

Opening Remarks of Claudio Bussandri

Public Meeting: June 17, 2014

On behalf of the Board of Director I wish to welcome you to our regular quarterly public meeting. These are important occasions for the MUHC leadership to bring you up-to-date on the goings-on of your hospital.

We look forward to reporting to you on our activities and to learning about your concerns. If you have questions, please participate in today's question and answer period.

At the same time I encourage you to invite friends and neighbours to attend these meetings. We are doing our best to publicize them internally on all of our various communications platforms and through listings on community calendars. But we need help in spreading the word.

I also encourage you to take advantage of **Your Hospitals, Your Questions**, a new initiative we are launching today. Montrealers can submit their questions related to our transformation.

Since we last met there have been hearings before the Charbonneau Commission and revelations about Dr. Porter's expenses. I don't want to dwell on this. Suffice it to say, the Board upon the recommendation of our Audit Committee has asked our external auditors to "determine whether and to what extent, during the period April 2007 to March 2014 Syscor has paid to or on behalf of employees of the MUHC expenses which are not allowed in the public health services sector."

As I have stated repeatedly at, I believe, every public meeting since becoming Chair of the Board we have learned from the past. We are focused on our governance. We have more than 20 active Board committees and councils. Plus we have reviewed our contracting procedures, updated our conflict of interest guidelines and established whistle-blowing procedures.

But let me focus on one small example – the compensation of our CEO. A Board Committee led the negotiations with Mr. Normand Rinfret. His package was then reviewed and approved by both the Agence and the Government. His salary is public. His expenses are posted. And he does not receive a car or housing allowance. Full transparency was the objective here.

I am not naive. I appreciate that the upcoming trials and stories from the past will continue to garner headlines. But I would be lying if I did not say I find it regrettable. It is hurtful, potentially morale sapping and detracts from our significant clinical, administrative and financial accomplishments.

Despite it all, we continue to perform well against a wide range of industry benchmarks. We are particularly proud of our financial performance. Last year our deficit was \$72.5 Million, well below forecast. This past year it was \$13 Million, well below our government approved \$20 Million. This year we are on track for a zero deficit. And we have done this even though volumes have remained the same and at times increased.

This is a remarkable performance. The women and men who work at the MUHC deserve the credit.

We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude.

We are also in the midst of the most significant transformation and largest redevelopment project in our history. The Glen is 95% complete, and we will be moving in on schedule.

We are building the health care system for the next generations of Montrealers. This is worth celebrating.

Our Legacy Committee, which is supported by more than 300 volunteers, launched its year of festivities in May with BBQs on each site under the theme of “MUHC Loves Montreal.” Last week we honoured Barbara Whitley, the matriarch of our volunteers who has contributed to the MGH for more than 60 years, and received the good news that Mayor Coderre will lead our walk through the city marking the opening of the Glen. I encourage you to participate in as many Legacy activities as you can. Help us honour our past and present and celebrate our future. Let’s celebrate what we are accomplishing together.

The MUHC has a lot on its plate, but, as we have done over the past twenty-four months, we will remain focused on meeting the challenges ahead in a professional and effective manner. This is a proud institution that is committed to excellence and being a world leader in patient care, teaching, research and technological assessment.