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# » INTERCOM



**American experience**

**Employees make  
children's wishes come  
true**

**Partnership initiative  
between Leclerc  
Institution and Laval  
Police Department**

Respect

The Correctional Service of Canada, as part of the criminal justice system and respecting the rule of law, contributes to the protection of society by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to become law-abiding citizens, while exercising reasonable, safe, secure and humane control.

HUMAN RIGHTS  
PROTECTION

Justice

Rights



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Your editorial committee

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## Community contribution to public protection

**G**iven that the vast majority of federal inmates serve the last part of their sentences in the community, our organization has gradually developed structures, resources and effective methods to prepare them for their return into society.

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) carefully supervises offenders under its authority, but also offers the support that offenders need to reintegrate gradually into society in an environment that is structured and adapted to individual needs. While this is quite an accomplishment, we can do more.

In order to contribute even more effectively to public protection, we must strive to create closer ties to our partners in the community. Their support, combined with our own resources, strengthens the "community reintegration safety net" that supports inmates when their incarceration ends and increases their chances of success.

In this spirit, CSC has implemented its *Community Outreach Project*. In practice, this translates into activities in strategic areas. We will therefore strive to consult

communities more often and encourage them to suggest solutions that will contribute to CSC decisions. Furthermore, we must actively contribute to life in communities by participating in activities that benefit them, and that reinforce public protection.

We must also encourage communities to help inmates prepare for release and support them once they leave the penitentiary. We must also inform and raise awareness among communities in order to increase their trust in the correctional process and encourage them to contribute to it.

Community forums provide the public with an excellent opportunity to present their ideas and points of view on CSC policies, programs and correctional initiatives. Youth Forum 2004, held in Montreal on February 2, 2004, gave dozens of teens a glimpse of the correc-



Denis Méthé

tional reality and the information they need to better understand our operations. I would like to congratulate the organizers for this tremendous success.

We have undertaken this change in direction because we firmly believe that the success of the correctional process depends on the participation of Canadians in its development and implementation. I am aware of the scope of what we have accomplished and of what lies ahead. Yet by rising to the challenge, we contribute to maintaining a fair society and to public protection.

## Correctional Service of Canada and Waseskun Healing Centre celebrate signing of a service agreement

JULIE-CHRISTINE LAINEY • REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

**A**t the Waseskun Healing Centre on September 15 and 16, 2003, an official ceremony was held to mark the signing of the agreement between Correctional Service Canada (CSC) and the Waseskun Healing Centre for transfer of the care and custody of Aboriginal offenders, under section 81 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act.

Members of the community, Elders, representatives of CSC and the National Parole Board (NPB), and approximately a hundred guests attended the ceremony. An opening prayer was pronounced by the Elders and there were speeches by the guests of honour.

The service agreement was then signed jointly by Nicole Jauvin, a representative of the Solicitor General's office; Richard Watkins, Regional Deputy Commissioner for the Quebec region; Renée Colette of the NPB; and Barbara Malloch, Chairperson of the Waseskun Board of Directors. The signing was followed by a traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony.

All of the guests were invited to enjoy a meal of traditional dishes. In keeping with Aboriginal tradition, the Healing Centre marked the occasion by presenting gifts to those who played important roles in setting up the agreement. As a souvenir, the representative of the Solicitor General's office presented the director of the Healing Centre with a painting depicting a bear, symbol of medicine and healing.

The day continued with workshops and ended with sweat lodges and dancing.

The second day was devoted to training for parole officers and other workers. About twenty participants attended the training.

Thanks to the excellent work of the organizers, the ceremony was a great success.



Official signing of the agreement

Left to right: Charles Hill, organizer of the event, Waseskun Healing Centre; Renée Colette; Richard Watkins; Barbara Malloch; and Deborah Cooper, member of the Board of Directors, Waseskun Healing Centre.



Presentation of the painting.



## National Restorative Justice Week

SYLVIE DESPRÉS • ARCHAMBAULT INSTITUTION

**O**n November 18, 2003, as part of *National Restorative Justice Week*, about thirty employees from the Archambault Institution had the opportunity to attend a series of presentations on the theme of restorative justice.

First, Case Management Coordinator Sylvie Després presented the national and regional policies on victim-offender mediation. In particular, she described the role of the employees involved in a mediation procedure and all of the steps in the administrative processing of such applications. She also explained the criteria that ensure a successful mediation process.

Viateur Perreault, a sports and sociocultural program officer who has acted as a mediator in the past, explained that the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) must ensure all employees are listening when intervention with inmates is needed. This applies to instructors and parole officers as well as to correctional officers. According to Mr. Perreault, most complaints arise when staff and inmates fail to listen to and understand each other. He also stressed the importance of intervening in a clear fashion and paying particular attention to victims. He added that it is vital to raise inmates' awareness of victims' suffering.

David Shantz, Protestant chaplain at the Institution and Vice-President of the Centre de services de justice réparatrice [restorative justice service centre] in Montreal, presented the *Rencontres/détenus/victimes (RDV)* [face-to-face offender/victim encounters] program. The program has existed in Quebec since 1991 and is now offered at the Archambault, Leclerc, and Montée St-François facilities. In the presence of two facilitators and an observer from the community, the RDV program allows for voluntary encounters between inmates and victims not linked by a specific crime. These encounters are a chance for the participants to share their feelings and their experience of the conse-



Cyndy Wylde giving her presentation.

quences of the crime, and to ask questions. This also helps inmates realize the impact of their offense.

Mr. Shantz noted that restorative justice seeks to correct the power imbalances that exist between aggressor and victim. So far, the results have been very good.

Cyndy Wylde, Aboriginal Community Development Officer for the East/West district, explained that for First Nations peoples, restorative justice also means restoring balance and harmony. For Aboriginal communities, justice must be in community hands. In our time, a number of practices are being used to apply the principle of restorative justice and address the need for healing. Consultation circles and justice committees bear witness to this. Practices of this type allow accused individuals to understand that

they are being judged by their relatives and fellow citizens, who have values and traditions similar to their own, rather than by a judge from outside. Consequently, restorative justice gives good results, because Aboriginal communities are small, relatively homogeneous, and open to a community-based way of life.

Ms. Wylde also took this opportunity to explain the importance of the holistic healing approach used by the Hollow Water community, to illustrate the importance of the medicine wheel and thus promote understanding of its use.

## Restorative Justice Week Pioneers honoured

JEAN PÉRIGNY • COWANSVILLE INSTITUTION



*“Restorative justice calls upon us to answer the cry of suffering with words inspired by the soul’s thirst, a vision of human solidarity, and an approach that can potentially open up pathways to healing.”*

As part of *Restorative Justice Week 2003*, around the theme “Pathways to a Strengthened Community,” Club Vie and the Cowansville Institution Inmates’ Committee organized an appreciation evening on November 20 of last year. The ceremony was attended by a number of guests, chaplains, representatives of LifeLine, members of the staff and management, and inmates.

This was a fine occasion to pay tribute to some pioneers who have devoted part of their lives to promoting justice. It was also an opportunity to recall the importance of finding solutions to delinquent behaviour and repairing the harm done to victims and the community.

Honoured at the ceremony were Sister Flore Archambault, Huguette Sauvé, Marie Beemans, Henriette Doré-Mainville, Hélène Bournival, Claude Lefebvre, and Claude Mainville. A visual montage paying personal tribute to each of them was presented. In conclusion, the master of ceremonies stressed that it has been a privilege for the inmates to encounter these individuals.

For his part, Claude Lemieux, then Warden of the institution, underlined their vital role and their devoted work in pursuit of a form of justice that opens pathways to a strengthened community. Mr. Lemieux closed by



Left to right: Sister Flore Archambault, Marie Beemans, Henriette Doré-Mainville, Claude Mainville, Hélène Bournival, Claude Lefebvre, and Huguette Sauvé.

thanking the evening’s organizers and congratulating them on the quality of their work.

This was the closing event of *Restorative Justice Week* at Cowansville Institution. The week began on November 16, with an opening mass at which Mgr François Lapierre, Bishop of the diocese of St-Hyacinthe, presided. Two days later, Parole Officer

Karine Dutil received the Jacqueline Monast Restorative Justice Award, established by the pastoral ministry.

Congratulations to all the recipients!



## Pathways to a strengthened community

P. PIERRE-ALAIN ARGOUIN, CHAPLAIN • ARCHAMBAULT INSTITUTION

**D**uring *Restorative Justice Week 2003*, a community celebration of Pardon was held on November 19 at Saint-Eustache church in the diocese of Saint-Jérôme, on the theme “*Pathways to a Strengthened Community*”.

The celebration was led by P.-A. Argouin, M.S.C., Catholic Chaplain at Archambault Institution; Monique Laboursodière and Ann Talbot, Pastoral Animators; Noëlla Gagnon, Choir Director; and Daniel Benson, an In-Reach worker from the LifeLine program. Taking as their inspiration themes from the tale of the adulteress told by John the Evangelist (8, 1-11), they guided the over 150 participants to the discovery that a “restorative” act can only be performed if we begin by coming to terms with our own wounds and inner conflicts.

Mr. Benson recounted his life experience, in which crime caused a deep rift that began to heal at the hour of truth and forgiveness.

*“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. . . . And they which heard it, . . . went out one by one . . .” (Jn 8, 7-9).*

We must retreat to examine and forgive ourselves, and become aware that these stones we use to punish others are actually representations of our fears, guilts, wounds, etc.

*“Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned.” (Jn 8, 5).*

The borrowed words with which we protect ourselves, by concealing our misdeeds, often serve merely to exclude the other by showing up his or her faults. These quick sentences we pass are often blinds intended to hide the things that hurt us and poison our existence.

*“Pathways to a Strengthened Community”* through forgiveness and reconciliation with ourselves, with others, and with God; a community that is strengthened because it is able to accept itself in its sinful reality and can thus open its doors to the sinner, the guilty,



Left to right: Daniel Benson and Monique Laboursodière.

and so on. “*Pathways to a Strengthened Community*” through forgiveness and faith in this God who can use our wounds as a starting-point to launch us with renewed energy towards horizons filled with promise and prospects.

The parishioners assembled that day welcomed us in a spirit of sharing, with open ears. At the end of the celebration, a number of them came to talk with us. We are always amazed by the reaction; people are generally very receptive.

In the individual forgiveness exercise suggested during the celebration, the participants were offered stones they could hold in their

hands to become aware of their weaknesses and concretely “touch” the things that might be hurting them. At the end of the sermon, the participants were invited to take the stones with them, to remind them that it is through our wounds that God can reconcile us. Under His gaze, these stones, weapons of blame and punishment, can be transformed into tools of peace and harmony.



## Christmas is also the holiday of sharing

ROGER MÉNARD • LECLERC INSTITUTION

**T**he staff of the Correctional Programs Division at Leclerc Institution decided to do things differently this Christmas season. Instead of holding their traditional Christmas lunch, the members of the team decided to postpone their celebrations to the evening and devote the afternoon of Friday, December 12, 2003, to volunteering.

The nine team members thus offered their services to the Centre de bénévolat de Laval [Laval Volunteer Centre], as volunteers in the centre's Christmas basket campaign, which helps about 1,600 indigent families. They were greeted by the campaign coordinator, who took them on a tour of the premises.

Next, they were assigned individual tasks ranging from sorting and storing non-perishable foods to picking up food items from companies and stores that had participated in the collection. Leclerc Institution was among the donors, with 648 jars of peanut butter collected from staff members. It is also important to note that the staff at Leclerc Institution always contribute generously to the annual United Way campaign, and that the Centre de bénévolat de Laval is one of the 325 community groups supported by Centraide.

This activity helped the participants realize how much work Centre de bénévolat de Laval accomplishes, and how important volunteering is to the community. Moreover, some team members even helped deliver the Christmas baskets on Sunday, December 21, 2003.

France Gratton, Chief of Programs at Leclerc Institution, said the activity was a great experience and she hopes it will make people



Kneeling, left to right: Michel Côté and Daniel Amini.  
Back row, left to right: Daniel Jodoin, Alexandre Kabuya, Donald Moisan, Stéphanie Robert, Josée Labelle, France Gratton, and Edlin Denis.

want to volunteer and get involved in their community. She is glad that participation by Programs staff was good and, above all, that everyone was receptive to the activity. "I think it's important for Christmas to be about more than just presents and parties.

*Doing this made it meaningful for me. I'm not able to give 27 hours of my time, but with nine of us giving three hours each, that's what it adds up to!"*



## Cowansville Institution celebrates Kwanzaa

DIANE PEASLEY • COWANSVILLE INSTITUTION

**A**s part of its multicultural activities, Cowansville Institution organized a family visit on January 31, 2004, for a special celebration of Kwanzaa, a religious holiday originating in North Africa.

Just over 85 people, counting inmates of diverse ethnic origins (Haitian, African, Jamaican, and others), their relatives and friends, and volunteers, accepted the institution's invitation and gathered to celebrate the holiday.

The day began with a breakfast for inmates and their families: a great chance to build relationships. Then, when the volunteer guests had arrived, Program Officer Tanyu N'Gala began the afternoon with speeches and prayers. There was a reading of the seven principles and the seven symbols of Kwanzaa by the inmates and guests, who also sang songs to the beat of African drums. A light meal, prepared by inmates and volunteers, gave participants the chance to taste various exotic fruits, coconut bread, little fish cakes, and maubi drink. An atmosphere of calm and serenity prevailed, fostering conversation among the participants.

The day was highly appreciated by all. The celebration was a great success, and the institution plans to hold it again next year.

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KWANZAA CELEBRATION



Saturday, January 31, 2004

☆☆◇☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆

Kwanzaa celebration logo.



Left to right: Musician named "Culture Farmer" and Tanyu N'Gala.



