

## **Roberts/Smart Centre Board of Directors confirms plans to continue operations and service delivery**

Ottawa, May 28, 2009 — After a series of discussions with our stakeholders over the past three weeks, the Board has reached the conclusion that a workable solution to allow us to maintain our services is within reach.

This decision stems from the fact that all stakeholders have stepped forward to contribute to solutions aimed at long-term sustainability for the Roberts/Smart Centre. After the Board passed its May 6 resolution authorizing initiation of bankruptcy proceedings if required, the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Centre's employees and their bargaining agent, and our community partners all demonstrated their willingness to collaborate on new approaches to preserve the Centre and its services. Therefore, the Board voted on May 27, 2009, to rescind the resolution of May 6.

The Ministry has agreed to work with the Roberts/Smart Centre and with other community partners in reviewing the operations and services of the Centre, with the goal of finding new opportunities and efficiencies to support our sustainability for the long-term. The employees and their bargaining agent (CUPE Local 2376) have also made an important contribution. The bargaining unit members this week voted 100 per cent to ratify a new three-year contract, which brings labour stability to the Centre. Community partners in the delivery of services to children and youth have also come forward, expressing support for our services, and agreeing to help develop solutions in concert with the Ministry and the Centre.

The Board wishes to express its strong gratitude to all the stakeholders who have shown their commitment to meeting the needs of the young people in the care of the Roberts/Smart Centre, and who have agreed to contribute to the collaborative process moving forward.

*For more than 35 years, the Roberts/Smart Centre has provided services to young people facing the most serious of mental health challenges. We have developed expertise in helping adolescents who have severe behavioural and emotional problems and for whom other interventions have failed.*

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