

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The West Island Palliative Care Residence will now be known
as the Teresa Dellar Palliative Care Residence
to pay tribute to its co-founder**

The announcement was made tonight at the 21st Annual Valentine's Ball

KIRKLAND, Quebec, February 14, 2020 – The 21st Annual Valentine's Ball benefitting the West Island Palliative Care Residence (the Residence) had an unparalleled success raising a record net amount of \$640,000 thanks to the generosity of more than 500 guests, sponsors and donors. The annual ball was held at Château Vaudreuil's Pavillon-sur-le-Lac and featured a gourmet dinner and dance under the theme of "Italy and its Amalfi Coast". The money raised provides critical funding for the superior palliative care delivered at the Residence.

In addition to raising a record amount, the Residence's co-founder Russell Williams announced that the Residence would soon change its name to the Teresa Dellar Palliative Care Residence. "Teresa was not only the co-founder and Executive Director of the Residence for 17 years, but she led the Residence to what it is today, made a difference for so many people and inspired us to pursue her vision. Her contribution to the Residence, the patients, the community and the cause is invaluable. Renaming the Residence in her honour was a natural fit," said Russell Williams.

Guests included political, media and sports personalities, including such prominent sports figures as **Anthony Calvillo**, legendary Montreal Alouettes quarterback and Canadian Football Hall of Fame inductee. Guests from the arts community included Emmy Award-winning Canadian director **Jean-Marc Vallée** and Canadian Blues Queen **Dawn Tyler-Watson**, who also came to show their support for the Residence.

The evening's masters of ceremony were **Yolande James** RDI and CBC political analyst and a Director of the Foundation Board of the Residence and Ken Connors, host of Weekends with Ken on CJAD 800. The honorary co-presidents of the evening, **Louis Vachon**, President and CEO of National Bank, and **Chantal Carrier**, philanthropist, shared with the audience the importance of getting involved in their community.

Lynne McVey, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Montréal West Island Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre (IUHSSC), gave a compassionate testimonial following her experience with a loved one at the Residence.

Federal, provincial and municipal politicians in attendance at the sold-out event included MP **Francis Scarpaleggia** (Lac-Saint-Louis); MNAs **Monsef Derraji** (Nelligan), **Greg Kelley** (Jacques-Cartier), **Carlos Leitão** (Baldwin-Cartier) and **Kathleen Weil** (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce); as well as the mayors of Baie D'Urfé, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Kirkland, Pointe-Claire and the borough of Pierrefonds/Roxboro.

"The Valentine's Day Ball is an important tradition, not only to raise funds for the Residence, but also to raise awareness about the importance of palliative care and the role of the Residence in the community. I am extremely grateful for the support we receive. This record amount will allow us to continue to provide our daily care with compassion," said Dale Weil, the new Executive Director of the West Island Palliative Care Residence.

We sincerely thank our major sponsors who supported the Ball this year: **National Bank, Charles River, Pfizer Canada, TASK and Excelsoins**. Other sponsors for the evening included **Merck Canada, the Otis Grant and Friends Foundation and TKNL**.

The Chair of the organizing committee, **Linda Ward O'Farrell**, Director of the Foundation Board or the Residence and President, Ward O'Farrell Consultants Inc. noted, "The resounding success of this 21st edition of the Ball is possible thanks to a dedicated team that works each year with determination to organize the Residence's most important fundraising event. A special thank you to the committee, the outstanding volunteers and staff."

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About the West Island Palliative Care Residence

The West Island Palliative Care Residence is an independent, non-profit organization that provides services free of charge to patients and their families. The Residence receives one-third of its annual operational budget from the Quebec government and relies on community support and fundraising activities to raise the balance of more than 3.8 million dollars each year. With its 23 beds, the Residence is the largest freestanding palliative care facility in Canada and is recognized as a leader in its field.

In 2018, the Residence embarked on a fundraising campaign to support two new initiatives to raise the relevance and appeal of the Residence by consolidating its two sites into a single, cost-efficient facility and launching its new branch, the Montreal Institute for Palliative Care.

For more information, go to Residencesoinspalliatifs.com.

SOURCE: West Island Palliative Care Residence

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