



CONGRÉGATION DE  
NOTRE-DAME

Éducation libératrice  
Liberating Education  
真の自由への教育  
Educación liberadora

# LIBERATING EDUCATION AT MAISON DE LAUBERIVIÈRE

Written by : Madeleine Lavoie, CND

Situated in the heart of Old Quebec near the Old Port, Maison de Lauberivière is an organization that "offers annually, on average, 154,000 meals at its soup kitchen, 15,801 overnight accommodations and 2,073 days of presence in the social reintegration sector which is divided into two parts, that of employment at Portage and academics."<sup>1</sup> Apart from the provincial government (Ministère de l'Éducation), the Louis-Joliet Adult Education Centre is an important partner in the field of education and evaluation.

I work four half-days a week at Maison de Lauberivière in social reintegration with young adults (mostly men). I teach French to help students complete their high school studies. I also accompany young CEGEP students.

## A WORK CONNECTED TO THE MISSION OF MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS

In Marguerite Bourgeoys's work of education, there are two liberating objectives: evangelization and humanization. I will focus on the latter, humanization: "Human development through training in work and in civility, that is, learning how to work and how to live in society... so that they may conduct themselves in society with dignity and gain respect from others."<sup>2</sup>

Through the little schools, Marguerite Bourgeoys wanted "To rescue children from their impoverished way of life or help them to avoid falling into such a state of destitution that the risk of their becoming vagabonds would be great... Children learned reading, writing and arithmetic as well as manual work, all of which were necessary for learning a trade. This would enable them to earn a respectable livelihood and lead free and honorable lives."<sup>3</sup>

That is why, when I go to Maison de Lauberivière to meet a very particular group of people, I cannot help but think of my foundress to whom it seemed quite natural, in 1692, "that the sisters in Quebec City settled in lower-town where many less advantaged families lived to give the children of this area an opportunity to receive free education, which might have been denied them if they had had to travel distances. . . ."<sup>4</sup>

The students who arrive at Lauberivière to pursue their secondary studies must take a placement test. Not all are able to reach the secondary 5 level, therefore, Orientation Services helps these students complete secondary 3 and learn a trade that is suitable for them. All these steps are taken to ensure that these students are socially reintegrated. Seventy-five percent of students complete their secondary studies and twenty-five percent obtain a Diploma of College Studies (DCS).

### Maison de Lauberivière

#### The clientele

- People with drug, alcohol, gambling and sex addictions
- Most have a criminal record which is a major constraint in finding employment
- 13 places are available for those who are residents and 12 for those who are not

#### The requirements

- Having received therapy
- Being sober
- Wanting to take charge of your life
- Being capable of committing yourself to a process for resolving your problems

#### The team

- One person in charge of the drug-abuse programme
- One person with a university degree in a field related to intervention
- Referral agents and teachers

<sup>1</sup> 2009 Annual Report, La Maison de Lauberivière.  
<sup>2</sup> Sévigny, Jeannine, CND, "Marguerite Bourgeoys and Liberating Education," *Heritage*, no. 19, (1994): 15, 23.  
[http://heritagecnd.org/pdf/Heritage.en\\_no19.pdf](http://heritagecnd.org/pdf/Heritage.en_no19.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 24

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 23-24