## American experience

MYRA PELLETIER DE SIMINI • MONTREAL METROPOLITAN DISTRICT, VILLE-MARIE AREA PAROLE OFFICE

I was on unpaid leave for two years, so I had the idea of putting my leisure time to good use by going and looking at the correctional system in the state of California, specifically in San Mateo at the southern end of the San Francisco peninsula. I wanted to broaden my knowledge about programs and share my own occupational experience, and I was also very interested in finding out what was going on elsewhere.

Unlike the Canadian correctional system, the American correctional system is administered on a county basis. Not being an American citizen, I had to be recruited as a volunteer by San Mateo County to be allowed to deliver the Reasoning and Rehabilitation (R & R) booster program – one that is offered by the Correctional Service of Canada – to participants in the Bridges program, an alternative to incarceration.

### » Description of the Bridges program

The program has two phases. In the first, the participants (both men and women) are required to spend the hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day at a transition house, where they take part in discussion groups on substance abuse and receive individual counselling. In addition, they are offered computer and job search courses. The participants must

also undergo urine tests. Adequate participation in the program is rewarded by lighter parole conditions. After completing the first phase, the participants enter a second phase lasting six months, during which they must serve as mentors for new recruits.

Participants on parole were very interested in the R & R booster program I offered as part of their participation in the Bridges program. They had to come in twice a week to take the program, which was part of their parole plan.

### » Description of Reasoning and Rehabilitation booster program

The R & R booster program essentially consists of a review of the skills taught in the Reasoning and Rehabilitation program. The focus is on acquiring self-management techniques, as a way of fostering self-control, self-mastery, and self-efficacy. The program combines the learning of self-assessment techniques with the use of cognitive skills in daily life. The offenders are invited to exercise control over their thoughts and behaviour on a daily basis. They must also do exercises and homework between sessions to apply the skills they have learned in the classroom in concrete situations. Every session must be linked to the problems they are currently experiencing. More concretely, I used learning strategies such as role-playing, individual exercises, lectures, and group activities to help them apply the various social skills learned in the program.

In my home office, preparing for my program sessions.





The R & R program is one of a series of new programs, very well received in the United States, that contribute a new viewpoint where reintegration is concerned.

» **A fulfilling experience**

For me, leading a mixed group was a fulfilling experience. I got no aggressive feelings from the participants. Moreover, my experiences as a volunteer gave me a chance to attend the trials of some of my future clients, and it was like being plunged into an American TV series. The inmates were chained together and dressed in orange smocks, and the judge's rhetoric was so clever that they were reduced to silence . . .

All in all, I enjoyed my trip to sunny California, but it's great to be home.

On the boardwalk in Santa Cruz.



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## Taylor Award recipient

ALAIN GOYER, JEAN CÔTÉ, AND DIANE ARCHAMBAULT • SAINTE-ANNE-DES-PLAINES INSTITUTION

In recognition of her contribution as a volunteer with Correctional Service of Canada, Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines Institution nominated Jacqueline Verrette for the Taylor Award. On March 25, she had the honour of being chosen as recipient of the award, which was conferred personally by Commissioner Lucie McClung at the Staff College on April 27, 2004.

The Taylor Award was created by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) in 2001, the International Year of the Volunteer. It is presented each year to the volunteer who exemplifies devotion and compassion towards offenders. The award pays tribute to the outstanding work of a volunteer who has made a significant contribution to the CSC.

Mrs. Verrette has been a CSC volunteer for nearly twenty years, since April 1985. She began by taking part in meetings of the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) movement at Montée St-François Institution, and continued with Entrée Libre in 1986, Sunday mass at SAPI in 1988, and the Cursillo movement at La Macaza Institution in 1989. A pioneer of the Citizen Escort program, Mrs. Verrette escorted her first SAPI inmates in 1991. She has also testified in six judicial review cases since 1997.

Since 1985, Mrs. Verrette has done over 6,000 hours of escorting in the community, with over a hundred residents. As a ground-breaker in the area of offender reintegration and restorative justice, Mrs. Verrette has forged links with many community groups over the years and has brought them into close contact with the Correctional Service and SAPI in particular. Here are some examples: Maison du Père, Entrée Libre, the Café Chrétien, discussions in schools, Accueil Bonneau, the Church Council on Justice and Corrections, Saint Joseph's Oratory, Relais Mont-Royal, Mgr Coderre of Longueuil, the Foundation Pour l'Amour de Sarah, and, finally, the Fondation Félix d'Hérelle.



Left to right: Chaplain Jean Côté, Jacqueline Verrette, Alain Goyer, and Jean-Luc Gougeon.

Totally devoted to Correctional System residents and endowed with great humanism, Mrs. Verrette has developed an approach and a form of escorting that facilitate offender reintegration by providing a more humane environment for inmates.

Our heartfelt congratulations!



## Port-Cartier Institution marks fifteen years of operation

MARY ANN BOURASSA • PORT-CARTIER INSTITUTION

**O**n December 10 of last year, Warden Benoît Boulerice proudly marked Port-Cartier Institution's fifteen years of operation. All of the institution's employees, retirees, and partners were invited to a lunch, prepared with care by Food Services. Regional Deputy Commissioner Richard Watkins took this opportunity to recognize the contribution employees have made to the institution's fifteen-year history.

A certificate and medal ceremony followed. Over 75 staff members and volunteers were honoured with recognition awards, public service certificates for years of service, Deputy Commissioner's recognition certificates, retirement certificates, and medals commemorating the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

You are invited to view photos of the certificate and medal ceremony at the following electronic address:

<http://infonet-que/port-cartier/Publications/certificats2003/index.html>

Our sincere congratulations to the recipients!



Port-Cartier Institution



## RMHC gets spruced up for Christmas

RENÉ GAGNON AND MARIO LÉVESQUE • REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE (RMHC), ARCHAMBAULT INSTITUTION

**O**n December 22 of last year, the atmosphere at the RMHC was festive, with the inmate-patients busy completing their preparations for the Christmas celebrations. These included determining the contents of the Christmas stockings, discussing how much to give to a food bank in the region, decorating the reception room, and lending a hand to the team of cooks who were preparing the traditional feast.

Carrying candles, all of the inmate-patients welcomed the volunteers upon their arrival at the institution. There was a major surprise in store: several were astonished to discover that a famous guest had sneaked in with the volunteers. The unexpected presence of Lise Thibault, Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, immediately prompted whispers of amazement. This was her way of keeping her promise, made during a protocolary meeting at the RMHC in October 2003, to come back for a friendly visit.

Mgr Gilles Cazabon, OMI, Bishop of Saint-Jérôme, presided the Eucharist before an altar designed and built by the cabinetmakers at Corcan Industries: a piece worthy of his cathedral! Next, Ms. Thibault gave a speech, during which an eloquent silence reigned. Her charisma and presence lit up the room. In language that everyone could understand, she shared her own experience and delivered a message about the importance of honouring commitments. She also spoke of her personal life, her family, the trials she has faced, and

above all, the importance of being able to bear our lot of suffering. She led her listeners to reflect on their values and the small pleasures of daily life.

