



News from Margaret Douek, Executive Director

# APPROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



## AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE...

*Margaret Douek, Executive Director*

As the year draws to a close it is an opportunity to look back and reflect on all that has been achieved. It has been a busy year, one in which we have examined critically our way of operating and have made some sound resolutions. At the top of our wish list we are searching for ways of intervening with clients so that they feel like they are active participants in their change process. We want our clients to feel respected, that their opinion counts, and that we believe in their ability to reach the objectives set.

We have worked on an integrated vision of intervention, where each service provider is an integral part of a team effort.

The accreditation process demanded a sustained effort throughout the year. It generated once again a common vision of what we do well and where we will invest in the coming three years to improve outcomes.

This past year also brought its share of sadness as we lost some colleagues suddenly through illness and tragedy.

I want to thank all the employees of Batshaw Centres for their hard work throughout the year. Your passion and commitment to clients gives me the inspiration to continue to offer the best leadership I can so that we can achieve our vision.

I want to wish to you all a healthy and restful Holiday Season with your family and friends.

## DARE TO DREAM!

### **An opportunity to innovate in services to clients**

*Margaret Douek, Executive Director*

How often do you dream of finding a special budget to support a creative project that will benefit our clients?

How often do you think: “if only we could fund such an activity”?

The time is here to make a dream come true. A budget has been set aside to stimulate our creativity and benefit our clients.

Despite the budget restrictions of Bill 100 which have targeted cuts in administrative expenses, training and transport, expenditures for direct services to clients have been protected.

In the spirit of encouraging staff involvement and innovation, the Batshaw Management team has identified a budget to actualize such a project. Leadership can be exercised at every level of the organization and in every division, and therefore the opportunity to present projects is open to all staff.

Criteria for presenting a project:

- o The project must be of direct benefit to clients.
- o The costs of the project cannot exceed \$20,000 and must be spent in this financial year (by March 31, 2011).
- o There cannot be expenses incurred on a recurrent basis.

A submission describing the project must include:

- o The purpose and targeted objectives.
- o Description of activities, costs and time line.
- o Identification of a project leader.

**Projects must be submitted by December 31, 2010.**

The description of the project does not have to be lengthy or in too much detail at this stage.

Make a dream come true!

**Please send proposals to me at 5 Weredale Park.**

## ACJQ CONFERENCE

*Margaret Douek, Executive Director*

On October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, our association, the ACJQ held its biennial conference here in Montréal. This was done in conjunction with the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on “Looking

after Children” (LAC) held on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Well over 1,000 people attended this important event.

Batshaw Centres participated by sending 30 of its staff members who attended various workshops and presentations thus collecting information and ideas on best practices coming from our province, our country and from around the world.

Some of our staff directly contributed to this conference. **Marc Helde** acted as a member of the organising committee. Others prepared and delivered workshops on various topics of interest. They are:

- o **Gina Carvalho, Hedy Taylor, Natalie Coull and Sue Oliver** – The Domino Effect of LAC (Looking After Children): “Think Developmentally”
- o **Nicolette de Smit** – Children with Sexual Behaviour Problems: Helping Kids in Care
- o **Nicolette de Smit & Cherie Thomas** – Healthy Identities: Raising Multi-Ethnic Children
- o **Susan Gallo & Claude Laurendeau** – Practice Implications of a Neglect Survey Completed at BYFC
- o **Claude Laurendeau** – La modélisation pour améliorer une stratégie basée sur des données probantes.

Also, at the opening of the conference, the results of the Canadian Incidence Study were launched by Nico Trocmé, its lead researcher. Batshaw Centres, as you may know, participated in this important study; a copy of the report can be found in our Library.

I am very proud of the work which is ongoing and to have had the opportunity to showcase our achievements. I would like to sincerely thank the presenters, and I strongly encourage those who attended to share new knowledge and ideas thus contributing to a climate of continuous learning in the organization.

## “OH WHAT A NIGHT”

### **Batshaw Centres Celebrates Annual Holiday Party**

*Tony Maciocia, Program Coordinator, DRTSA*

For the third consecutive year Batshaw Centres’ Holiday Party was held at Plaza Volare, Crown Plaza Hotel, on Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, in collaboration with the bargaining units, cadres association and the QAE.

The feedback about the party can best be described by comments people were making like; “This is a great party”! They were making reference to the great music from *Goldstar Entertainment*, the food and service, the table centerpieces provided complimentary by *Decorandmore.ca*, the bonbonnières, and the overall party atmosphere throughout the evening.

It was also nice to see cross-agency representation from all points of service. The crowd was happy, enthusiastic, vibrant, and full of energy. As with previous years, everyone was very elegantly dressed and it really felt like a Gala Event, at the same time with a casual feeling of comfort.

Warm thanks goes out to the very hard working Holiday Planning Committee, who spent several months prior planning during their own lunch hour. They are individuals who take great pride in what they do and you can always count on them to pull together a good party. The Committee included Ola Dupelycz, Lucy Capparelli, Rosanna Strippa and Julissa Quevedo.

Special thanks also go to all the partners who collaborated in this event, the BMC who showed the courage to maintain the Holiday Party as one of those activities that recognizes staff contributions and hard work throughout the year.

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday period and hope to see you all at next year’s Holiday Party!