

Peter Zwack Memorial



Autism Society Canada sadly announces the passing of our long-time board member and current president, Dr. Peter Zwack on November 8th, 2005.

Father of a 24-year old son with autism, Peter was a champion for people with an autism spectrum disorder and their families and a pioneer in the autism community. Many parents first came to know Peter through his regular postings on the ME-List, an Internet discussion list for parents doing ABA therapy. Peter also set up a database of articles and information on many aspects of ABA therapy and other treatments, which he shared freely. A professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the Université du Québec à Montréal, Peter generously contributed his scientific expertise to the autism community by participating on many autism research and advisory committees.

Peter served as vice-president of the Montreal Autism Society from 1990 to 1995, as president of his Quebec provincial autism society from 1995-2000, and then joined the Board of Autism Society Canada in 2000. He became vice-president in 2001 and took over the presidency in 2004. Peter devoted himself to working with the ASC Board and all of our partners to build the capacity of ASC to become a strong national voice on autism issues.

Peter's knowledge, dedication, experience, sense of humour and tremendous energy will be deeply missed here at Autism Society Canada. He will also be greatly missed in the wider autism community. We offer our condolences to his wife Line and his son Jérémie.



On behalf of ASC, I would like to express our profound sadness with Peter's passing. He was a true beacon of light. For many of us Peter will always be known as Mr. Autism. He was an outstanding friend and mentor to many. Our community will be considerably smaller without him.

Jo-Lynn Fenton
First Vice President

Guest Book

08-Nov-05
Louise Fleming,
Ottawa
louise@autismsocietycanada.ca

"I will remember Peter as a collaborative leader, a dedicated volunteer, a proud parent and a tireless advocate for all those affected by autism. His sense of fairness, his compassion and his positive approach to the most difficult situations brought out the best in people. I learned a lot from Peter in the year and a half we worked together at ASC. I'll miss you Peter."



08-Nov-05
Jo-Lynn Fenton,
Bedford, NS

"With Peter's passing my emotions are mixed with great sadness, fond memories and a deep gratitude. Like Peter, I am a parent of two children with an autism spectrum disorder. Like many, I enjoyed the benefits of the years of work Peter put into raising the level of awareness about ASDs and the fundamental need for evidence based treatments, supports and accommodations for those affected by this disorder. I had the pleasure to spend the last four years working alongside Peter in this journey. During this time, we often shared many of our experiences and we laughed and cried over our successes and planned again when things did not go the way we intended. Our community will never be quite the same without him, but it also is very different because of him. My deepest sympathy to all those feeling Peter's loss, especially his family. Take care dear friend."



09-Nov-05
Darlene Pugsley,
Riverview, NB
autism@nb.aibn.com

"Almost five years ago, when I sat as an inexperienced board member of ASC, I asked the former NB representative for some words of wisdom. She said "Look for Peter, he'll guide you through it. I don't know what I would have done without him." And he did. Aptly named, Peter was our rock. When the weather report played this morning, it reminded me that Peter has left us. And it would have seemed fitting if today was a day of thunder and lightning. But it seems that he has sent sunshine, as he always did. Peter, the world is different today because you are not in it, and that is cause for such sadness and regret. But the world is different today because you were in it, and we have even more cause to be grateful. Thank you. "



09-Nov-05
Ron Kincaid,
Columbus, Ohio, USA
rekincaid@hotmail.com

"I am so sorry for your loss, as well as our loss. Peter's contributions to the me-list were substantial. I hope we as a community can continue Peter's tireless efforts on behalf of all of us."



09-Nov-05
Annette Vogt-Cearns,
Ottawa
annettevogt@rogers.com

"I am saddened to hear of the death of Peter. I remember seeing him on a tv special about autism along with his son. I visited his information site often. It is always difficult when we loose such a dedicated person. My sympathies to his wife and son. "



09-Nov-05
Suzanne Wetzel,
Sault Ste Marie, ON
biooil@sympatico.ca

"I never met Peter Zwack, but I am forever grateful to him. Nine years ago as I was desperately searching for treatment options for my son with autism, it was Peter's informative and credible posts to the Me-List which convinced me to give ABA a try. We are still at it. Over the years, it was always a pleasure to read contributions by Peter. He had the ability to stay factual and polite, even when emotions ran high. When we started pressuring the Ontario government for more autism funding, Peter wrote a letter of support on behalf of the Quebec Autism Society. Those of us whose children are better off for having access to scientific autism treatment in this country owe much to Peter Zwack."



