. Schools that would like a wired network will soon have that choice.

## Simplified follow-up

Regulvar's intercom was designed to offer customers freedom regarding adding devices, general follow-up and choosing a service provider.

None of the system components are proprietary: the interface is based on the open-source Android operating system, the standard SIP protocol is used for the voice component, and the BACnet protocol ensures compatibility with any existing building automation system. For example, with the SIP protocol, surveillance cameras at the main entrance can be chosen from different suppliers, and with the Android platform, functions can be accessed from a standard tablet.

The software update is simple and straightforward for users, given that it is done remotely.

## Positive results

The CSS and Regulvar worked together to create an innovative intercom that is easy to use and provides the advantage of additional functions such as absence follow-up and alerts. More intercoms are being installed and the R&D team is taking customer comments into account in order to make improvements, but it is clear that this adventure is already a success.

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## Did you know?

Regulvar was named the **23<sup>rd</sup> major construction company in Québec** by the *Les leaders de la construction* magazine. The list is determined based on a survey conducted with over a thousand general and specialized contractors. Regulvar is proud to always be among the top companies.

Source : *Les leaders de la construction*, October 2013, pages 21 and 24.

We're moving!

Our new **head office** is now located at:  
**3985 Industriel Blvd.**  
**Laval Québec H7L 4S3**  
**450-629-0435**

Our **Laval branch** will manage its operations from:  
**1985 Industriel Blvd.**  
**Laval Québec H7S 1P6**  
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We're moving!

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