



# Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

## MDC PROFESSIONAL DAY

On Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the annual MDC Professional Day took place. Well over 150 Batshaw staff and students attended nine workshops prepared by both Batshaw staff and two of our partner CLSCs. The day gave the opportunity for presenters to share with their colleagues practice and research developments, and for the participants to engage with new information and ask questions. When the members of the MDEC debriefed the day, they felt it had been a great success. Thanks go to organizers Karen Fox, Sandra Baines, Marie-Josée Tremblay, Joanne Marcotte and Rosanna Strippla.

## BATSHAW PRESENTS!

The biannual conference organized by our Association des centres jeunesse du Québec (ACJQ) took place November 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, in Québec City. This conference is organized in collaboration with the provincial associations of CLSCs, Day Care Centres and School Boards. There were over 1000 participants, including about 40 Batshaw staff. They attended over 50 different workshops plus the plenary sessions. It has been rare that any workshops are presented by Batshaw staff, but this year there were two. Here is how the experience looked to them.

*(From Robert Calame and Kim Parker, who presented "Trop en colère pour apprendre")*

This presentation outlined the Aggression Replacement Training approach used widely across Batshaw's numerous points and types of services. Anger Control Training, Social Skills Training and Moral Reasoning/Character Education components, along with our Batshaw Family ART model, were outlined and discussed in an interactive workshop format which got a strong and positive response.

In a nutshell, step-by-step procedures for animating groups for youth and families were presented. Teaching youth how to behave with Social Skills Training took care of the behavioral piece, teaching youth how not to behave through the use of the emotional component, Anger Control Training, followed. The possibility and methodology for challenging youth to change their value system through Moral Reasoning/Character Education was then introduced and followed by our approach to including parents and significant others in the learning process through our Family ART model.

The feedback received on our workshop was highly favorable and our francophone counterparts in the conference organization commented to us that they saw our contribution as only the beginning of a newly formed collaboration at this very large and interesting conference. We were able to see other cognitive, behaviorally-based projects presented at the conference. Our francophone colleagues assured us that we would meet again under similar circumstances. Encouraging words!

*(From Carol-Ann Milch and Danny Hoelscher, who participated in a group that presented "Projet Qualification des jeunes". This is a provincially funded project with four pilot sites aimed at supporting older teenagers to find work or continue their education. One of the pilot sites is at Batshaw.)*

The team consists of 8 educators, 2 from each region of: Laval (urban); Hull/Outaouais (semi-urban); Abitibi-Témiscamingue (rural), and Batshaw (anglophone urban). Amélie Morin, from ACJQ, is the Provincial Coordinator.

In the workshop, a large variety of material was covered using different activities and props to engage participants. Two skits demonstrated the role of the educator in Equip (name of the Batshaw project) in collaboration with other roles (social worker, educator in unit, access worker). We had a true/false quiz on what is autonomy. We also demonstrated interventions done with our clients on the two main themes of the project: Qualifications (education, job training, job search, etc.) and Autonomy (lifeskills). We presented the results of the project thus far and what we have learned.

We felt very proud to represent Batshaw Centres and our anglophone youth who are taking part in such an important project. It is certainly a unique and valuable experience to be part of such a diverse team from four different regions. The importance of helping prepare our youth for living on their own after they leave our care and reach the age of majority seems to be a shared sentiment in youth centres throughout Québec.

## BIG PARTY FOR BATSHAW CHILDREN AND YOUTH!

*(Contributed by Johanne Davidson, Secretary in the Application of Measures Service, Division of Child and Family Services)*

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, AM held its second annual Children's Holiday Party at La Récréathèque in Laval. All of Batshaw's youth protection clients living in the community and foster care, as well as their natural and foster siblings, were invited to attend. The day gave them the opportunity to have fun together. And FUN they sure had!

A total of 405 children attended, accompanied by 237 adults and assisted by 40 volunteers from BYFC.

Many hours were required to plan this annual event as well as to host it. Thanks are extended to all the volunteers whose contributions were greatly appreciated. Heartfelt thanks are also extended to the members of the organizing committee: Maria Zanti, chair, Sandhya Karnick, Johanne Davidson, Nicole Bigras, Cathy Carroll and Felicia d'Orve.

## BEST WISHES TO ALL OF YOU FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND THE NEW YEAR!

We've reached that point in the year when again we pause to spend time with our families, friends, and to share some of our advantages with others. Every year is replete with the results of the efforts of the larger Batshaw team. I thank you personally for your energy and commitment. I hope you have a restful, enjoyable break, and I wish you and those close to you well as the New Year starts.

## BATSHAW CENTRAIDE CAMPAIGN

The Annual Batshaw Centraide campaign is under way, December 20<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> inclusive. Contributing is simple via payroll deduction. All Centraide donations should be forwarded to Kim Kurtz, 6 Weredale Park. I ask you to support this worthy cause.

## BATSHAW CALENDAR

January 18<sup>th</sup>: MDEC meeting (for information:  
Joanne Marcotte, 932-7161, loc. 335)

January 24<sup>th</sup>: Board meeting (for information:  
Thérèse Gauthier 989-1885, loc. 202)