



Gatineau, May 2nd, 2006

Hello,

As Autism Awareness Month has taken precedent over any Newsletter publication, the following will provide you with the latest news and developments.

WALK FOR AUTISM

Once again, the Walk for Autism has exceeded our expectations. As a matter of fact, four hundred (400) people showed their support in person and, at the time of this publication, **over \$22,000** had been raised toward further funding for summer camp. Thanks to all the families for your participation.

POSTCARDS TO MINISTRE DELISLE

As you already know, postcards were distributed for signing throughout the province of Quebec during Autism Awareness Month. TUOI had 500 of these to be signed and, although they were all handed out, many never came back. Some may have been mailed directly to the Fédération. However, if you still have some with you, we ask that you please return them to TUOI. We strongly wish to mail a total of 500 to Ministre Delisle, by mid-May, in order to emphasize the amount of work yet required in the Outaouais with regards to PDD-related services.

TUOI NEWSLETTER

Please note that the next edition of the TUOI Newsletter will come out in the Fall, providing you with feedback from Summer Camp. We will then proceed to a change in format. You can no doubt appreciate that putting the Newsletter together takes a considerable amount of work. Its publication costs in terms of printing and distribution are also quite high. The Newsletter's format has changed several times over the years and, with the Web Site now being more interactive, not to mention that we have different means of communication at our disposal (e.g. e-mail etc.), we believe it is time to make some communication and publication changes in order to best meet requirements.

As for the Newsletter, we have decided to make it a quarterly newsletter managed by a committee consisting of one employee from TUOI, the rest being volunteers. This committee will define the goals of the newsletter, place the necessary calls for information, determine content and layout. If you are interested in partaking in this committee, please call Brigitte Bachelier at ext. 25.

PDD SERVICES REFERENCE BOOKLET

A reference booklet has been put together by TUOI and its partners for Autism Awareness Month. It provides important information on PDD's and procedures to follow for diagnostic ruling as well as a look at the various PDD-related services offered in the Outaouais.

You may obtain a copy by requesting it at TUOI or by downloading it from the Web Site at www.traidunionoutaouais.com under the heading *Services* and subheading *Access to PDD Services*. The reference booklet will be distributed throughout the network by the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux.

Please note that, at this time, this booklet is only available in French.

2006 SUMMER CAMP

The registration period for Summer Camp is now over. Billing for your child's summer services will be sent to you in the weeks to come if he or she is with the camp sector. A service offer is included in this mailing if your child is with the social integration sector.

Following the same trend as last year, some groups will be at TUOI while others will be at the CEGEP de l'Outaouais, Hull sector. As requested by several parents, we tried to get some space at the Gatineau CEGEP but did not succeed..

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PARENTS ATTENDING WORKSHOPS

Once again this year, the FQATED is providing a budget of \$1 000 per region for parents of autistic children or children with a PDD who wish to attend training activities of various kinds (information sessions, training, workshops, conferences or other).

- The amount has to be spent prior to January 2007;
- This budget is strictly for parents;
- Spending will be reimbursed upon reception of receipts and will cover registration, transportation and lodging ;
- The parent will be asked to fill out a participation form.

TUOI is taking care of requests in the Outaouais and will be handling requests for reimbursement with the Fédération.

In order to allow as many parents as possible to benefit from this financial support, we have set a limit of \$250 per person. For those interested in financial support for PDD training purposes, please contact Jocelyne Sylvestre at ext. 22 or by e-mail at tuoi@bellnet.ca .

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUOI's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, June 12th at 7 p.m. at TUOI. The invitation as well as the agenda and any relevant information will be sent to you in a subsequent mailing.

Please find enclosed your Membership Renewal Form which must be filled out and paid in full prior to the Annual General Meeting. We would like to remind you that membership is compulsory in order to receive TUOI services.

RESOURCE LIBRARY (TOYS, GAMES, BOOKS, VIDEOS, DVD'S, ETC...)