The music was lovingly prepared by the inmates of the psychiatric treatment unit, who performed with brio, if not entirely in tune. Their heart was in it! The choir of Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines parish enlivened the celebration and "O Holy Night" has never been more impressive. The members sang



Yves Fafard, Mgr Gilles Cazabon, René Gagnon, Lise Thibault, and Mario Lévesque.



with plenty of love and consideration for the residents. The buffet was as delicious as it was abundant. Goodwill reigned. Hope was reborn.

Yves Fafard, Warden of the institution, addressed the participants, expressing great pride in the face of such generosity and rejoicing. For his part, Mario Lévesque,

Deputy Warden of the RMHC, praised the involvement of the staff, and of Correctional Operations Supervisor Gilles Plouffe, in making the evening a success.

Before Mgr Cazabon gave his blessing, a highly original Christmas card, designed and created by an inmate, was presented to Ms. Thibault. She in turn gave Mario Lévesque a

laminated picture, and also remarked on the devotion of the staff and the pleasant mood that prevailed.

Even on this impromptu visit, the Lieutenant Governor said she was made to feel very welcome.

Front row, left to right: Sylvain Poitras, Lise Thibault, Benoît Laurin, Alexandre Holly, Sophie Lamontagne, and Mario Lévesque.

Second row, left to right: Jocelyne Bastien, Denis Bergeron, Lyne Mantha, René Gagnon, Richard Marier, Rachèle Madisson, Sébastien Pilon, Yves Fafard, Patrick Ménard, Gilles Plouffe, and Karine Léveillée.





## International Women's Day

RÉJANE CLAERHOUT • JOLIETTE INSTITUTION

**E**very year, appropriately, Joliette Institution celebrates *International Women's Day*.

Inmates participating in the Canine Program, with their trainer, Raymond Bertrand, behind them.



Prompted by the slogan "*Together, we can succeed*", a committee of staff members, residents, and partners from the community organized an activity designed to bring people together for education and relaxation.

In her opening remarks, Marie-Andrée Cyrenne, Warden of Joliette Institution, stressed the importance of the event and took the opportunity to present the Substance Abuse Program, newly introduced at the institution.

Nearly a hundred people, including residents, staff, and members of the community, appreciated the accounts of Canine Program participants, and the demonstration by their four-legged companions, under the vigilant eye of their trainer, Raymond Bertrand. Next, there was a recital by Gino Latendresse, a singer-songwriter from the Lanaudière region, who accompanied himself on the guitar. The afternoon ended with a delicious snack prepared by Social Programs Officer Dianel

Singer Gino Latendresse.





Larivière. In the evening, the residents watched the movie “*Le fabuleux gang des sept*” (“*Company of Strangers*”).

The day was organized jointly with the Women Offender Sector at National Headquarters, represented by Programs

Manager Doris Fortin, the staff, the inmates’ peer support team, and the Elizabeth Fry Society, represented by Director Ruth Gagnon. This organization graciously provided souvenir gifts for all of the institution’s residents. A number of volunteers and repre-

sentatives of the Citizens’ Advisory Committee also helped with the day’s activities.

The same program was also run in the Secure Unit, with equal success.

Inmates who helped to organize the activity, with two staff members: Réjane Claerhout, standing at the far left, and Dianel Larivière, seated at the far right.



# Respect *Humane* PROTECTION *Justice* Rights



## Public screening of the film *Sentence Vie*: a resounding success!

CÉLINE LAPLANTE • JOLIETTE INSTITUTION

Joliette Institution invited the general public to a screening of the film *Sentence Vie* (*Sentenced to Life*) by Marie Cadieux.

“Will Diane Charron ever be free?” That’s the troublesome question director Marie Cadieux asks in this film, a tragic story of a woman who is the prisoner of her past. Imprisoned for 22 years, finding freedom only in self-mutilation and the refusal of psychiatric treatment, Diane Charron is eternally condemned to live. *Sentenced to Life* drags us into an infernal round, shuttling between prison and psychiatric hospital. Marie Cadieux restores hope through the powerful friendship she’s forged with Diane, a woman we come to recognize as our sister, our friend, or even ourselves. A woman in need of our help.

Joliette Institution is proud to have organized this event, in the context of the Lanaudière Centraide Campaign for charity. As well as getting to see this striking film, the participants were supporting a humanitarian cause, because all box-office profits were donated to

organizations that provide services for women in difficulty and grappling with mental health problems, in particular the Centre de femmes Marie-Dupuis and the Maison Populaire.

Poster for the film *Sentence Vie*.



Left to right: Sylvie Patenaude, Marie Cadieux, and Marie-Andrée Cyrenne.



The screening was followed by a panel discussion. The panelists – Marie Cadieux, the film’s director; Marie-Andrée Cyrenne, Warden of Joliette Institution; Ruth Gagnon, Executive Director of the Elizabeth Fry Society; Michèle Roy, a psychiatrist at Cité de la santé hospital; and Carl Aubut, Assistant Director of Professional Services at the Philippe-Pinel Institute – willingly answered questions from the audience.

“This wasn’t an easy film to make and I am glad of the chance to find out what people think of it,” said the director, Marie Cadieux. For her part, Ruth Gagnon commented that it was very generous of the inmate, Diane Charron, to share her thoughts on her life. Carl Aubut took the opportunity to thank Ms. Cadieux for her film, which disturbed and moved him, but also proved to be a hopeful film which demonstrates people’s firm belief that human beings can rebuild themselves. Everyone agreed that partnerships and



community networks, indeed the community as a whole, are vitally needed to welcome and support women offenders as they re-enter the community.

The panelists took a number of questions from the audience. These were empathetic and showed a definite interest in the difficult path of the inmate, Diane Charron, coupled with concern about her future. *“When the media broadcast sordid acts, people should remember that there may be a human drama*

*hidden behind them and be less prejudiced,”* stressed Ruth Gagnon.

At the end of the evening, the master of ceremonies for the occasion, Team Leader Thérèse Lemieux, cordially thanked Lanaudière Centraide Campaign President Louise Guilbault, the administration of Thérèse Martin High School, the NFB, and, of course, the director, Marie Cadieux, for their valuable collaboration in holding this event.

Based on the large number of tickets sold (280) at \$5 each and the large number of people (190) who turned out despite the inclement weather, we can conclude that the event was a resounding success!

The panelists. Left to right: Marie-Andrée Cyrenne, Michèle Roy, Carl Aubut, Ruth Gagnon, and Marie Cadieux.



The organizing committee. Left to right: Josée Campeau, Francine Gagnon, Manon Chartrand, Céline Laplante, Sylvie Patenaude, Thérèse Lemieux, Marie-Ève Soulière, Steven Fréchette, and Marie-Andrée Cyrenne.





