

Speaking Notes for Claudio Bussandri: September 10 Public Meeting

On behalf of the Board and management I wish to welcome you to our fall public meeting. We have a full agenda with reports from several of our Board Committee Chairs as well as our Director-General and our clinical leadership. So, as is my custom, I will be brief.

The summer is a time to catch one's breath, to reflect on recent events and plan for the fall and winter. The Board of the MUHC is no exception. We have been looking back at our first 18 months in office and looking ahead to our next 18 months, which will culminate with the opening of the Glen.

We at the MUHC have been subject to that old Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times." In the first part of our mandate we have had to deal with allegations related to the awarding of the contract for the Glen, a new government in Quebec City, the Baron Report, questions related to the future of the Lachine Hospital and a significant budget shortfall.

Our response in my opinion has been measured, comprehensive and professional.

We have been guided by a number of key principles. These include:

Improving the governance of the MUHC. We have staffed the legislatively mandated committees and councils, constituted or revitalized other committees for areas that are of particular concern and importance to the MUHC and set up a number of ad hoc committees to oversee the implementation of the Baron Report. We have also updated our administrative policies and procedures.

A commitment to transparency and community engagement. This remains a work in progress, and will be at the forefront of our approach as we move forward with the most significant transformation in our history.

Increased collaboration with our partners in the health care network including the ministry, the Agence, the McGill RUIS and the MAHN. What has changed is that not only are we meeting regularly but there is a new and welcome spirit of collaboration.

Finally and most importantly, while committed to living within our financial means, providing quality patient care and fulfilling our mission as a leading academic health center remains our top priority. Management presentations today will show that we are on the right track, that we are heading in the right direction. All of us appreciate that the patient experience is going to change, but it is our responsibility to ensure patient care remains top-notch.

We face the next 18 months with determination mixed with excitement.

And also with renewed confidence.

Our leadership team along with the clinical and non-clinical staff who work at the MUHC prove on a daily basis that they are best in class. As I have said before, providing outstanding care is in their DNA. We are indebted to them and enormously grateful. In closing I simply wish to pay tribute to the 14,000 talented and dedicated women and men who work at the McGill University Health Centre.