

November 25th, 2022

There are many in our department who have won awards for their achievements. Among the most special of these are awards that recognize a lifetime of devoted service that has made a tangible difference in the lives of children and families. This DA celebrates the relentless dedication of **Dr. Johanne Morel** in her service to the children and families of northern Quebec since 1981. Dr. Morel's service was recently recognized with the *Medical Post "Making a Difference" Award*.

Dr. Morel is widely admired and respected both in the hospital and in the communities she serves. As noted in the nomination letter of Dr. Hema Patel (from which the majority of the content of this DA is taken), "From an early stage, Dr. Morel sought to provide respectful, culturally sensitive care, going as far as enrolling in postgraduate Inuit studies between 2011 and 2016 where she learned about Inuit language and culture". She has travelled regularly to remote communities mainly in Nunavik for over 40 years.

Inspired by her experiences in these communities, and by the Inuit themselves, she has also contributed to the education of numerous healthcare professionals -- many of whom have become frontline healthcare workers in the North. Dr. Morel taught in the Nurse Practitioner Program at McGill from 2008 to 2014. She has also organized multiple educational conferences. She served as the Director of the Northern and Indigenous Child Health Program at the MCH from 2017 to 2020. Despite her busy travel schedule, she also served on a Canadian Institutes for Health Research Advisory committee to represent the interests of Indigenous children. Dr. Morel was previously recognized by the Canadian Pediatric Society with the James Korczak Award for her dedicated service.

When many would have decided it was time to relax after a long and busy career, Dr. Morel decided to intensify her efforts. She worked to create the "Minnie's Hope Social Pediatric Centre" (www.minnieshope.org), which aims to help all children in the communities of Whapmagoostui and Kuujuaapik to meet their full potential through relationship-based comprehensive care that is aligned with traditional Cree and Inuit philosophies. Not only does she serve as the medical lead for the centre, but has secured \$5 million in funding to support both services and the construction of a larger centre.

Dr. Morel's career is a true inspiration to all who are working to improve the health and lives of children and families. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Morel on this well-deserved award and in thanking her for her hard work and thoughtful approach to care.

Have a good weekend.

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