Some of you were able to get a look at the Resource Library during the Open House held on April 20th. For those of you who weren't so lucky, we would like to draw your attention to our Web Site at [www.traidunionoutaouais.com /Services/Matériathèque](http://www.traidunionoutaouais.com/Services/Matériathèque) where you will find pictures of different games and toys available on loan. Our loan policy is also on the web site. Opening hours for the Documentation Centre as well as the Resource Library (Matériathèque) will be confirmed in the weeks to come. In the meantime, please feel free to call our number at ext. 27 so that we may set some time aside for you.

We would like to thank and congratulate France Vachon for putting this project together. Mrs Vachon will be leaving at the end of the month, having completed her contract period. We wish her the best of luck in things to come. She will be missed.

TUOI'S WEB SITE – IMPROVED FORMAT

At his end, Mr. Steve Vachon has worked very hard on the development of TUOI's Web Site as well as a series of interactive measures which should make a lot of people happy. As a matter of fact, the suggestions many of you made with regards to the Web Site in last November's survey have been taken into account.

We are pleased to relate the overall picture of TUOI's new Web Site while the graphic representation is in progress.

The tools developed will allow us to publish and update information on line. What this means is that the public will from now on have access to the latest developments at Trait d'Union, the activities and events, the latest news and current events in the PDD network, etc. For example, the « *Bulletin board* » (Babillard) provides public interest updates ; the « *Activities and Events Calendar* » provides the overall program of activities at TUOI while the « *Newsletter* » (Bulletin) section allows you to view and download the different editions of the Newsletter.

We have also revised the « *Services* » section, where from now on you will not only find the services' description but also the specific programming for each sector. This section will also allow you to register on line for certain activities ! TUOI's latest services are also available on line. You are free to take a look at the items in the « *Resource Library (Matériathèque)* » and the « *Documentation Centre* » as well as reserve an item on line.

TUOI's young ones will also find their own section in the « *Chatprise Corner* » which will soon be available and include « *Chatprise's E-mail* », « *Chatprise's Art Gallery* », « *Chatprise's Q & A* » and « *Games with Chatprise* ».

The Trait d'Union team thereby invites you to visit our Web Site at <http://www.traidunionoutaouais.com/>. We also invite you to sign up as a user on line as this function will provide you with instant notification of updates on the web site.

Please note that translation for most sections of the web site is yet to be done.

NEW SPECIALIZED CHILDCARE SERVICE AT TUOI

The specialized childcare service is now officially in place at TUOI. Parents who wish to use the services of trained and supervised caregivers may fill out the questionnaire "Évaluation des besoins et des attentes des parents" (available in French only for now). Expenses for this service are shared between parents, TUOI and the CSSS (via direct allowances for respite and childcare). For further information or to fill out the evaluation form, please contact Carmen Michaud at 595-1290, est 30. Wishing you fun and respite !

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TRANSLATION

As you can see, many documents are available only in French at TUOI. If you or people you know are interested in becoming a “translating volunteer”, be it for a few hours a week or per month, please call Carmen Michaud at extension 30.

Please find enclosed :

- ❑ Family Sector Calendar for May and June (now available on the Web Site)
- ❑ TUOI's Membership Renewal Form
- ❑ An announcement regarding a project on mourning for Autistic people
- ❑ Information relating to a new drop-in daycare service open to autistic children
- ❑ The promotion flyer describing a new service offer by Rehabilitation Centres for the persons with intellectual disabilities and PDD (in the Outaouais, Pavillon du Parc). The entire document may be viewed both in French and English at www.fqcrdi.qc.ca or borrowed from our Documentation Centre. Please note that certain services are not yet available but we urge you to make your needs and requests known. This will allow you to be placed on waiting lists and not lose priority when services become available.
- ❑ Information relating to summer services in the Social integration sector (for those concerned)

Next mailing : important

Please keep an eye out for the next mailing as it will contain valuable information concerning the General Annual Meeting as well as summer services.