



News from Margaret Douek, Executive Director

APPROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



ROUTE SANS FIN – 6th EDITION FROM MAY 28 TO JUNE 5

Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations (Source: Geneviève Jauron)

The *Route sans fin* is back for a 6th consecutive year, and all Quebec regions will be part of it! Following last fall's post-mortem, the provincial committee, composed of employees from each youth centre, suggested to the *Conférence des directeurs généraux*, to create an Executive Committee to ensure a fair share of the responsibilities among youth centres. The Executive Committee involves the coordinators in each youth centre in planning this event.

This year, there will be two simultaneous starts on May 28th, and one group will end at our Prévost Campus.

Daina Girard, Educator at Bridges, works tirelessly on this great project. She is also a member of the Executive Committee. You will soon be asked to contribute. Don't hesitate to participate, it is for a good cause: our youths! You can reach Daina at local 2271.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT DORVAL CAMPUS: MEMORABLE EVENT

Filomena DeSantis, Educator, Dorval Campus

I would like to share with you the amazing collaboration at Dorval Campus between clients and staff during Black History Month which allowed for a very memorable event. Throughout the month of February, the clients in units and at Dawson Alternative School worked on several different projects along with their staff and teachers. The clients created amazing posters of inspirational people, historical events and countries that were pertinent to them. These creations were displayed in the Dorval cafeteria. The more posters the youths created, the greater the chance of winning a prize. We celebrated with a luncheon and our guest speaker was Yolande James, who is the first Black female MNA and the youngest cabinet minister. Ms. James was dynamic and connected very well with the clients and staff. Her speech was inspirational and included strong messages as she spoke about her childhood and the adversities she faced as the first Black female MNA. Despite the challenges and fears, she decided to follow her dream. The clients were attentive and very proud of this event.

A week later, the clients gave their feedback of what they retained from Ms. James' speech. These were some of their responses:

- Don't allow fear to stop you. Go for your goals and dreams.
- Even when you feel different inside, or people are talking negatively about you, believe and be true to yourself.
- Don't allow other people's perceptions or expectations of you to define who you are or limit what you can be. Follow your gut and your dreams.

On behalf of the Ways and Means Committee and Dawson Alternative School, a big thank you to the kitchen staff for their hard work and the staff who volunteered their time either by educating, cooking, serving, decorating or participating.

LAUNCHING OF RUIJ

Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations (Sources: CJM-IU and CJQ-IU)

On January 28th, the *Réseau universitaire intégré jeunesse* (RUIJ) was launched. The goal of this new network is to bring together all the partners working with youths at risk and their family, to put in common their expertise, research, programs and best practices.

All partners, youth centres as well as CSSS and research teams and any other organization working with youths at risk are invited to participate. The principle is simple: the more members of the network will have access to research results and expertise, the more youths and their families will benefit because they will receive support and interventions at the forefront of clinical and scientific knowledge.

The RUIJ already completed three projects. The first one is very relevant to us. It is the production by youth centres of a numerical collection of over 2000 documents produced by all youth centres on many subjects such as sexual abuse, conjugal violence, and neglect. At the present time, the website (www.ruij.qc.ca) is only available to youth centres staff, but will eventually be open to our partners.

The second project is the update of the university activities in youth centres. The third one facilitates access to specialized research ethics committees in the field of youth at risk and their family for organizations who do not have them, and where research activities take place to improve the quality of research within the organization.

The RUIJ is the result of a joint initiative from *Centre jeunesse de Montréal* and *Centre Jeunesse de Québec, instituts universitaires*. It is financed by the MSSS and supported by the ACJQ and the *Association québécoise des établissements de santé et de services sociaux*.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MANNY!

Best wishes to Manny Batshaw, who celebrated his 95th birthday on April 17th!

THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

May 18th **OUR VOICES II FORUM**
 QAE – CCC - BYFC
 6 Weredale Park – Auditorium
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 Information: Alice Sa
 514-932-7161, ext.1097