## Infectious diseases information fair

DIANE PERREULT • JOLIETTE INSTITUTION

**O**n February 24, 2004, Joliette organized a special activity entitled “*Salon de l’information sur les maladies infectieuses*” (*Infectious diseases information fair*).

Volunteers from community groups were on hand for the event: SIPE Lanaudière (devoted to AIDS information, counselling, and prevention) was represented by Michel Richard and Jacinthe Lavallée; and Sylvain Turgeon and Mélissa Grenier attended for Centre Option-Prévention TVDS (an organization that targets addiction, violence, delinquency, and STDs).

The inmates in the Peer Support Program took this opportunity to distribute a special issue of their newspaper, *L’Intervalle* (*The Interval*) devoted exclusively to the topic of HIV/AIDS. The Health Services staff also handed out an array of educational pamphlets on infectious illnesses to the participants.

Two videos were also screened for the inmates. One dealt with sexually transmitted diseases and the other presented personal accounts by people with hepatitis C.

One very popular table featured questionnaire games to test the participants’ knowledge about infectious diseases.

Door prizes and a snack brought the evening to a close. The event was a great success, with approximately 55% of the regular population participating.

Many thanks to all!

Inmates who took part in organizing the activity, with Diane Perreault (second person standing, starting from the left), Sylvain Turgeon (next person over), and Michel Richard, Mélissa Grenier, and Jacinthe Lavallée (squatting).



## Art that liberates

SPECIAL COLLABORATION BY JOËLLE PARENT-PROULX, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER • ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES OF QUEBEC (ASRAQ)

**O**n a frigid day in January, we went to Leclerc Penitentiary in Laval to visit its renowned Art Department. Art Supervisor Pierre Bertrand gave us a warm welcome and took us on a tour of the premises. The Leclerc Art Department is very well equipped: the inmates can express their creativity by painting canvases, objects, or ceramic items they pick out themselves. The ceramics area consists of a store where they can order the items they want, a room where the pieces are moulded, and the kiln room, where the ceramics are fired. On the floor below, there is a lounge specially arranged by an inmate for painting and drawing. Quite a relaxing place, if you don't look out the window at the barbed wire.

The Art Department at Leclerc Penitentiary is self-sustaining. Ten percent of the proceeds from items sold to inmates goes into an operating fund for the department. That means that the kilns and the electricity they use, the artistic activities, and the working capital for the store, dubbed the "Dépanneur des arts" ["Corner Art Store"], pay for themselves and don't cost the penitentiary a cent.

Pierre Bertrand, who is trained in cabinet-making, has been supervising the Art Department for seven years. Calm and level-headed, he shows a genuine concern for the inmates he works with. He is comfortable with them, and willingly takes the time to talk with them and maintain strong ties. He isn't an authority figure like other correctional officers, but beneath his empathy one can feel the strength and firmness needed to forge a relationship of mutual trust with the inmates. It is important to him to muster inmates who have a good influence on the others. Nine of them work for him, in the ceramics store, the Dépanneur des arts, or moulding or firing the ceramics. One of them is responsible for doing paintings that will decorate the penitentiary offices. Pierre prefers working with inmates who have been incarcerated for a long time, because they have gained maturity after losing valued privileges along the way during their time in

prison. Pierre knows these inmates are much more serious about wanting to keep their privileges, which makes for maximum security and peace in his department.

Most inmates discover art in the penitentiary: they have never done it before. Pierre has no qualms about creating situations to spark their interest. For instance, he offers coffee one night a week and the inmates come to see each others' creations. Often they are impressed with what they see and some say they'd like to give it a try. When that happens, Pierre tells them how to get the basic materials. Occasionally, when he sees that an inmate is interested but not ready or able to buy materials, Pierre gives him some of the supplies he has accumulated over the years. Sometimes this small gift is all it takes to get an inmate hooked on a creative, healthy, positive activity.

*For many, says Pierre, their emotional relationship with life was negative before getting into art. When they finish their first piece, they come and see me and I encourage them to continue; I tell them I knew they could do it. Afterwards, they realize they're capable of more, they can try different things.* Pierre's style of guidance is almost paternal, and for many inmates, it is the first time an authority figure has valued and appreciated them.

*Their self-esteem blossoms in this process. With art, you can get at feelings. On that level, with these guys, you're starting way back. For some of them, this is one of the first ways they've been able to see the positive side. When a guy says "Wow, that's beautiful!", you know the path is clear. Where there's goodwill, anything is possible.*

You can see the pride glowing in Pierre's eyes when he talks about his protégés' creations. And there's reason to be proud! Through his passion, commitment, and motivation, Pierre has found a way of giving the inmates a desire for the positive: the desire to get to know themselves, to accept themselves, to improve, to communicate, to value themselves, to reach goals, to respect themselves. And by getting involved in art, the inmates find a way of fulfilling their desires.



## Warden meets with members of the region's Optimist Club

CARL PELLETIER • DONNACONA INSTITUTION

**O**n January 25, 2004, the Warden of Donnacona Institution, Pierre Laplante, was the guest of the Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures Optimist Club, at its first monthly conference lunch of the year. Speaking before an audience of about fifty people, Mr. Laplante described the Mission of the Correctional Service of Canada, its operations, and the stages leading up to an offender's eligibility to a conditional release. He also gave a retrospective account of the structure of Donnacona Institution and spoke of its staff, the various offender groups, the institution's budgets, the illegal introduction of drugs and moonshine within its walls, programs offered to offenders to aid their return to the community, incarceration rates, certain myths and realities, and the new public service Management Accountability Framework. The Warden held his audience spellbound with a dynamic, interactive presentation. He will also be invited to the 2005 convention of the Optimist Clubs of the Eastern Quebec and North Shore region, numbering 100 clubs.

Pierre Laplante.



## Adult Learners' Week: worth celebrating!

ROBERT LAPOINTE • JOLIETTE INSTITUTION

**A** number of lively activities were organized at Joliette Institution during *Adult Learners' Week*, which ran from September 8 to 12, 2003.

In the first activity, called "*Les mots pour le dire*" ["The words to say it"], all employees were asked to complete the sentence "*For me, literacy means . . .*", on a flip chart set up in the reception area. The statements thus collected generated the "*Mosaïque Alpha*" ["Litera-mosaic"] activity, in which inmate-students produced a group mosaic.

To make the issue of illiteracy in Quebec more real to the staff and inmate-students, the "*Jeu questionnaire alpha*" ["Litera-questionnaire"] probed their knowledge of literacy.

Next, in the "*Concours Alpha*" ["Litera-contest"] inspired by the words to Yves Duteil's song "*Apprendre*" ["Learning"], participants were asked to write a brief passage about their best learning experiences. Those who wished to do so were invited to read their texts and give a humorous or nostalgic commentary.

Huguette Rivest cutting the cake.



Left to right: Huguette Rivest and Marie-Andrée Cyrenne.

Speaker Anne-Marie Legault also addressed the participants on the theme "*Apprendre, c'est accepter de voyager léger*" ["Learning means agreeing to travel light"]!

