



Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

CHANGES COMING FOR BARGAINING UNITS

(Contributed by Henri Derome, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services)

In December 2003 the National Assembly adopted Bill 30 (LRQ2003, chapter 25) – *An act respecting bargaining units in the social affairs sector and amending the Act respecting the process of negotiation of the collective agreements in the public and parapublic sectors.*

As you may have heard through the media or other sources, this law introduces a union representation system for establishments of our network. With your pay stubs of April 1st, 2004, you will receive an information pamphlet from the Ministry intended to provide general information to employees about this law.

The purpose of this article is to put this information into context. The law provides that each establishment may only have up to four accreditations grouped into four classes of personnel (clinical, nursing, administrative and technical). There is a possibility that our legal merger creating a single Batshaw corporation and employer may take place in the next months. If this occurs, the process to integrate accreditations will follow immediately for the whole organisation.

If the merger does not occur in the next months, there will be a process to integrate accreditations for each establishment that currently has more than three accreditations. In our case, this will involve Ville Marie Child and Youth Protection Centre and Shawbridge Youth Centres. The process of integration will have to be done again for the entire organization, after the merger.

The law also introduces a concept of accreditation per region. This complicates somewhat the process of integration, given that we have points of services in three regions (Montreal, Laval and Laurentides). We hope to be able to negotiate bridges between accreditations of each region to function as if we were one region. Many establishments will begin the process of integration in April 2004. Depending on our legal merger process, we may begin ours in August or late fall 2004.

The law also decentralizes 26 matters which will be negotiated locally. However, this will only begin once the process of integrating accreditations is completed. In due time, we will provide the necessary information on these issues. For now, current working conditions will remain unchanged until a new provincial collective agreement is promulgated and until the local negotiation process is terminated, which could take up to two years.

We will be meeting all union executives on April 13, 2004, for an exchange on the impact of the law in Batshaw. We also intend to hold general information meetings for employees in May or June 2004 at 6 Weredale Park, Dorval and Prévost. We will do our utmost to keep everyone informed on the impact of the law before the integration process is initiated.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR COMING UP

(Contributed by Marcel Croteau, Advisor to the Executive Director)

The Multiracial/Multicultural Committee is organizing its annual Community Resource Fair to be held on Thursday, April 29, 2004, from 1 to 4:30 p.m., in the Auditorium at 6 Weredale Park.

The focus this year will be the Muslim Community of Montreal. The following subjects will be addressed:

- The Muslim faith and the various religious sub-groups: myths and realities.
- A sociological perspective of the Muslim Community of Montreal.
- The various organizations of the Muslim Community in Montreal.
- Key indicators for good clinical practice with children and families of the Muslim Community, especially in the context of youth protection, young offenders and rehabilitation services.

CELEBRATE VOLUNTEER WEEK

(Contributed by Kim Kurtz, Volunteer Services)

The week of April 18th to 24th is **National Volunteer Week**. Volunteers are active making a difference at Batshaw Youth and Family Centres as tutors to preadolescent and adolescent youngsters who are struggling with school subjects. Older sister and older brother volunteers provide a long-term commitment and support to young people who are feeling alone. There are over 100 volunteers who are presently active at Batshaw: 33 tutors, 18 older sister/ brother, 17 providing program animation, 32 involved with the literacy program and a half dozen performing in family support roles.

There is always a shortage of older brother volunteers. We are presently seeking nine candidates for possible matches.

During the year two of our volunteers, Sabrina Discenza and Kate Love, were recognized for their efforts at Batshaw. Sabrina was a program animation volunteer at Mountainview School. Kate is a McGill student who coordinates and contributes countless hours towards the literacy volunteers and the Youth Outreach Project.

Volunteers are enriching our services and programs. If you know a volunteer, thank them for their commitment. I am sure your words will be appreciated.

CCC AND QAE CONFERENCE “CONTINUING BUILDING BRIDGES”

The 9th Annual Conference of the Council for Clients and Community (CCC) is organized in partnership with the Quebec Association of Educators (QAE). The conference will take place at Batshaw 6 Weredale Park on Thursday, May 20, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Publicity will be posted shortly; more details and registration forms will soon be available.

BEST WISHES

May I take this opportunity to express to everyone in the Batshaw community my best wishes for Passover and for Easter.

THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

April 18th-24th: **Volunteer Week** (for more info: Kim Kurtz: 932-7161, ext. 340)

April 29th: **Community Resource Fair** (for more info: Denise Bertrand: 989-1885, ext. 203)

May 10th: **Board Meeting** (for more info: Thérèse Gauthier: 989-1885, ext. 202)

May 20th: **CCC Conference** (for more info: Marie-Pierre Ulysse: 989-1885, ext. 268)