09-Nov-05
Christine Dade,
Oshawa, Ontario
cdade@opuc.on.ca

"It is with sadness that I have heard of the passing of Peter. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Christine Dade Board Member, Autism Society Canada "



09-Nov-05
Joshua Bortolotti,
Osgoode, Ontario
thebortolottis@rogers.com

"Mrs Zwack and Jeremie I am very sorry that Mr Zwack died. I am going to say a prayer for him and for you too. Josh"



09-Nov-05
Lynn Andrews,
Newington, Ontario
lynna@cnwl.igs.net

"I was very saddened to hear of Peter's passing. In my work here at ASC I have always found Peter to be not only a great source of reliable and immediate information but also a warm, humorous, intelligent and incredibly enthusiastic person. I had the privilege of hearing Peter speak to a group of MPs and Senators at an ASC event we organized on the Hill last year. In addition to his direct and pointed advocacy for more resources for people with ASDs, he spoke of his son's experiences with such a mix of love, pain and devotion, he brought tears to the eyes of everyone in the room. His positive approach and faith in our ability to create better opportunities for people with ASDs was infectious. My sincere condolences to his family, his friends and to all those who will feel this loss."



09-Nov-05
Lee Tidmarsh,
Montreal, Quebec
lee.tidmarsh@muhc.mcgill.ca

"I was saddened to hear of Peter's death. What a great loss to his family, and the greater family of people, parents and professionals coping with autism. Peter was a tremendous support to me when I entered the field of autism, keeping me in the autism loop via email with up-dates on the latest topics. I have tremendous admiration for his work and dedication in the field of autism. What a sad day for autism. Lee Tidmarsh"



09-Nov-05
Jeanette J.A. Holden,
Kingston, Ontario
holdenj@post.queensu.ca

"As a sibling, I know how desperate families can be to find answers and to help their family members with an autism spectrum disorder. Peter worked tirelessly to help other families as they struggle to understand the world of autism. He lobbied hard and long and cheerfully - and was and

will continue to be an inspiration to so many. Line and Jérémie, I hope to one day have the honour of meeting both of you - I know that Peter must have been overjoyed that you held each other's hands, Jérémie - that image that Louise shared with me just two days ago, will remain with me forever. Love, Jeanette"



09-Nov-05
Michael DeWit,
Mississauga, Ontario
mdewit@rogers.com

"I have two autistic children, 6 and 8 years of age, while I never had the pleasure of meeting Peter, my children have benefited from the Me-list in general and from time to time from direct help that came my way via his assistance on ABA related issues. Everyone leaves a mark on and effects their community, some more than others. Peter for sure was one of the later. He will not be forgotten"



09-Nov-05
Remi Quirion,
Montreal, Quebec
remi.quirion@douglas.mcgill.ca

"I am extremely saddened by these news. Peter was an exceptional human being and I will miss him dearly. I first met him about 5 years ago when I was appointed as inaugural scientific director of the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction, one of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Peter was one of the first member from the voluntary sector to contact me. He wanted to raise my awareness about autism and research on autism spectrum disorders. He succeeded very well and I became involved with the national organisation supporting its effort toward the development of a national research agenda. I visited Peter on a few occasions and visited his research facilities at UQAM..He was very proud to tell me that one of his staff member was autistic. Peter was also very proud of his son and family. I am convinced that he will continue to stimulate and challenge our intellect for years to come. On behalf of INMHA-CIHR, my most sincere condolences to his family. "



09-Nov-05
Margaret Whelan,
Toronto, ON
mwhelan@autism.net

"On behalf of Geneva Centre for Autism, our staff, Board, and volunteers I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to Peter's family, friends and colleagues. We have all lost a wonderful advocate for autism. Peter has been such a source of strength and inspiration for so many, and for

so long. It will be hard to imagine the autism banner moving forward without his support and drive. We owe it to his memory to try to meet the standards he set."



