



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

A NEW CAMPUS AT LAST!

On Tuesday, February 27th Minister Gilles Baril held a press conference at Batshaw and announced government approval and financing of our campus regroupment project. The new facility will replace four sites where Batshaw youth presently reside in open and secure units: the Dorval and Prévost campuses, our units in the Cartier facility at Laval, and two units we use at Cité des Prairies. When they are integrated into our new campus, the budget and staff for the Cité units will be transferred from Centres jeunesse de Montréal to Batshaw.

Budget

The announcement confirms a total budget of \$30 million. Batshaw will contribute \$5.4 million, over 10 years, from operational savings on the new site, \$3 million represents equivalent value for the Dorval and Prévost sites. The net investment for the government will therefore be just under \$22 million.

Projects of this size proceed in phases and typically take three to five years to complete. We are at the "mise à l'étude" phase where architects and engineers produce detailed design, drawings and specs. Once completed, we will have everything we need to proceed to tenders in the 2002/2003 period. Then we proceed to the "réalisation" or construction phase. We should start moving units onto the campus sometime between 2004 and 2006.

Management of the project

The CHQ will be our partner in this project. The site will belong to CHQ, we will be tenants for \$1 a year. Until the site is completed CHQ will manage the finance, contracting and accounts payable. We will have full responsibility for decisions affecting design and cost.

Internally, we have a standing committee of the board devoted to oversight of the project chaired by former board president, Diane Tsonos. At the management level there will be an implementation committee led by Human Resources and Administrative Services Director Henri Derome, co-directed by Nick Paré, Director of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents. Technical Services Coordinator Jean Belhumeur will be Project manager for the construction site. The Implementation Committee will constitute focus groups as necessary to get input from various groups of staff and clients, end users of the site.

The site

I hope to announce the site by June of this year. The desirable site will be west of Saint-Denis Street, with reasonable access by public transport, and large enough for the building and other outdoor facilities. It will be the size of 10 football fields with open and secure sports fields. The building will have a core area containing educational, job training, health, recreational and administrative facilities, organized in such a way as to respect both our open and closed custody mandates. Attached to the building will be 14 living units, each housing 12 youth. The campus will accommodate 168 youth. Six of the units will be secure facilities for 72 youth. Eight of the units will be open facilities for 96 youth. Two units will be constructed and located so that they can operate as either secure or open custody as needed. Units will be separated by gender.

The advantages

For Montréal clients the new campus will bring the advantages of greater proximity to family and community resources, educational and specialized services, including other Batshaw services. For the 20% of our clients from other regions, there will also be some geographic advantages. Staff will also benefit from access to families and community resources, and from the synergy that will come from 175 people working on the same site, on the same clinical mission. There will be significant savings in transport, maintenance and operating costs. About half of Batshaw's campus staff live in Montréal. But those who live in the Laurentians will obviously be faced with a major change. We will offer supports to assist staff to analyze homeownership decisions, tax benefits accorded to persons

who must move to be closer to their place of work, and any other reasonable means to facilitate the adjustment.

A new campus has been a dream of many for decades. Its realization holds much promise as a major development tool for the organization and its services.

The old sites

Les Centres jeunesse des Laurentides is interested in using the Prévost site. The secure units in Laval and at Cité will be used in the Francophone network. The Dorval site belongs to the Corporation d'hébergement du Québec (CHQ), the government property management agency, which will find an appropriate use.

The contributors

We reached this point because many have devoted hours to the project and/or spoke in favor of it at important moments. It is perilous to make a list, but those who contributed merit the recognition. If I omit someone, I excuse myself in advance, and ask that you contact me so I can remedy the error.

Two contributors made key contributions, without which I would not be writing this: Paul Nichols who assembled an excellent project presentation, and Pierre Corriveau who convinced the Ministry of its multiple advantages.

At the Ministry of Health and Social services:

- * Pauline Marois
- * Gilles Baril
- * Pierre Michaud
- * Michel Salvas
- * André Lebon
- * Manon Fontaine
- * Gilles Larouche
- * Charles Hardy
- * Chantal Saucier

At the Regional Board of Montréal-Centre:

- * Kathleen Weil
- * Marcel Villeneuve
- * René Rouleau
- * Robert Demers
- * Guy Daigneault
- * Réjean Pinard
- * Monique Tessier
- * Denis Chevalier

At other Youth Centres:

- * Pierre Corriveau
- * André Cadieux

At the former Protestant School Board of Montréal:

- * Don Taylor
- * Claude Danserault

At L'Association des Centres jeunesse du Québec:

- * Pierre Lamarche

At Batshaw:

- * Paul Nichols
- * Nick Paré
- * Henri Derome
- * Jean Belhumeur
- * Marcel Croteau
- * Louise Jessop
- * Yvon Duperré
- * Wayne Adams
- * Louise Auclair
- * Pat Bratley
- * Lorry Coughlin
- * Ginette Guidolin
- * Ian Page

At Lemay and Associés

- * Jacques Lavigne