



# *Apropos...*

## *Batshaw Youth and Family Centres*

*News from Michael Udy, Executive Director*

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### **YOUTH HORIZONS FOUNDATION SUPPORT**

In 1999 the Youth Horizons Foundation added a new dimension to its fund raising campaign, the *Adopt a Home* program. The aim of the program is to solicit corporate support for some of the needs of our residential programs. In the first year of the campaign, nine companies donated a total of \$14,950.

Addington, Crossroads, De Maisonneuve, Dornal, Dara, Prévost campus and Rudel each received \$2500 to purchase items for their programs. These funds are enabling the six programs to acquire such items as a home theatre system, bicycles, stereos, as well as furnishings to help make the home environments more personalized.

The program is heading into its second year, and we are hoping that this much-welcomed corporate support will continue to grow.

### **ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE WORKERS MOVE TO 6 WEREDALE PARK**

In April the Adoption and Foster Care Support workers who were based in the West Island moved their offices to 6 Weredale Park. This brings all of the staff in these two programs to the same location. Communication and team work will benefit as a result.

### **CHAIN LETTERS**

One of the advantages of photocopiers, fax machines and e-mail is the capacity to transmit documentation rapidly to large numbers of people. This is also one of its disadvantages.

Recently, I received a letter from a Batshaw employee who was quite upset at having been the recipient of an unsolicited chain letter. Since I don't know who sent the letter, this is my only way to intervene.

I have seen these kind of letters from time to time. They are usually benign and even trivial. It's self evident we don't want any Batshaw paper, machines or staff time wasted on these matters. However, should such letters ever appear with discriminatory or other content contrary to the law, our policies or code of ethics, it would be imperative to report and denounce them without delay.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS CLEARINGHOUSE**

In a large agency like Batshaw, many special events take place during the course of the year. Similarly, many people in diverse and dispersed parts of the agency are involved in planning these events. As a result, the predictable sometimes happens. Two or more important events get scheduled for the same day.

Sometimes it takes a while for this to be discovered, and the results can be frustrating and disappointing for the event organizers. To help event planners avoid this problem, Thérèse Gauthier will maintain a special events planning clearinghouse. Event planners can check their event date with Thérèse to avoid conflicts and assure good attendance at their event. Thérèse can be reached at tel: 989-1885, extension 202.

Eventually, this service will be moved to a site on the intranet, where the Batshaw events calendar can be consulted at any time by employees.

### **ANNUAL POWWOW AT PRÉVOST**

The third annual PowWow will be held at Prévost on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, organized in conjunction with the Mohawk community of Kahnawake. This special event which brings together Mohawk drummers, dancers and craftspeople permits Batshaw clients, staff and foster parents to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of First Nations cultural heritage.

It also enables First Nations young people in placement to feel additionally proud of their culture. Posters on bulletin boards around the agency will convey the details of the day.