09-Nov-05
Glenn Tringali,
Princeton, NJ
gtringali@naar.org

"I am truly saddened to learn of Peter's passing. I had the pleasure of meeting and working with Peter in connection with the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) start up efforts in Canada. He was a gentleman that was driven by the burning desire to do what was and is best for the autism community. We have collectively lost a wonderful leader and genuinely fine person. On behalf of everyone connected with NAAR, our heartfelt sympathies go out to Peter's family, colleagues and many friends. Sincerely, Glenn R. Tringali Chief Executive Officer, NAAR"



09-Nov-05
Paul TREHIN, Vice President Autism Europe,
Cagnes sur Mer France
trehin@aol.com

"On behalf of Autism Europe, I would like to express the sadness and the feeling of loss that the board of Autism Europe has experienced when we received the news that Peter was no longer with us. To his wife, Line, and his son, Jérémie, we extend our most sincere sympathy. We also rejoin the Autism Society Canada Board and staff in their sorrow. Peter's contributions to the cause of autism have been remarkable. A lot of his work will remain present to help people with autism and their families, not only in Quebec or Canada, but also around the world. Paul TREHIN Autism Europe Rue Montoyer, 39 B-1000 Brussels BELGIQUE"



09-Nov-05
Debra Barbesin,
Ottawa, ON
robert_and_debbie@sympatico.ca

"A man who had the answers and knew where to find them. Remarkable. Thank you for all that you've done. Debbie in Ottawa"



09-Nov-05
Linda and David Richard,
Moncton, New Brunswick
dav.lin@rogers.com

"Though we had met Peter in the past, we were thrilled when so many others had the opportunity to meet him last fall at the ARC Autism Conference in Moncton. His presentation was inspiring, but it was his boundless dedication, time and effort within the autism community at large that was even more so - and it was infectious. He had a lot to offer and he gave it away with enthusiastic abandon. The autism community is better for having known him - we just wish we could have had him longer. Our most sincere condolences go out to his wife Line, and his son, Jérémie. Though we have never met you, we feel we know you. Peter spoke proudly of his family and with enormous warmth and love. "



09-Nov-05
Margaret Spoelstra, Autism Society Ontario,
Toronto, Ontario
mail@autismsociety.on.ca

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and members of Autism Society Ontario, I offer our sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Peter Zwack. Our thoughts are with you as you mourn his passing but also celebrate his life through gatherings with those who knew him best. It's hard to think about autism in Canada without including Peter's contributions for so many years. If you are connected to autism in anyway, eventually you would find yourself on distribution list of ASD information from Peter Zwack. He made it his business to be certain that as many people were informed about autism as possible. Autism Society Ontario was also privileged to have Peter as a member of its Research Committee for the last number of years. He helped us to consider a framework for supporting ASD research and he also gave of his time as a reviewer of applicants for our research scholarships and grants. It is our hope that his work and commitment will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of people with ASD and their families for years to come."



09-Nov-05
Pauline Quinn & Family,
Ontario
quinnp@tbaytel.net

"We will all miss Peter greatly here. His wisdom and expertise was something I always looked forward to when reading the Me-List daily digests. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Sincerely: Pauline, Michael, RYAN, Megan and Melissa Quinn from T. Bay"



09-Nov-05

Laurel Gibbons,
Ottawa, ON
bruceandlaurel@rogers.com

"I was saddened to hear of the passing of our strongest mentor in the autism community. Although I did not know Mr. Zwack personally I did meet with him and Louise Flemming this past June. He was passionate and encouraging for those of us trying to continue in his footsteps. Please pass on my condolences to his wife and family. Laurel and Bruce Gibbons and family "



09-Nov-05
Charlotte Robinson-Rocca,
Moncton, New Brunswick
Robinsonrocca@rogers.com

"Peter: Thank you for your dedication to autism issues and for providing strong leadership in all your roles. You will be missed by all who knew you and your good works. My thoughts are with your wife and son. May God bless and strengthen them in this time of sorrow."



