



APPROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Margaret Douek

Positive outcomes in some of our priority dossiers...

Campus Construction

As many of you have heard, Batshaw Centres was finally successful in having its right to build closed units in Dorval recognized. We will now be actively pursuing this project and building two closed units at our Dawson facility over a period of one year. It is always difficult to continue our activities while construction is ongoing and for all those who work there I want to thank you in advance for your understanding of this situation.

Our dialogue with the city of Beaconsfield is ongoing and we will know shortly if we can expect to have both the building permit and the necessary financial backing by the Ministry for the construction of open units.

Media Coverage

We have been in the media in an ongoing fashion to explain the work we do and who are our clients. Many staff have contributed in different roles and forums to inform and convey the essence of our work. Whether it was in response to the construction projects, or in cases that caught the attention of the public, those who spoke did so with passion, caring, and expertise. Thank you for stepping up to the plate. The result of this persistent approach was a more positive coverage than we would have normally obtained.

Archives

We have had our retention schedule for administrative documents approved by the *Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec*. This has been a labour of love executed by Céline Fortin, Archivist, who has done an extraordinary job. Céline has been on contract with us and has achieved a tremendous volume of work in a short year to bring us to this positive result.

Mme Véronique Hivon visits Batshaw Centres

As I write this paragraph the visit of Mme Hivon, Minister for Social Services and Youth Protection, has yet to take place. This visit scheduled for April 12th by Mme Hivon is an opportunity for us to sensitize the Ministry to some of the work we are most proud of and some of the challenges we are facing.

Some challenges...

Accreditation

Despite the very busy period we are in we had a 53% rate of return on the staff satisfaction survey. There were many references made to the impact of budget cuts and overall we would have liked to achieve higher levels of satisfaction in all our survey results. A summary of the survey results for staff, youths, parents, foster parents and partners will be made available shortly. Many thanks to all who contributed to this quality improvement exercise.

Budget

Further budget cuts have been announced for our organization and we are in the process of evaluating the impact it will have on our services. Communication about these cuts will be forthcoming.

Pressure in Service Delivery

There is tremendous pressure in service delivery at this time of year in all services. We are tackling waiting lists, problems with bed availability in our residential settings, and responding to some very difficult client situations. We are now in the final stretch before the summer break.

Black History Month 2013

YOUNG BLACK ACHIEVERS AWARDS

At the Talent Extravaganza, five young Black Achievers were recognized. May they be an inspiration to us all!

The following texts are drawn from the words of those who nominated the recipients. The names were changed.

Alicia: Alicia is a shining example of one who lives by the motto "think it, believe it, and achieve it". She has faced many challenges which have interfered with her academic progress, affected her personal relationships and negatively impacted her self-esteem. Alicia has overcome many hurdles while staying focused on achieving her dreams. Throughout everything, Alicia has not lost sight of her academic goals and her desire to become a successful adult. She has become a very independent and responsible person who has worked through life's challenges while making positive changes in her life. Alicia has taken control of her life and has turned things in a positive direction.

Louisa: Over the last six months, Louisa has been stable and has made significant improvements in surmounting and controlling the at risk behaviors for which she was signaled. She has taken control of her life and is accountable at home and in the community. Louisa is presently completing Adult Education and hopes to graduate in June. In two recent Math exams, Louisa scored 96% and a 100%. Her ultimate goal is to be a police officer. Louisa currently has a part time job at a café and has regularly assisted at her mother's salon.

Maria: Despite many years of placement and family difficulties Maria demonstrates true resilience to her life situation by attempting to develop healthy relationships with family and friends. Maria has been able to prioritize her academic goals and graduated from high school and attended her graduation dance. She was the first family member to have achieved this milestone and is often reminded to be proud of this achievement. Maria has started to prepare herself for independent living, and is participating in "Moving on up" a program developed to help youths acquire knowledge and skills.

Shania: Shania had suffered from a lot of trauma in her life. At first, she saw her future as bleak and hopeless. Underneath the despair though, there was a smile and a strength struggling to emerge. Fluent in two languages, great academic skills and her dreams, the need to find the opportunity to put forward these strengths, things started to change. Her dream is to be a fashion designer. Shania lives the "Circle of courage" regularly. She participated in the sanding, painting and designing of the picnic tables on the Dorval Campus.

Simon: Simon is a caring and empathic young man who has developed into an excellent role model for the other youths. What shines through his warm, kind and funny personality is his capacity to think about others. An example of this was a Christmas project whereby clients created teddy bears for younger clients. Simon spent hours making sure his teddy bear was just perfect. It was important to him as he remembered what it was like living in a group home and how special it would have been for him to have received such a teddy bear. Simon has an interest in giving back to the community and is regularly doing so.

PRÉVOST CAMPUS YOUTHS SHINE ON EVENT FILLED ACTIVITY DAY

Ron Golfman, Program Manager for Lindsay Unit and Campus Recreation Services, DR TSA

On February 19th, the Prévost campus, busy enough at the best of times, experienced a beehive of healthy activity which