

**Meeting of the Board of Directors
held on January 26, 2009, at the Lakeshore General Hospital site**

This bulletin is a brief report on the main topics of interest that were discussed during the meeting of the Board of Directors of the West Island HSSC. A copy of the minutes approved by the Board may be obtained from the Executive Director's office.

The members of the Board of Directors of the West Island HSSC elected their officers during the meeting of January 26 held at Lakeshore General Hospital. They then discussed several topics, in particular the demands made to the Québec government, the Executive Director's tour of the HSSC sites, the revitalization plan, tenured positions in nursing and the implementation of a new computer system.

Elections

The meeting started with the election of the Board's officers. The members elected Richard Legault as president for a first term. Appointed first vice-president, outgoing President Sheila Laursen will remain on the Executive Committee. Gerald Robertson becomes second vice-president, Robert Stocker remains treasurer, and Suzanne Turmel, secretary. Mr. Legault thanked the Board members for their trust.

The President's Report

During the presentation of her report, Sheila Laursen, the Board's outgoing President, announced that she would meet the Island of Montreal HSSC and the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal on January 28 to present the West Island's health needs. By cooperating with these establishments, she hopes to move certain issues forward with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS).

The outgoing President hopes this will encourage the MSSS to voice its opinion on the potential impact of the financial crisis on the 2009-2010 budget. She would also like the Ministère to explain the ins and outs of a bill on the governance of public institutions that the Québec government plans to adopt. As this new law could lead the HSSC to change the composition of its Board of Directors, Ms. Laursen wishes to ensure a successful transition if the new law requires it.

The Executive Director's Report

Suzanne Turmel, Executive Director of the HSSC, also presented her report. She gave an update on the December biennial tour of the HSSC sites. Compared to the number of problems that employees encountered not long after the sites' merger, she noticed that the number of employee requests had decreased. "The number of irritants that bothered staff in the past has decreased," she explained. I think this is a good sign. I wish to reiterate my commitment towards an efficient restructuring of our services and will continue in this direction."

Financial Business

Robert Stocker presented the HSSC's financial results. In answer to a question from a Board member on the revitalization plan, Mr. Stocker said he anticipated a deficit of \$6.8 million for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Suzanne Turmel added that it is difficult to achieve a fiscal balance because "the HSSC has not been granted additional funds, even though its responsibilities have increased."

New Computer System

Robert Stocker also announced the implementation of a new computer system for human resources and payroll. The new system is expected to be more efficient and user-friendly. He ensured the Board members that terminating the contract signed with his previous suppliers will not adversely affect the HSSC.

Good News for Nurses

Invited to speak to the members of the Board, Patrick Dubé, Human Resources Director, announced that the work required to identify the needs for the tenure of nursing positions should be completed by February 12. In accordance with the collective agreement, the HSSC will be required to grant each nurse a position that includes at least four days of work for each biweekly period. Starting February 12, Human Resources will know the number of positions to be granted tenure.

The director was pleased to finish the year with 16 nurses more than a year ago. In 2008, while 77 nurses left the HSSC, 93 were hired. According to him, these numbers indicate that his team must continue its efforts to offer the best working conditions possible.

Next meeting. The next meeting will be held on February 23, at the Lakeshore General Hospital site.