

“Throw away all ambition beyond that of doing the day’s work well. The travelers on the road to success live in the present, heedless of taking thought for the morrow. Live neither in the past nor in the future, but let each day’s work absorb your entire energies, and satisfy your wildest ambition.”

Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

I would be seriously remiss if I did not utilize this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement to highlight the work of someone who has been for so long a prominent member of the MCH and has now transitioned to retirement. Thus this week’s acknowledgement goes to **Micheline Ste-Marie**.

Micheline valued honesty and forthrightness in her communication and I will reciprocate in this Acknowledgment.

She was indeed at times a polarizing figure with which many amongst us had a disagreement or two.

However, no one amongst us can ever question the hard work and dedication of Micheline Ste-Marie to this institution. She frequently was the first medical professional to enter the building and often the last to depart at the end of a day. Given the timing of some of her emails, she also put in much effort "after" hours though I doubt that term really meant anything to Micheline.

Ever since her arrival here, she has done the hard work of ensuring the highest quality of professional medical services so that we can truly "do the walk" of providing the best care possible to children and their families. She has done so diligently and consistently, often engaging in much negotiating with the Agence and other governmental agencies behind the scenes. She has been most effective in putting forward our case and enhancing our care network. As DPS, she often had the extra-ordinarily difficult task of managing problematic behaviours by some staff members, as well as instances of less than optimal care delivery. She always handled such cases with the utmost discretion with scrupulous attention to due process. These are aspects of Micheline that I only truly became aware of (and appreciated) when I took on my current position. Her job by its nature was not a popularity contest. It was a matter of seeking to do the right thing knowing that there would be inevitable disappointment for some as a result.

In addition, her tenure here has coincided with a remarkable transformation in our mission and orientation. This has involved literally thousands of hours of planning and operationalizing the New Children's at the Glen. We have been served by her forthrightness and advocacy at these planning tables. The new MCH at the Glen will most definitely bear her lasting imprint.

Outside the MCH, Micheline somehow found the time to serve on the Board of Directors of the Y and Le Phare which is a respite centre for gravely ill children. At a provincial level she has played a leadership role in multiple patient care, patient safety, and quality improvement initiatives in health care.

Micheline can take pride in knowing that she has most certainly made a difference in health care for children and their families.

Please join me in wishing all the best to Micheline in her retirement. It’s now the time for her to finally put herself first.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael