



Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

MANNY BATSHAW RECEIVES THE ORDER OF CANADA

In January, Manny Batshaw was one of 14 Quebecers named to the Order of Canada. The announcement referred to Manny as "a legend in the social service community." He has been awarded the honor for his role in developing child-welfare policy. Manny had a long career in social work and child welfare that included being Executive Director of Allied Jewish Community Services, and most notably the chairperson of a committee in 1975 which studied the treatment of children placed in institutions. It produced what came to be known as the Batshaw Report, one of the milestones in the evolution of child welfare in Quebec. The 166 recommendations in the report when re-read today can be seen to be the blueprint for today's youth centres. On behalf of everyone in the Batshaw community, I convey our congratulations to Manny. We can be proud to be named in honor of a person and a legacy that stands for farsighted concern for children and their families.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Once again, the organizing committee for Black History Month pulled together a menu of events that helped us all grasp more about the history, talent and aspirations of the Black Community. The Forum brought together several important leaders from the Community who discussed different issues and challenged Batshaw to be part of the solution through acceptance of diversity and through partnership. Claire Clifton-Newton's Talent Extravaganza brought us the spoken word, musical and dance talents of many Community members, particularly of youth. By the time you read this, the Prévost campus show and the Caribbean lunch will also have taken place, closing out another month of events that allow us to share more of the richness to be found in the Black Community. Many thanks to the organizing committee of Marcel Croteau, Denise Bertrand, Annie Alexander, Felicia Agyekum and Joy Abel.

BATSHAW THANKS A FRIEND

Batshaw is a member of the Quebec Association of Youth Centres (known as the ACJQ). For the last six years the Association has been under the leadership of Pierre Lamarche. During that period the Association has initiated many programs and activities that have strengthened all the youth centres of Quebec, for example, the training program known as PNF for one, and the information system known as PIJ. During these same six years, several Batshaw staff have had the opportunity to participate extensively in the Association's activities. And during that period the contribution of Batshaw has been warmly welcomed.

On behalf of Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, I would like to thank Pierre for all his collaborative efforts and also wish him well on his new challenge. Pierre was recently nominated as an Assistant Deputy Minister in the *ministère de l'Emploi, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Famille*.

FROM THE BOARD

At its January meeting, the Board approved the management contract with the *Agence de développement de réseaux locaux de services de santé et de services sociaux de Montréal* (the new name for the Regional Board). This agreement, which covers the period from April 2003 to March 2006, sets a number of clinical and administrative objectives for Batshaw, many of which were already in our Development Plan.

"LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN" AT BATSHAW

In May 2002, the "Cloutier" committee made 45 recommendations regarding foster care, which were presented to the Minister of Health and Social Services. These recommendations were aimed at maintaining, protecting and developing the foster care network of Quebec. The report acknowledged the growing pressures on this network as the closure of residential settings shifted the burden onto foster families. It also noted that the necessary financial and professional supports had not been put into place to alleviate this pressure.

One of these recommendations was that Quebec's youth centres produce a yearly evaluation of the progress made by children in foster care, as well as to develop intervention plans. This is intended to ensure that foster children's needs are met and that there is monitoring of their physical and psychosocial development, etc. The committee recommended that Looking after Children (LAC) be considered as the approach to meet this challenge. LAC is a structured approach to monitoring children's development and developmental needs. It was developed in England and has been adapted to several other countries.

As a follow-up to this recommendation, a pilot project was recently introduced in two youth centres, *Les Centres jeunesse de l'Outaouais* and Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, under the aegis of the Association des centres jeunesse du Québec and in collaboration with Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC). CWLC is coordinating LAC pilot projects in most of the Canadian provinces. It was under these circumstances that Batshaw Youth and Family Centres identified 30 staff and 60 children and their foster parents to participate in the project. It is still much too early in the process to identify any of the benefits of using the LAC approach in our agency. However, it is worth mentioning that a lesson has already been learned regarding the introduction of LAC, i.e., the importance of involving all concerned in a thorough introduction/orientation to the content and purpose of the LAC approach. It is clear that the fact that the approach is very child-focused is very much appreciated by foster parents.

The core of the LAC approach is the use of "Assessment Action Records". These are structured, age specific tools that help determine where a child is on the developmental continuum. From the assessment it is possible to pinpoint the necessary actions for inclusion in the intervention plan (PIFA). As the project progresses, Batshaw will receive an analysis of the data regarding children in the project which will show overall information about their development, and compare it to the development of the general population of children and youth, as depicted by the National Longitudinal Study of Children and Youth. We will know more about where the areas of difficulty are for our foster children and what we need to do to assist them.

THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

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| March 15 th | Batshaw Board Meeting
6 Weredale Park
For further information contact:
Thérèse Gauthier at 989-1885, #202 |
| April 7 th | Batshaw Foundation Meeting
For further information contact:
Ghislaine Corbeil at 989-1885, #201 |
| April 18 th - 24 th | Volunteer Week
For further information contact:
Kim Kurtz at 932-7161, #340 |