

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal acknowledges with interest the coroner's investigative report

Pointe-Claire, November 16, 2016 – The *Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal* (CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal - Montréal West Island Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre) acknowledges with interest the coroner's investigative report on the passing of Mr. Mark Blandford on November 2, 2015 at the Montreal McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), after being admitted to the St. Mary's Hospital Center (SMHC). The CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal has already deployed corrective measures and is committed to implementing the recommendations made by the coroner Krystyna Pecko, MD, in her report made public today.

“On behalf of the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, I wish to once again extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Blandford,” stated Benoit Morin, President and CEO of the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal. “We thank the coroner for her comprehensive and exhaustive report, which succeeds in bringing clarity to a complex situation and provides us with valuable insights and recommendations.”

In her report, the coroner highlights that the critical period for medical intervention was within the 24 hours prior to Mr. Blandford's arrival at the hospital and that his death cannot be associated with unreasonable delays at the SMHC. Extract from the coroner's report : *“En résumé, le délai d'intervention le plus important ayant augmenté le risque de décès chez M. Blandford est le 24 heures s'écoulant au domicile après le début des symptômes où une intervention chirurgicale précoce aurait pu faire la différence.”*

Given that the patient did not disclose his medical history during triage at the SMHC (lack of follow-up on an aneurysm, already diagnosed in 2010, at another hospital), the coroner does not consider the *“prise en charge”* of this patient's case to be an issue.

The coroner supports the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal's decision to no longer offer abdominal aortic surgery at the SMHC. This decision is based on standards recognized by the medical and scientific communities: a minimum of 3 specialized surgeons as well as 30 to 50 cases per year are required to maintain the expertise.

As for the decision to transfer the patient to the MUHC and not the Jewish General Hospital (JGH), the coroner approves since the MUHC was on call for this type of intervention that day.

"Prior to the release of the coroner's report, we have proactively established a series of measures to improve our services. I want to emphasize that this continuous improvement process occurs at all times and at all levels of our organization," explains Benoit Morin.

In line with the recommendations listed in the coroner's report, the following measures address the planning, organization and communication lapses in question:

- An internal evaluation process has taken place in accordance with the established procedure related to the quality of care and services;
- A continuous assessment is in place to improve practices, in accordance with provincial and national standards;
- An external consultant, Dr. Oren Steinmetz, Chief of service, Division of Vascular Surgery at McGill University, has been mandated to establish the framework for vascular surgery at the *CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de l'Île-de-Montréal*, in accordance with the coroner's recommendations;
- The *CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de l'Île-de-Montréal* has proceeded with its clinical reorganization. Most medical chiefs have now been appointed and are responsible for the transmission of information within their units.

The *CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de l'Île-de-Montréal* remains committed to implementing all of the coroner's recommendations and to making decisions in the best interest of patients and their families.

"Thanks to the great collaboration of the St. Mary's community, we are emerging from a challenging year with a renewed commitment to excellence in patient care" concludes Benoit Morin.

The coroner's report is available on our web site at the following address:

<https://www.ciuss-ouestmtl.gouv.qc.ca/en/news/news/rapport-du-coroner-concernant-le-deces-de-m-mark-blandford/>

The Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (Montreal West Island Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre) emerged from the grouping of CSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île, CSSS Dorval-Lachine-LaSalle, St. Mary's Hospital Centre, Douglas Mental Health University Institute, West Montreal Readaptation Centre, Grace Dart Extended Care Centre, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres and Ste. Anne's Hospital. Over 10,500 employees and 750 doctors work for the organization.

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Source :

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