



News from Margaret Douek, Executive Director

APPROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



YOUTH CENTRES WEEK

Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations – Executive Director's Office

“Because of THEM, I chose a youth centre” is the theme of this year's Youth Centres Week that is going on now, November 16th to the 20th. It is an important week because it gives us the opportunity to acknowledge the work done in each and every youth centre across Québec.

The *Association des centres jeunesse du Québec* (ACJQ) developed communication tools to recognize the wonderful work done on a daily basis by all employees. For example, you may have already seen, a poster made for the occasion. It presents pictures of employees working in youth centres. Each youth centre was asked to provide one picture. Mervat Atta-Segal was our official photographer who took Steven Blackette's, picture for the poster! Steven is an educator at Prévost and at St-James. Many thanks to both of you for your cooperation!

You have received, or will soon, a very nice key-chain with our logo. All employees of youth centres across Quebec are receiving it this week. It is a token of appreciation for your hard work and your dedication on a daily basis. Congratulations to all!

ANOTHER MEMORABLE LONG-SERVICE DINNER

Gérald Savoie, Advisor to the Executive Director

This very pleasant event once again took place on October 29 at the Centre Mont-Royal. Invitations went out to more than 350 employees who have been working for 20 years and more in the field of service to troubled youth and their families. Even though we received a number of last-minute cancellations for health reasons (some bad cases of influenza) close to 240 people attended.

The evening was co-hosted by the Board President, Judy Martin, and Margaret Douek who were more than happy to pay tribute to the long-standing commitment of everyone in the room. The tradition of giving framed certificates to those who have reached 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service was maintained. One by one, employees were called to the stage to the sometimes thunderous applause of their colleagues. Melina Decubelis, receptionist at 6 Weredale Park, received what seemed to be the longest standing ovation of the evening when she stepped up for her 20-year certificate; a moving tribute to her all around positive and helpful attitude towards clients and employees.

Despite what would seem to be an “aging” group of staff, there was no certainly no lack of energy and enthusiasm in the room as employees from all over our organization seemed more than happy to reminisce over a glass of wine and a great meal.

The evening was the crowning event of our annual Staff Appreciation Week in which a total of 144 personalized certificates were presented to employees having reached the following milestones:

7 years: 30 15 years: 19 20 years: 43
25 years: 5 30 years: 30 35 years: 7

We wish to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of Angeline Bisson and Thérèse Gauthier who work feverishly behind the scenes to make this event so

memorable. As of next year, the responsibility will belong to the newly-created Division of Human Resources

HUMAN TRAFFICKING, A PHENOMENON NOT WELL KNOWN

Lynn Dion, STI/HIV and youth sexuality resource person - Division of Professional Services

Human trafficking is a phenomenon that is not well known. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP, 2005) estimates that each year more than 600 people are victims of trafficking in Canada within the framework of the sexual exploitation, more than 800 in markets such as domestic work, factory and agricultural work, and between 1500 to 2200 people are transported from Canada to the United States.

Hélène Choquette, filmmaker, spent a year to research the phenomenon of human trafficking. She met with Batshaw's workers and that's how Batshaw Centres participated in the making of the documentary *Avenue Zéro*. In this documentary, three workers (Dorli Fischer, Shelley Taylor and Lynn Dion) along with one girl, talk about the sexual exploitation of youth.

The movie premiere was presented on November 12 during the *Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal* at the *Grande Bibliothèque* and again on November 16 at the *Cinéma Parallèle*.

The film will also be presented from January 21 to 31, 2010 at the NFB Cinema. The movie is in French with subtitles. It's a must!

MORE THAN \$165 000 FOR CHILDREN IN YOUTH PROTECTION

Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations – Executive Director's Office

The foundations of youth centres across Quebec raised more than \$165 000 thanks to a fund-raising activity organized in collaboration with Corus radio stations at the end of October. Our youths will directly benefit from the donations received during those 4 days, to cover the costs of schooling, as well as cultural and sporting activities.

It all started in 2008 when Paul Arcand of 98.5 FM, organized a spontaneous campaign following the publication of an article stating that a *Centre Jeunesse de Montréal* fund-raising activity had been cancelled. Mr. Arcand asked his listeners to send money to cover the loss. It was so successful that Mr. Mario Cecchini, Vice-President of Corus Quebec, offered the support of all Corus stations across Quebec for the 2009 campaign.

Many thanks to our employees and volunteers who accepted to take some time to receive phone calls from donators! They worked alongside colleagues from the ACJQ, *Centre Jeunesse de Montréal* and *Centre Jeunesse de Laval*. Bravo to all of you! Let's hope that this fund-raising activity for the benefit of our youths becomes the start of a long tradition!

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