Finally, the inmate-students showed their admiration and appreciation for their teacher, Huguette Rivest, in a spirited tribute. She was given an anthology of texts written by the women, as well as a souvenir frame and a piece of pottery made by a student. The institutional management was also eager to express its recognition for the outstanding commitment and generosity she has shown in teaching and promoting education to the residents, since the

institution first opened. At a special celebration attended by the entire staff, Marie-Andrée Cyrenne, Warden of Joliette Institution, presented Ms. Rivest with a certificate of recognition for the quality of her work. She accepted the certificate with much enthusiasm and emotion, before cutting the delicious cake prepared specially for the occasion.



## Employees make children's wishes come true

PAUL CHAMARD • DONNACONA INSTITUTION

**F**or several years now, a group of penitentiary employees have been helping children with serious illnesses by organizing an annual relay race to collect money for the fundraising campaign of the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada. So far, thanks to the combined efforts and courage of some fifteen runners and a number of volunteers, a dozen children have had their fondest "Wish" granted.

The project came into being on a fall day in 1999, when two jogging enthusiasts, Correctional Officers Paul Chamard and Jérémy Gaudreault, wondered whether there was a way of practising their favourite sport to benefit a charity. Then they thought of the non-profit organization Children's Wish. After much thought and discussion, they decided to organize a relay race for about twenty runners, with six volunteers to take care of logistics (route, food, beverages, and motorized escort).



Catherine Mayrand, of Saint-Casimir de Portneuf, who got her wish of going to Disney World. Here are two photos that appeared in the Journal de Québec on October 21, 2000.



*Catherine a remercié, bien à sa façon, les agents pénitentiaires qui lui ont permis de réaliser son rêve. Sur la photo, les agents Paul Chamard, Jérémy Gaudreault, le journaliste, Robert Jacques ainsi que la jeune fille et sa mère.*

For their first race, the organizers decided to run right across the Parc des Laurentides all the way to Chicoutimi: 265 kilometres of hilly terrain where the runners would have to brave bad weather of every description. Indeed, no one had run a circuit like that before. The heroic runners had to conquer the park's microclimate, facing rain, snow, cold, hail, heat, and dust, to complete their first Children's Wish marathon. The following year, the whole team decided to carry on this great experience.

Every year, the event's two founders name an honorary president whose job it is to deal with the municipalities for permits, arrange media contacts, negotiate terms for accommodations, and handle other customary logistical matters. The first two presidents were



Correctional Officers Pierre Watters and Robert Jacques. Then Parole Officer Martin Belzile took over for the 2001 edition of the marathon, which covered a 254-kilometre circuit from Ste-Foy (Quebec City) to Rivière-du-Loup. Correctional Officer Guy Cayer was in charge of the 2002 edition, which totalled 245 kilometres, from Donnacona to the Staff College in Laval. In 2003, it was Correctional Officer Chantal Frenette's turn at organizing a 254-kilometre circuit running from Donnacona Institution right around Portneuf County and back to the

institution. This year, the president will be Martine Bhere, also a correctional officer. The 2004 edition will start from the Children's Wish headquarters in Ste-Foy and come back to Donnacona Institution by crossing the bridges in Quebec City and Trois-Rivières, a circuit of 260 kilometres.

In the last four years, over \$39,000 has been collected. This sum has allowed a large number of children to realize "their greatest wish". So far, children have visited Walt Disney with their families, bought a complete

computer system, gotten pet dogs, worked on a farm, etc. Most of the wishes have been granted right at Donnacona. Sadly, some of the children have not overcome their terrible illnesses in time to see their wishes come true.

To those who want to encourage us and help these children get their "wish", don't hesitate to contact Paul Chamard at Donnacona Institution.

**A donation is another step in helping us make a child happy and let him or her forget a life-threatening illness for a moment...**

A group of employees from Donnacona Institution, during a Children's Wish marathon.





## Partnership initiative between Leclerc Institution and Laval Police Department

ROGER MÉNARD • LECLERC INSTITUTION

**F**or a number of years, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has been developing a global strategy to fight substance abuse in federal institutions, and one goal of the strategy is to prevent the introduction of narcotics into the institutions. CSC uses various means to achieve this, such as X-ray devices, ion scanners, a special dog squad, and many others.

On March 17, the management of Leclerc Institution gave a press conference, officially announcing a planned partnership between the Correctional Service of Canada and the Laval Police Department, with the goal of keeping narcotics out of the institution. CSC must take steps to halt the new practice of shooting arrows or throwing tennis balls filled with drugs over the fences around institutions.

The environment immediately surrounding Leclerc Institution poses special challenges, however, given its proximity to the industrial park and a residential area. In point of fact, people are taking advantage of the small distance between the institution's outer wall and the road, attempting to introduce narcotics into the penitentiary by throwing them over the fences into the exercise yard.

In response to this new phenomenon, the Institution's management has begun discussions with the Laval police, aimed at establishing specific partnership agreements and more effective coordination of efforts to fight the problem. The shared determination to stamp out this plague has generated a project comprising two segments: an operational segment made possible by the continued support of the Laval Police Department and a preventive segment that appeals to citizen cooperation. As part of this awareness-raising initiative, a leaflet explaining the project has been mailed to all St-Vincent-de-Paul residents

Left to right: Jean-Pierre Gariépy, Director of the Laval Police Department; Denis Cloutier, Warden of Leclerc Institution; and Richard Watkins, Regional Deputy Commissioner.



and businesses. Police officers have also met with citizens who live near the penitentiary complex to make them aware of the phenomenon.

Conscious of the clearly established link between substance abuse and criminal behaviour, CSC is being vigilant and honouring its commitment to make our communities safer places.

It should be noted that between April 2003 and February 2004, total seizures of narcotics

at Leclerc Institution amounted to 3.38 kilograms (primarily hashish and marijuana), for an estimated value of \$207,000 inside the institution. Since the beginning of 2004, the project's operational segment has run three separate police operations based on information gathered by the institution's Security Intelligence Officers. These operations have led to the arrest and indictment of several individuals and the seizure of narcotics.



Leclerc Institution



» Description of the institution

Leclerc Institution is a medium-security penitentiary for male offenders serving federal sentences of two years or more. The institution has 481 cells, for a total of 601 beds, including double-occupancy cells and the segregation unit. It houses inmates from the Regional Reception Centre and other institutions in the region, in addition to post-suspension cases, i.e., inmates returned to custody because they have violated their release conditions or reoffended. The post-suspension unit can house up to 180 inmates in double-occupancy cells.

» History and geographical location

Leclerc Institution is named after Father Joseph Leclerc, who worked as chaplain at St-Vincent-de-Paul Penitentiary from 1860 to 1880. Father Leclerc believed that penal

institutions should be centres for training rather than confinement.

Built in 1960 by the Justice Department, Leclerc Institution is located in the St-Vincent-de-Paul neighbourhood of Laval, about four kilometres from Montreal.

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PROTECTION  
*Justice* Rights



# 2004 Youth Forum "Banking on youth"

SOPHIE LEMIRE • REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## » Objectives

On February 23, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) held the second edition of its youth forum, *Forum Jeunesse*, at Centre Lajeunesse in Montreal. The event, which was opened by CSC Commissioner Lucie McClung and by the Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Yvon Charbonneau, was a resounding success. Ms. McClung and Mr. Charbonneau both took this opportunity to address some encouraging words to the 175 young people attending.

The aim of *Forum Jeunesse* was to raise high school students' awareness of public security issues, while empowering them to plan, organize, and implement crime prevention projects in their schools and communities.

## » Make way for action

The students spent the morning in workshops on topics that raise concerns for them, such as violence, racism, substance abuse, intimidation, street gangs, prison life, and reintegration. They also got to meet an Olympic athlete who came to encourage them to develop their full potential.

During the lunch hour, emceed by Anthony Hornig, the young people had a chance to let loose and dance to the percussion group Kumpa'nia, play games, talk with the speakers, and admire works of art by the members of the youth group LOVE (Leave Out Violence). In short, they let off a lot of steam...



Opening remarks  
 by Lucie McClung.

In the afternoon, the participants formed small groups, with students from each school coming together to develop an action plan to address problems in their own school. At the end of the day, the plans were presented individually by the group leaders, who had previously received training on workshop facilitation and conflict resolution from the *Students Commission*.

## » New website

This year, in partnership with the organization *Taking IT Global*, a new website has been set up to promote the event and support the young people in implementing their action plans.

The site, which can be accessed at [www.bankingonyouth.org](http://www.bankingonyouth.org), enables young people to exchange ideas, report on progress, gain access to tools, recruit members, and communicate with experts.

Young people raising other young people's awareness: now there's a winning formula!

## » Creation of a follow-up committee

From now on, CSC and its partners are ensuring post-forum follow-up. Three cash prizes were awarded to the youth groups and/or schools that developed the best action plans,



Opening remarks  
 by Yvon Charbonneau.



selected by a committee composed of six young people and representatives of Le Groupe Jeunesse 2000, the National Crime Prevention Strategy, and CSC. The prizes were presented at awards galas held in the individual schools.

### » Partnerships

The success of a project of this kind unquestionably depends on good planning and coordination, but also on the development and maintenance of solid partnerships with organizations working for youth and concerned with penal justice and crime prevention issues.

In addition to some veteran speakers, the partnership with two organizations in touch with the needs of youth, the *Students Commission* and *Le Groupe Jeunesse 2000*, proved invaluable in meeting the set objectives. Volunteer speakers included representatives of Maison d'Haïti, LOVE, the Société de criminologie du Québec, Laboratoires Mauves, the Esteem Team (Olympic athlete), and LifeLine.

### » Visibility

Through the input of *Groupe Jeunesse*, the young people benefited from the generosity of the Quebec Breakfast Club, which provided free juice and yogurt for those arriving at the *Forum*. Pepsi, Avon Canada, the Giorgio restaurant chain, the Biodome, the Insectarium, the Jardin botanique, the Montreal Planetarium, Coty Canada, and Mavi Jeans also provided gifts and refreshments for the young people.

A number of media covered the event this year: Global TV ("This Morning Live"), CFCF News, TQS-TV ("Le petit journal"), SRC-Radio ("275 Ados"), *Progrès Villeray*, the *Journal de Rosemont-La Petite Patrie*, and *Courrier Ahuntsic*.



The percussion group Kumpa'nia in action.

### » Many thanks

*Forum Jeunesse* is a fine example of joint leadership by CSC and its partners, exercised to mobilize resources and achieve CSC's Mission.

Many thanks to all of the members of the Community Outreach Steering Committee for supporting and participating in this event. Thanks also to CSC's partners, and to the sponsors, speakers, and special guests, for making *Forum Jeunesse* an event whose popularity endures from year to year. A very special thank you to the young people, for daring to speak out about the issues that concern them, and for being motivated to change things and act within their communities.



## Chertsey's "Accès plein air" camp thanks the inmates of the Federal Training Centre

Réal Vaillancourt  
Federal Training Centre

On December 17 of last year, Réal Vaillancourt, Community Projects Coordinator at the Federal Training Centre (FTC), welcomed the director of the Accès plein air camp in Chertsey, a member of the camp staff, and its citizen escorts. The evening was organized by camp director Jacques Caron to thank the inmates who helped build a garage and maintain the outdoor centre's trails and buildings over the course of the year.

The centre's mission is to provide the full complement of services of an outdoor camp, for a clientele of mentally and physically impaired individuals. The camp staff includes an activity leader, six workers, and a nurse.

A beach and two docks are available for swimming, canoeing, and fishing. Trails are also laid out for hiking and other activities. The main building houses 26 people.

During the evening, the inmates were invited to talk about their own contributions to the renovations and share individual anecdotes with the group.

A certificate is presented to each inmate, thanking him for his contribution.



Each volunteer receives a certificate of thanks.



The participants take turns presenting their contributions to the project.



Front row, left to right: Fernand Bessette, Bernard Latulippe, and Paul Mignault, citizen escorts. Second row, kneeling, left to right: Réal Côté, an employee of the outdoor centre, and Jacques Caron, Director.

## For the pleasure of being useful!

Denis Larivière  
Cowansville Institution

Teacher Johanne Mark and Correctional Officer Lise Godon were the first referral agents for the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at Cowansville Institution. During their time on the job, they conscientiously responded to all employee requests for assistance. They were there when critical situations arose at the penitentiary, and were always ready to organize activities.

Johanne and Lise have always been eager to help and to listen: two essential qualities for an EAP referral agent.

After taking charge of the Social Committee for six years, Lise wanted to get involved in another activity. That is why, ten years ago, she joined the institution's EAP team. This gave her the satisfaction of serving her peers, in both a listening and an active role. Naturally, she was drawn by the confidential side of the job, but organizing various activities, such as dinner lectures with renowned personalities and informa-

tive seminars, also interested her. For Lise, the pleasure of being useful to her co-workers is simply a source of satisfaction that brightens the sometimes austere job of the Correctional Officer.

Thanks to both of you for your admirable involvement on behalf of your co-workers.



Left to right: Johanne Mark, Lise Godon, Denis Larivière, Suzanne Hamel, Luc Fontaine, and Francine Tremblay.

## News from the Regroupement des fonctionnaires retraités des pénitenciers fédéraux, Quebec region (RFRQ)

Armand Ménard  
President of the RFRQ

### Activities during the 2002-2003 season

Among the numerous activities organized last season, we should mention four dinner meetings held at Pavillon Le Boisé Papineau. These friendly encounters gave our members a chance to mingle, see their old co-workers again, and build new relationships.

Let me take this opportunity to inform you that in June 2004, we will be organizing a brunch at Pavillon Le Boisé Papineau to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the founding of our group.