09-Nov-05
Julie Azuma,
New York, NY
julie@difflearn.com

" My deepest sympathy and love to Peter's family and to the entire autism community that he helped to create. Peter was a wonderful support system to all of us. We'll miss him enormously. With much affection, Julie Azuma"



09-Nov-05
Lise Jetté et Michel Audet,
Laval, Québec
lise.jette@videotron.ca

"Nous sommes des amis de Peter et Line et saluons le grand dévouement, le respect et l'amour sans borne de Peter pour les personnes atteintes de l'autisme et particulièrement pour Jérémie. Nous venons de perdre une sommité et un homme de valeur au Québec. Nous pleurons sa perte et sommes de tout coeur avec Line. "



09-Nov-05
Geoffrey Strong,
Ardrossan, Alberta, Canada
geoff.strong@shaw.ca

"As a meteorologist, and having known Peter for almost 35 years as a student, colleague, and distant friend, I am deeply saddened by his sickness and passing. I note the accolades from the autism society and field, and I am so pleased to see his dedication appreciated outside his professional field of meteorology. My fondest memories of Peter were as a graduate student in meteorology at the University of Alberta in 1972-73, when Peter filled in as a temporary instructor in Dynamic Meteorology early in his career. What a difference Peter made that year, as dynamics theory came alive on real weather maps and satellite images, and he made weather briefings such fun. He was no introvert, however, and could appreciate the fairer gender as well as the rest of us, and was probably quite attractive to them as well. Despite all the fun, he was the consummate professional in his teaching and research. I always felt a little jealous of UQAM students who benefited from his teaching talents for so many years following his one year in Alberta. For those in the Autism Society, you may not know that he also served very capably as the President of our Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, in 1996-97. Those of us in the meteorological community are equally as fortunate as you for having known Peter. I can feel grateful that his terrible suffering is over, even though it is a great loss to our respective communities, but most of all, my deepest sympathy to Line and Jeremie. God bless you Peter, Geoff Strong Vice-President, Canadian Meteorological & Oceanographic Society "



09-Nov-05
Yolande Paulin,
New Brunswick
yolandep@nb.aibn.com

"Thank you Peter for your contribution to the autism community. You will be missed by many families. Our condolences to his wife and son."



09-Nov-05
Gerald Machnee,
Lockport, MB
machneeg@autobahn.mb.ca

"I extend my sympathy and best wishes to Peter's family and associates. I only knew Peter from conferences, but he was not afraid to venture into new territory and make a big contribution. He will be missed and appreciated."



09-Nov-05

John L Walmsley,
Toronto ON
jlwalmsley@rogers.com

"I knew Peter at McGill University when I was there doing my PhD in Meteorology (1968-72). I was always impressed by his drive and enthusiasm. I am sorry to learn of his passing - much too young. I offer my sincere condolences. John Walmsley "



09-Nov-05
Michael Lewis, President ASBC,
Vancouver, B.C.
michael.lewis@telus.net

"On both a personal level and on behalf of the membership of the Autism Society of B.C. I wish to acknowledge Peter and his contributions to those with ASD. I 'knew of' Peter long before I had the pleasure of 'knowing' Peter and seeing firsthand his passion for the struggle of those with ASD and their loved ones. His contributions are many and his energy and grace will be sadly missed by all of us. My condolences to his family, I am sure they will take solace in knowing his life made a difference. Regards, Michael Lewis"



09-Nov-05
Lori Peacock,
Columbus, Ohio
lpeacock@columbus.rr.com

"To Peter's family, I am so very, very sad about the passing of Peter. I only met him through email, but even so he had a great impact on my life and the life of our son. I joined the ME-List in 1998 when my son was diagnosed with autism. The very first person to help me from the list was Peter. I saw his regular email about his database. Signing on to his database was like finding a treasure trove. At the time, I was trying to figure out how to work with my son's school district. I was able to download so much information on the efficacy of ABA treatment from Peter's site. I presented it to the school district, and they gave us the services our son needed! Over the last 7 years, I always made a point to read Peter's posts to the list. I enjoyed his very insightful and intelligent emails. He will be greatly missed. Sincerely, Lori Peacock Columbus, Ohio, USA"



10-Nov-05
Rick Lee,
Victoria BC
rjlee@islandnet.com

"I first met Peter at McGill University in the early 1970s and had the pleasure of meeting him in the intervening years when our paths met at various venues. His keen interest in meteorology and qualities of enthusiasm, friendliness and genuineness are how I remember him. And so I am

saddened by his passing, but enriched by knowing him. "



10-Nov-05
Barbara Rodrigues,
Penticton, B.C.
bartist@canada.com

"I was so deeply saddened by reading this news of Peter Zwack. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and his son. I only know 'of' Dr. Zwack - through his vast information and his continued efforts to advocate for children/adults with autism. His many emails and contributions were of great value to me especially when starting out on this journey. He was always ready and able to help with information. The autism community in Canada and the world has truly lost a great man. He was and will continue to be an inspiration to us all. Again, my deepest sympathy to his family."



