

## RECOMMENDATION FOR THE GOLDEN JUBILEE MEDAL

I am recommending that David Reville be nominated to receive the Commemorative Golden Jubilee Medal, for his contribution to changing what it means to be a psychiatric consumer/survivor in Ontario.

First as a Toronto City Councilor and then as a provincial MPP, David Reville faced the prejudice the public hold toward people who have been inmates on a psychiatric ward, by openly identifying and recounting his experience in the psychiatric system. His success in changing public attitudes is apparent in his elections. Less obvious is what his honesty and accomplishment meant to other people with psychiatric histories. It became possible for someone who had been on a psychiatric ward to have a public life without shame and secrecy. (Not to mention employment - not putting screws in a bag for \$1.00 an hour, but a Member of Parliament!)

In government David did not abandon the people he had been powerless with in the past, but spoke up for us publicly and privately on various issues. He welcomed people that others would have had removed by security. On one occasion he delighted (and astounded) consumer/survivors on a ward at Queen Street by telling them he had once been "there" too, before he was an MPP.

He has been a mentor to many, supporting people that others might not have noticed, working behind the scenes to help people who are having a hard time.

He has been a builder of bridges between communities.

As Chair of the short-lived Ontario Advocacy Commission, he had the daunting task of bringing together people with a great diversity of experiences of disability and/or the effects of being so labeled, to begin to form a coherent voice for this seriously disadvantaged group in Ontario.

In various research projects in which he has been engaged, his ability to form respectful and egalitarian relationships with people who are homeless, psychiatric c/s's - has meant that information that would not have been shared with most people has been able to be gathered and used to inform decision making.

David Reville and Associates drafted an Empowerment Project Report for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health which was, remarkably, appreciated by very diverse stakeholders, and set new standards for the empowerment of mental health and addiction clients in Ontario psychiatric and addiction facilities. Psychiatric consumer/survivors and their allies across the province have brought the report to their local institutions to inspire positive change.

At the Centre of Addiction and Mental Health, the project based on this report has created new opportunities for clients' self representation, self-advocacy, employment and education of Centre staff.

And he's funny.

Jennifer Chambers