



**SERVICES SOCIAUX HELLÉNIQUES DU QUÉBEC
HELLENIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF QUEBEC
ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΕΣ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ**

**Director's Speech at General Assembly
Hellenic Social Services of Québec**

Congratulations to our new Board members.

Dear members and friends of Hellenic Social Services. It is my pleasure to be once again the Director of this organization that was founded in 1972 and which obtained its own charter in 1992.

I am looking forward to working with you, our new Board members, staff, volunteers and partner organizations, as we strive for service excellence;
but first, some very important and fundamental changes need to happen.
We must become an even more reliable network partner to public establishments given the challenges that they are faced with today. We must also increase our public and private funding substantially in order to fully develop our 4 points of service (Montreal, Park Extension, South Shore and Laval).

We must help clients who are of non Greek origin who live in the districts where we have offices, and we must also include professionals of non Greek origin on our Board of Directors and our General assembly.

I look forward to working with you as we implement our mission, which is to :
Help our clients access the services to which they are entitled and to increase their awareness of the systems to which they are addressing ;
To promote healthy living and to provide needed activities that add to what is offered in the network, and that are sensitive to socio-economic and psycho-social needs;
To advocate on behalf of our clients for quality and fair health and social services; and that administration in public establishments represents the general population proportionately

Exercising our rights as a chartered organization, and being a member of the Quebec Congress for example will help us to be even more effective with our advocating on behalf of our clients and in lobbying for quality.

We must always work with a certain set of values and principles such as the delivery of a caring service , courteous and client focused care , while simultaneously respecting and coordinating our efforts with other Greek partner organizations, including other services of the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal. This will help us and partner groups develop greater expertise on the subject of our respective activities.

It would be beneficial to hold a conference with Greek health care professionals and Greek partner organizations and the Greek media to discuss how best to coordinate our services and assure that all needs are covered, while not only avoiding duplication of effort but by concentrating our efforts in joint projects in order to address and to battle serious issues. Another item on this agenda can be how we can create a common front to best lobby the government in support of our respective services. So that there can be a greater variety of service offering to the community and sufficient funding for all of us.

There is certainly enough work for all partner organizations. For example, HSSQ can concentrate mainly on the following.....

The Socrates School and daycares require regular support services for families with difficulties

Support services and workshops for the mentally and physically challenged

Support services to the elderly in our seniors residences, such as a day center

Regular Food distribution

Maintien à domicile, mobile care unit to the home

Smoking cessation and other toxic substance abuse referral

A long term care facility for elderly with services

Orientation, immigration and employment

Accompaniment, interpreter and translation services

These are but a few examples of what our service can specialize in .

The recruitment of volunteers in the coming year is crucial to setting the groundwork for the future structure. Retired members of our community, the Montreal volunteer bureau, students and members of the various associations will play an important role in this endeavor.

Next year, I hope to have the participation of many health and social service professionals amongst us at our next general assembly.

As you leave tonight please remember to put your name on one of the three committees if you wish to be a member on one of them. They are the :

Ethics

Restructuring

Fundraising and Grants

Volunteer

Thank you for your support, thank you for making a commitment to work with us and thank you for your time this evening.