### A day of commemoration

As it does every year, the RFRQ organized a day of commemoration on November 1 to honour the memory of Correctional Service of Canada

(CSC) employees who have died while on duty. In a departure from previous years, the mass was celebrated by Father Paul-Alain Argouin, Chaplain at Archambault Institute. Father Argouin replaced Reverend Lionel Dupuis, who has unfortunately passed away.

The ceremony was held at the Cenotaph, across from the Staff College in Laval, where a buffet was served.

Once again, many of you came to be with us for our day of commemoration, and we plan to hold it again this year.

As every year, we will need a corps of cadets accompanied by drum and bugle. This time, we want to give our retirees and CSC employees a

chance: if you play either of these instruments and would like to take part in our ceremony, please let us know at (450) 435-5619.

We remind you that the RFRQ is a duly registered non-profit organization. CSC retirees from the Quebec region who wish to join the group should call us at (450) 435-5619.

All our retirees are welcome!



## Cowansville Institution marks Black History Month

Tanyu N'Gala Johnson  
Cowansville Institution

On March 12, as part of its multicultural activities, the institution commemorated Black History Month with a visit from His Excellency Philémon Yang, Ambassador of Cameroon to Canada. He was accompanied by Reverend Darryl Gray and Dan Mulema.

Mr. Yang was born in the village of Oku in northwestern Cameroon. He began his studies in law and administration in Cameroon and later pursued them in Canada and the United States. Named High Commissioner (Ambassador) of the Republic of Cameroon to Canada in 1984, he subsequently became dean of the diplomatic corps in Ottawa. Mr. Yang was also Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the famous Cartagena Protocol spearheaded by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

The day began with a lecture followed by discussion on the theme **"Afrique à la recherche de paix et développement"** [Africa seeking peace and development] for the staff and invited inmates. This event was an opportunity for the participants to improve their understanding of the history of Africa and its people, as well as the current situation on that continent. In his speech, Mr. Yang outlined Black history from the precolonial period of Portuguese exploration to the end of slavery with partition of Africa at the Berlin Conference of 1884.

Mr. Yang also spoke of the peace needed for the continent's development. He stressed the efforts made to establish a democratic process, as well as problems of poverty and illnesses such as AIDS and malaria which take their toll on the inhabitants. Mr. Yang took this opportunity to tell his listeners that despite



Left to right: Emery Young, Chair of the Cowansville Institution Citizens' Advisory Committee, Régis Charron, Philémon Yang, Tanyu N'Gala and Peter Huish.

negative news stories and images, the continent is on the right track. *The process is a long one; it takes time*, he reminded the audience. Mr. Yang believes that with perseverance, cooperation between African states (African Union) and support from Western nations, such as that which Canada is providing through NEPAD, Africa will achieve the peace and development it desires.

After lunch, Mr. Yang toured the penitentiary's various departments and workshops in the company of Correctional Projects Officer

Tanyu N'Gala, Chaplain Peter Huish, Unit Manager Marc Tremblay, and Program Manager Denis Paradis. At the end of the day, Ambassador Yang spoke with inmates of African origin.

Appreciated by all participants, the day was a resounding success.

**Book *Prison Voices* to be published soon**

Alain Sirois  
Leclerc Institution

**Birth of the project**

In May 2003, the John Howard Society, in collaboration with the Correctional Service of Canada, presented a project to the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS). It concerned the production of a book entitled *Prison Voices*, to be composed exclusively of texts written by inmates attending school. The NLS was keenly interested, and accepted and financed the project. From its inception, it was agreed that *Prison Voices* would provide texts of excellent quality dealing with inmates' lives, hopes, goals, and interests.

**Mario Auger, Quebec selection for *Prison Voices***

Mario Auger, a student at the Leclerc Institution school, was one of the 16 authors chosen from across Canada for the high quality of their writing.

Mr. Auger, who started in the literacy class barely 11 months ago, has now reached the Secondary III level. His academic progress is

brehtaking. Grippled by the need to communicate with his young children by letter, Mr. Auger had the idea of writing tales and stories featuring their favourite animals. As well as holding the children's attention, these pieces highlight such diverse themes as friendship, tenderness, honesty, and perseverance. Mr. Auger is convinced that his awakening as a writer coincided with a profound desire for change in his personal life choices and values.

**Mario Auger gives an interview to the producer of *Prison Voices***

On January 19, 2004, Richard Jaccoma, producer of the book *Prison Voices*, met Mario Auger at the institution. With the cooperation of the three teachers, Lucie Chicoine, H el ene Maheu, and Liam Robinson, Mr. Jaccoma talked with the author and recorded and filmed their interview. Mr. Auger presented four of his works: *Un enfant de 7 ans* ("A 7-year-old"), *Le mensonge* ("The lie"), *Au pays des r evs* ("In dreamland"), and *Mon ami Poilu* ("My friend Hairy").

After viewing Mr. Jaccoma's film, the project's co-producer, Lee Weinstein, wrote, "... I saw it [the film] on a TV in my hotel room on Saturday night and it was unbelievably powerful. I think that it says more about literacy than I have been able to say for the 30 years I have been in the field. I was overwhelmed!"

**Publication of the book**

A chapter in one of the two volumes of *Prison Voices* will be devoted to Mr. Auger's pieces, complete with illustrations and an introduction by the author. The book will be published in both official languages and will be used as teaching material for adults with learning difficulties.

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PROTECTION  
Justice Rights



## Have retired

Corinne Nadeau  
Regional  
Headquarters  
2004-01-03

Jean-Pierre Cusson  
Archambault  
Institution  
2003-10-22

Raynald Savard  
Archambault  
Institution  
2004-02-07

Rose-Andrée Eloi  
Federal Training  
Centre  
2003-10-22

Jean-Luc Lafrenière  
Federal Training  
Centre  
2003-12-13

Francine Loranger  
Federal Training  
Centre  
2004-01-03

Serge Manseau  
Federal Training  
Centre  
2004-03-16

Jean-Pierre Nowlan  
Federal Training  
Centre  
2004-01-29

Michel Renaud  
Federal Training  
Centre  
2003-11-29

John Rose  
Federal Training  
Centre  
2004-03-18

Luc Bélisle  
Regional Reception  
Centre  
2003-10-19

Normand Bordeleau  
Regional Reception  
Centre  
2004-03-25

Robert Charbonneau  
Regional Reception  
Centre  
2003-12-24

Richard De Tilly  
Regional Reception  
Centre  
2004-02-19

Gilles Gascon  
Regional Reception  
Centre  
2003-12-31

Raynald Boucher  
Cowansville  
Institution  
2004-01-17

Pierre Chevalier  
Cowansville  
Institution  
2003-12-31

Serge Couture  
Cowansville  
Institution  
2004-03-31

Rénald Dufresne  
Cowansville  
Institution  
2004-01-21

Michel Grenier  
Cowansville  
Institution  
2004-03-11

Angèle Lacasse  
Cowansville  
Institution  
2004-01-24

Serge Martel  
Cowansville  
Institution  
2003-11-15

Jean Touchette  
Cowansville  
Institution  
2004-03-13

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