10-Nov-05
Alex Meyer,
Windsor, Ontario
alexasopres@cogeco.ca

"My deepest sympathies to your family."



10-Nov-05
Sharon Gabison,
Concord, Ontario
shar.gabison@utoronto.ca

"My heartfelt sympathy goes out to Peter's family. The autism community has lost a man who selflessly shared his knowledge, experience and leadership in the improvement of lives of individuals and their families affected by autism. God Bless."



10-Nov-05
Deb McDonald,
Saint John.NB
debmcd@nb.sympatico.ca

"My heart is sadden. I had the great opportunity to meet Peter aprox 5 years ago, he presented in a workshop for our community in Saint John. He did an excellent job! After, when everyone had gone home and we sat around the table for supper, I was impressed by his commitment and care for his son. He accomplished many things for the autism community, opened many doors but his best was

seen in his love for his son. When it is all said and done what matters most is our children, Peter lived this truth. Thank you, Peter..."



10-Nov-05
Philip Merilees,
Bonita Springs, Florida
pmerilees@comcast.net

" My sincerest sympathy at this shocking loss. I have known Peter ever since he came to study at McGill many years ago. He was a tireless worker that developed a number of valuable innovations in weather forecasting. He was always enthusiastic and easy to deal with. I was not aware of his lifelong contribution to autism but it is very consistent with his personality and dedication to things important to him. "



10-Nov-05
Sandee Winkelman,
parma, Ohio USA
jswinky@gmail.com

"The Winkelman family would like to send their heartfelt sadness and loss to The Zwack family. We are the loving parents of two autistic children, Jenna 12 and Jacob 8. Our battle with autism is long and hard fighting for services and advocating to individuals with no knowledge. We are grateful for all the work and endless efforts Peter Zwack contributed to the world of autism. The world will miss Mr. Zwack and now we have to believe that he is taking his work above and will be looking out for all who suffer and give us strength to carry on with our efforts. May you be surrounded with all who can bring you love and support during your time of grieving, the Zwack is in our thoughts and prayers. The Winkelman Family Jeff, Sandee, Jimmy, Jeff, Jenna and Jacob"



10-Nov-05
Catherine LaBranche,
Virginia Beach, Virginia USA
celabranche@yahoo.com

"Mrs. Zwack and Jeremie, Our deepest sympathy in the passing of your husband and father. Our family gained much knowledge about autism through the information source that Dr. Zwack freely shared. Our son has benefited greatly from the resources available from Peter and we sincerely thank you all for your support to our family. May God Bless you - our prayers are with you at this time. Merci Peter. Sincerely, The LaBranche Family Richard, Catherine, Elizabeth, Richard Jr., and Robert (asd)"



10-Nov-05
Arzu Forough,
College Station, Texas, USA
a.forough@cox.net

"Dear Zwack family, You have our deepest sympathy. We Wish there was more we could do to help ease the pain and sorrow, we know you are now going thru. We hope loving memories you will always share will help through this very difficult time.. Our hearts are going out to you today and we want you to know ~ we care. Sincerely, Arzu Forough Mother to two on the spectrum in Central Texas, who has been touched by Peter Zwack's contributions to the me-list over the past 7 years"



10-Nov-05
Laurie Bok, MI
laurie.bok@grcop.org

"Thank you so much for all your hard work and compassion for the children and family for who you have worked so unselfishly."



10-Nov-05
Oscar Koren,
Concord, Ontario
okoren@sympatico.ca

"My condolences to the family. Peter was a great inspiration to all of us who knew him. I was inspired by the excellent work that he did for the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society."



10-Nov-05
Richard Asselin,
Ottawa, ON
Publications@cmos.ca

"Peter, You contributed a lot to meteorology and the Society, and are leaving us much too soon. You will be missed by many people."



10-Nov-05
Nina Norman,
Southlake, Texas USA
nsnorman@charter.net

"I enjoyed and learned from Peter's posts on the ME-list. I have a 10 year old son with autism and

live in North Texas. IT is amazing how someone so far away can have such an impact. He will be missed."



