

## **Lucy Costa Audio 2 Transcription:**

Years ago I was once walking past the grounds of the old Lakeshore hospital with a person who'd been a patient there as a young man, and as we walked by I'll always remember his comment about how terrible the place was he said, "They'd put you in a room and give ya some bug juice and you have no idea what the hell they were given you". Its good it closed down.

This document is interesting because for example, of its antiquated text such as "mentally retarded" referring to a hospital unit. I am struck by the tone of excitement that is presented in the document. It's really a document outlining the priority to cut costs in the system but it's framed a s positive move for the patients who are presently staying in an old, run down hospital but will soon be moving to "to Queen Street modern facility". This document is striking because the language mirrors so much of the PR communications I heard during the redevelopment of Queen Street in 2009 and onward. Similar reflections about how redevelopment was good because the hospital was outdated, old and bad for the patients. It's interesting to me because it seems the ultimate authority to define and make changes in conditions comes from professional authorities – its like patients never would have commented on the uncivilized condition of treatment if it were not for the authorities.

Patients were indeed transferred to Queen Street after Lakeshore closed. But there were problems in the system overhaul. In 1982 after a number of deaths at Queen Street the Peat Marwick report was released a cutting report on the lack of adequate service delivery and called for stricter restrictions on patients. Ex-Patients were already organizing themselves out side the system. A year after this 1979 document was published a local organized group of survivors first called Mental Patients Association (established in 1977) produced the magazine Phoenix Rising in 1980 and this zine forever changed the identity politics of current and ex-patients. On of its editorial members lawyer Carla McKague gave a speech in Kingston, probably the one of the first anti-stigma speeches entitled to the myth of mental illness. In her speech one of the things she said was, "one of the reasons that most of you are here is to ask what can

we as a community do to help these people. What do we need to first of all his friendship, understanding, people who do not shy away from us because they don't quite understand us and we're a little bit different from the rest. We need a place to live. We need a job. We need legal protection and mostly what we need is recognition that were not some strange breed” Wow, it's amazing how we're still fighting these myths today.