Quebec Provincial Police (QPP) spread Christmas cheer in Potton

This is not the first time that the Quebec Provincial Police have made a gesture like this. Blanchette shared his experiences in giving to an immigrant family in Outaouais, the previous region he served in. This was a gesture that Blanchette initiated personally and it was supported wholeheartedly by his colleagues. While Blanchette cannot say if the gesture will be repeated in the coming years, he intends to try and keep the initiative going in the territory that he serves if at all possible.

For the family who benefitted from this tremendous show of kindness, the entire experience was overwhelming and brought tears to both the children's eyes as well as the parents' eyes. The children were overjoyed and thanked the police officers for their kindness.

QPP Police Officer, David Blanchette and his partner, Jean Guy Caron spread Christmas cheer to one Potton family in a big way. A gesture that will not soon be forgotten.

Commissioner’s report assesses health services wait-times

Record Staff
SHERBROOKE

The Commissioner of Health and Welfare (CSBH) sees positive effects in emergency response times in her latest report, but these are partly offset by the effects of an aging population.

Two days before the final closure of the agency's offices, Acting Commissioner Anne Robitaille wrote Tuesday that Health Minister Gaétan Barrette's reforms appeared to have produced "certain effects" between 2014-2015 and 2016-2017. She adds, however, that the increase in the number of elderly people has led to an increase in the clientele in emergency rooms resulting in longer wait times.

The 86-page report warns that effort needs to be "redoubled" to ensure that the public can actually benefit from an improved emergency situation in the province.

The report points out that from 2014 to 2016, the average length of stay in an emergency department decreased from 9.24 hours to 8.93 hours. It rose again, however, in 2016-2017, reaching 9 hours.

The increase in wait time is attributed specifically to older patients with greater needs. If this variable is excluded, the average stay in the emergency room would be 8.75 hours, down 5.5 per cent over two years.

Robitaille also examines the use of mental health emergency services, highlighting very long stays and severe loss of autonomy, these services are no longer adequate, since they can't offer the level of care required by a CHSLD resident. Unfortunately, waiting lists to access a CHSLD are long and many seniors wait several months, despite the fact that they are already known to the network and their need for CHSLD accommodation has been confirmed.

The position of the Commissioner, whose mission was to shed relevant light on public debate and government decision-making, was abolished in the March 2016 budget. Outraged by the announcement last year of the abolition of the position, health groups have criticized Health Minister Barrette and have denounced the initiative as a valuable tool – one that advises and evaluates reforms and question whether these he is trying to avoid any critical and independent evaluation of his actions.

The Scoop
MABLE HASTINGS

A s a fresh, bright and promising New Year fast approaches, we look back on the year and its highlights. We also reflect on the Christmas just past with a reminder of the human spirit and its continuous giving and inspiring of hope, joy and love.

Just before Christmas Quebec Provincial Police (QPP) officers, David Blanchette (“QPP Godfather for the Potton region”) and Officer, Jean-Guy Caron made a surprise visit to a family in need in Potton in hopes of helping the family to enjoy a special Christmas.

"The objective," explained Blanchette, "was to take the load off of the shoulders of the parents and family and to share an amazing holiday experience full of the magic of the season.

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