10-Nov-05
Luigi Rocca,
Moncton, New Brunswick
luigi.rocca@rbc.com

"On behalf of the Autism Society of New Brunswick and all those in our community that have been touched by autism, I would like to express our deepest sympathies to the family of Peter Zwack. We are grateful for Peter's many contributions to promoting awareness and understanding about autism and to advocating for better services for autistic persons. His legacy is one of outstanding commitment and service to our community for which we will always be grateful. Luigi Rocca ASC representative New Brunswick"



10-Nov-05
Nathalie Wozniak,
Montréal, (Québec)
arg@sympatico.ca

"I didn't know Peter personally. I only knew him via internet. He used to give information on the "Federation Québécoise de l'autisme" web site. His informations were priceless. A parent like me, educated herself on this sujet thanks to him. I am sincerely sad to hear this news. My family and I, give our sympathies to Peter Zack's family. Well miss him."



10-Nov-05
Bingo Rivera,
Oakville, ON
aso_bingorivera@hotmail.com

"Our deepest sympathy and love to Peter's family. Peter's help through the ME-LIST was invaluable. Peter will be missed enormously. Peter is a great embodiment of what a Volunteer is all about, sharing his expertise with all of us, without expecting anything in return. We hope that we all honor his memory by continuing the work which he dedicated his life to. Sincerely, Bingo Rivera"



10-Nov-05
Ruth Allen,
Indianapolis, IN
rallen@iupui.edu

"I am deeply saddened by Peter's loss and offer my sincere condolences to his family. His willingness to offer assistance and advice to others in the autism community was an inspiration to us all. He will be greatly missed."

10-Nov-05
Rick and Martine Jowitt,
Croton-on-Hudson, NY
lumiere95@mac.com

"We knew Peter from the ME-LIST for many years, had seen his posts and contributions. We were going to be visiting Montreal to enquire about Martine working as a therapist there as she has been trained in ABA from a replication site and was bi-lingual. Of course having an Autistic child we wanted to see what life was like in Canada for Autistic children as well. Taking a chance, I phoned Peter at home - who I had never met or spoken to. As many have seen, his generosity was apparent right away as was his unselfishness. He asked us where we would be staying and we arranged the next day to meet. Peter came to our hotel room and we spent the whole afternoon talking and eating pizza we had delivered there and had a great time. Following that, Peter helped arrange interviews for Martine and put her in touch with a number of people who provided us invaluable information. That was Peter - there for people he had never met - all because we had an Austistic child and he wanted to help - out of the goodness of his heart. Folks like Peter are rare indeed. The world has lost a wonderful human being. Peter we'll miss you - tu nous manqueras sans aucun doubt. Richard and Martine Jowitt"



10-Nov-05
Linda and Richard Gibson,
Barrie, Ontario
linda.gibson@rogers.com

"Our thoughts are with the family at this time. We did not have the pleasure of knowing Peter, but we know he touched many people's lives. He will be greatly missed. "



10-Nov-05
Christine Shey,
Cornwall On Hudson, New York
cjs0624@yahoo.com

"Our sincerest condolences to the family of Peter Zwack. As a member of the Me-List, I feel as if I've lost a good friend. Our prayers are being offered in his honor to hallow the memory and bless the soul and to implore God's tenderest blessings to Peter Zwack. May he rest in peace."



10-Nov-05
Louis Legal,
Gibsons, British Columbia
legal@uniserve.com

"Peter helped us organize workshops and conferences on operational meteorology during the eighties. We appreciated his enthusiasm, his drive and his friendly contributions to our science. We will miss you!"



10-Nov-05
Nancy E Jones,
Kodiak, Alaska USA
J.Nancy@gci.net

"I never had the privilege of meeting Mr. Zwack, but I often use his database to find information on autism. My deepest sympathy in this great loss."



10-Nov-05
Pierre Beaudin,
Gatineau, Québec
pbeaudin@yahoo.com

"Peter était un pilier dans le mouvement pour développer et améliorer les services aux autistes au Québec. Son dévouement et sa profonde connaissance étaient reconnus par tous. Il nous manquera énormément. Personnellement, je perds un mentor car nous avons travaillé ensemble au recours collectif pour l'intervention précoce au Québec. Nous mesurons à peine la perte que son départ soudain représente mais nous savons tous combien sa présence et son action étaient au coeur de l'évolution des services au Canada, au Québec et au-delà de nos frontières. Adieu Peter. Peter was a major force in the development of services for autistic individuals in Québec. His devotion and great knowledge were recognized by all. He will be greatly missed. On a personal level he was very much a mentor to me as we worked together on the class-action lawsuit for early intervention services in Québec. We have yet to fully assess the great loss his sudden departure represents but we all know how much his presence and action were at the core of the evolution of services across Canada, in Québec, and beyond. Adieu Peter."



