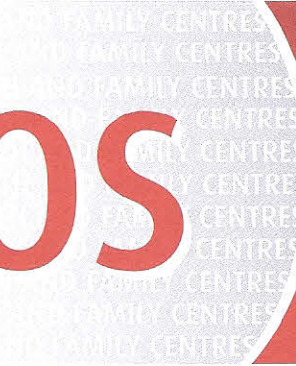




APPROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Margaret Douek

Two hundred cyclists from *centres jeunesse des Laurentides*, Laval, Montréal, and Batshaw Centres assembled early Saturday morning to accomplish a common goal. The wind blew, the rain fell, and it was a chilly day in May but the *Route sans fin* participants braved the inclement weather to ride their bicycles for 70 km from Saint Jérôme to Laval. I want to applaud their tenacious spirit and thank them for making us proud. The smiles and fanfare which greeted them spoke volumes and we were all further warmed by the sweet singing of the youth band led by Étienne Drapeau, singer and spokesperson for this event. Besides the youths and staff who cycle every year, there are a few more people deserving of special mention. It takes someone who will champion this event to get us ready, plan on our behalf and lead by example. Daina Girard is that leader for us. She and Sonia Beckhofer-Fialho ride each year the full 1000 km across the province over a ten day period of time. Rain or shine they are there to encourage and support the youths who rise to the challenge. Another special word of thanks goes to Judy Martin, our Board President who often rides with the Batshaw Centres team and who was cheering the group at eight o'clock on that Saturday morning, gave out snacks and bought horns to sound the welcome to the shivering riders upon their arrival.

Under sunny skies and much warmer conditions the annual fundraiser of the **Batshaw Centres Foundation** took place at the end of April. The **Cocktail Challenge** raised more than \$60,000 for the benefit of our youths. The Foundation Board, made up of volunteers from many walks of life, puts together this activity with the sole purpose of giving our youths special opportunities in life. I want to thank all those who support this event through donations, ticket purchases and all the hard work that goes into planning and hosting. A special thanks also goes out to Jennifer Dupuis who spoke eloquently that evening of the positive outcomes in her life as a result of the scholarship support she received. For more details about the event and activities of the Foundation please visit the website at www.batshawfoundation.ca.

The **Resource Department** hosted an incredibly successful **day of recruitment** for foster families. With the assistance of the media the recruitment day was widely advertised and drew in the largest number of interested people in one day. Multiple stations were set up in the auditorium informing the visiting public about the many services provided by Batshaw Centres and distributing information in a warm and inviting ambiance. Some 60 families expressed interest in becoming foster families and the media who were on hand to cover the event were well appreciated for their contribution in making this such a successful endeavour. This was a wonderful salute to Marion Leroux, Coordinator of the Resource Department who was retiring just days later after a long and lustrous career with the organization.

The **Our Voices Youth Conference** sponsored by the CCC, our user committee, the Quebec Association of Educators, and Batshaw Centres examined the place of the creative arts in programming and its impact on our youths. Congruent with the theme, organizers distributed prizes to ten artists who had created an impressive array of art work which were on display. During this function an emotional high point was the granting of the Quebec Association of Educators Award. Nominated by her colleagues and selected for this award, Silvana Scarapicchia was recognized for her dedication, enthusiasm, and love for her clients. Thank you to Tony Maciocia for his overall leadership in this event.

Finally a big thank you to Carlos De Castro who put together a very interesting program to mark **Homophobia Day**. Through film clips, presentations and discussion the topics of bullying and our collective responsibility in taking a stand against all forms of discrimination were tackled.

Everyday special acts of kindness occur in this organization. All these individual initiatives make Batshaw Centres unique. As we prepare to celebrate our 20 years as Batshaw Centres I am inviting people to submit their perspective on what has shaped this organization. I am seeking your help about historical moments, events, organizational initiatives, accomplishments and achievements. Please send to my attention.

Enjoy your summer everyone!

Margaret

VISIT OF MRS. VÉRONIQUE HIVON, MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND YOUTH PROTECTION

Margaret Douek, Executive Director

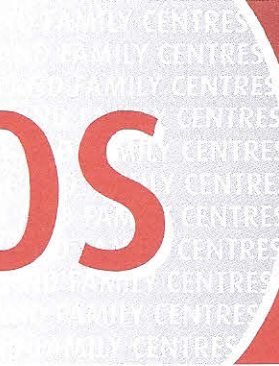
Mrs. Véronique Hivon visited us at Dorval Campus on Friday, May 31st. She visited the renovated Crossroads unit, and then had lunch with youths in the Kid Kitchen. The BMC and members of the Board of Directors presented our organization highlighting our successes and challenges. During the last hour and a half, staff presented on their work focussing on the common themes of cultural competence, family work, and the challenges of accessing services in English. Presentations included two cases in the Evaluation phase of Youth Protection, My Family My Community, aboriginal and Inuit intervention at AM and in readaptation, the mental health program at Bourbonnière group home, Youth Empowerment, field placement and finally Inside: Nobody Girl.

A visit such as this one is usually used to focus on some of our priority dossiers. We could have spent the afternoon talking about buildings and budgets needed for things we want to get done. The Ministry gets complaints every day about budget cuts and the urgent needs of each institution. Our approach was a soft sell with the time given to our youths and staff to express themselves. Through the presentations the passion of our staff shone brightly. The needs of our youths and families were abundantly clear and most important our



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SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION (cont'd)

youths showed over and over that they deserve our utmost attention. Our youths have all suffered in individual ways. Although we are part of the social service sector the needs as expressed are as great as in the health sector, which is often prioritized over social services for development money. The presentations carried an important message and left a mark on the minds and the hearts of those who will make decisions which will impact us.

Mrs. Hivon a été très touchée tout comme je l'ai été ainsi que plusieurs autres personnes dans la salle pas les présentations incroyables.

To pull off a successful visit like this one took a team effort. Many thanks to all those who worked behind the scenes: those who typed, corrected, translated, organized, set up tables, prepared and served meals, beautified our spaces, coached and accompanied presenters, and those who were there to support. Finally those who opened their living space to our guests, the youths who were the stars of the show, who made themselves available to answer questions and finally our amazing staff. They all managed to convey so much in their ten minutes. I cannot tell you enough how proud I was of the work we do.

It was a hot day outside but nothing to compare to the passion demonstrated throughout Mrs. Hivon's visit.

Thank you.

FOSTER CARE OPEN HOUSE!

Marie-Pierre Ulysse, Program Manager, Resources, DCFS

On April 10, Resources held an open house. The contributors to the success of the day were numerous. Our goal was to recruit potential foster families to better respond to the needs of children in care. And we were successful!!! On the day of the open house **36 families** registered to be invited to an information meeting. Ever since, the intake line has not stopped ringing. Our numbers were so great that, on April 24, we had to host two simultaneous information meeting, for a total of **44 families**. Our next information meeting took place on June 12, and once again we hosted two simultaneous meetings since **43 families** registered. In addition to these numbers, **21 off island Anglophones families** are in the process of completing the necessary formalities in order to register for one of our information meetings. So far it is the greatest response that we've ever had. WOW!

JOURNEY PROGRAM

Ingrid Théberge, Interim Program Manager, DRTSA

The Journey Program has been created specifically to address issues pertaining to sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Our goal is to empower young women; to rebuild their self-esteem; to help them make informed and healthy choices. The Circle of Courage philosophy and the harm reduction approach are an integral part of our program. We do not judge or preach; our role is to promote a healthy and positive lifestyle through creative arts, education and sports. Our mission is to build a stronger community, one girl at a time.

In my thank yous, I forgot to mention three **VERY** important partners/collaborators: Kim P. and Evan, as well as our teacher, Joy. Go, team, go!

EXTRANET? HOW TO REGISTER

Nancy Labrie, Computer Analyst, MIT, DFAS

In spring 2010, we launched an **extranet** which is in a way similar to intranet as it targets employees and to other specific groups. They are the only ones to have access. Extranet is a computer network but the way to access it is different. It is done through Internet via a secured Web server. In other words, we access intranet through our workstation, but connect to extranet via a Web Site.

Batshaw Centres' extranet provides useful information to employees when they are out of the office. You want to register? Please go to our Web Site (www.batshaw.qc.ca) and click on "extranet" which you will find at the top of the page.

Each employee has an extranet account (to be activated) with his/her professional e-mail address (name_surname@ssss.gouv.qc.ca). **On the first connection**, you must use this address and then wait for the automatic return e-mail that will provide you with the steps to follow toward confirming your status. We suggest you to proceed with this first step though your Lotus Notes e-mail box, and then finalize your registration in the following hours once again though Lotus-Notes.

If you do not have access to your professional e-mail (recall, extended absence, etc.), you will have to contact technical support at **514-989-1885, local 1000** for the first connection, to provide them with your personal e-mail address (home). Please leave your name and surname and of course, your personal e-mail address! Within the next 5 working days you will receive from Octopus System an e-mail confirming that your extranet profile has been modified, which will then allow you to have access to extranet with your personal address. Enjoy your visit!

Ruth and Manny Batshaw Awards of Excellence 2013

YOU CAN NOW NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE ALL YEAR AROUND!

Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations

Good news! You can nominate a colleague all year round. You can now fill the Nomination Form whenever you witness excellence in the accomplishments of one of your colleague, and send it right away to the Communication Department.

The electronic pamphlet and nomination form are available on intranet and extranet. Nomination forms must be sent along to the Communication Department by October 2, 2013. The Ruth and Manny Batshaw Awards of Excellence 2013 will be presented on November 20, 2013 during the Youth Centres Week.

For more information, please contact me at 514 989-1885, extension 1017 or by e-mail at claire_bat@ssss.gouv.qc.ca.