10-Nov-05
Me Jean-Pierre Ménard et Me Mélanie Champagne, Ménard, Martin, avocats,
Québec
champagnem@menardmartinavocats.com

"C'est avec regret que nous apprenons le décès de M. Peter Zwack et tenons à transmettre à sa famille, proches et amis nos plus sincères condoléances. Nous saluons son implication dans la

communauté et son sens de l'engagement. Nos salutations à un grand homme. "



10-Nov-05
Nancy O'Mara,
Madison,WI,USA
nancyomara@charter.net

"I will miss Peter's contributions to the autism community,especially his articulate and well reasoned postings to the me-list. Farewell,Peter and thank you."



10-Nov-05
Beverly McCoy,
Barboursville, WV
mccoy@marshall.edu

My deepest sympathy to Peter's family. Even just knowing him from his well-considered and inspiring messages on the Me-List, I held him in the greatest respect and recognized him as one of the true "good guys." In addition to the deep personal loss those closest to him are experiencing, all people with autism -- and those who love them -- have lost a great friend and advocate."



10-Nov-05
Betty Turner-Dunning,
Kentucky/US
dunning@nctc.com

"May God bless Peter's family at this difficult time. As a 7 year member of the Me-List I always looked forward to hearing from him and felt especially connected since he was also a parent to a child with autism. I will think of him kindly everytime I use the database library. He will be sadly missed. God bless and keep fond memories, Betty"



10-Nov-05
Brigitte Harrisson,
Présidente SATEDI, Dir.MS Société d'Autisme Canada
bharrisson@sympatico.ca

"Quand j'ai connu Peter, j'ai découvert un homme bon, généreux et surtout, avec une ouverture d'esprit rassurante. Je vais m'ennuyer de nos conversations où on refaisait le monde en passant en revue toutes les études qu'on connaissait afin de trouver un modèle pour aider les autistes, un modèle nouveau, à la couleur de nos ambitions. Merci Peter pour tout. Merci à son épouse et à

son fils d'avoir partagé Peter avec nous. J'offre mes sympathies à toute la famille de Peter."



10-Nov-05
Jean-Marie Berthelot,
Gatineau, Québec
berthelotujm@videotron.ca

"Chers Line et Jérémie, mes pensées sont avec vous durant ces moments difficiles. Peter était quelqu'un que je respectais énormément. Tant par son honnêteté, sa générosité, sa détermination que la justesse des causes qu'il défendait. C'est avec énormément de tristesse que j'ai appris son décès. Je vous offre mes plus sincères sympathies. Le dernier mot que j'aurais voulu dire à Peter est Merci! Merci d'avoir été là quand j'avais besoin de conseils pour mon fils. Merci d'avoir été là pour initier le recours collectif contre le gouvernement du Québec et ainsi forcer les pouvoirs publics à augmenter significativement l'offre de services aux jeunes enfants autistes. Merci d'avoir été de toutes les batailles des 25 dernières années. Merci de ma part, mais aussi de la part de toutes les familles que tu as aidées. On ne reconnaît pas un grand homme par ce qu'il a dit, mais par ce qu'il a fait. Peter, tu fais partie de la courte liste des grands hommes que j'ai connu. Merci Peter! Jean-Marie "



10-Nov-05
Connecticut Families for Effective Autism Treatment,
West Hartford, CT

"The Board wishes to extend its condolences to the Zwack family. We have all benefited greatly from Peter's knowledge and greatly appreciate his willingness to share his wealth of knowledge. His contributions to our community will be missed. Please know all of our thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time. "



10-Nov-05
David Vardy,
Conception Bay South, NL, A1W 4J8
dvardy@nl.rogers.com

" I was saddened to learn of the passing of Peter Zwack, who has been a strong advocate for people with autism and who has served in a number of leadership positions in his work on behalf of people with autism, including the position of President of Autism Society Canada. Janet and I extend our condolences to Line and Jérémie and to all of Peter's close friends who join with us in mourning his passing. I first met Peter about eight years ago at an ASC board meeting in Toronto and I worked with him on the ASC board of directors until my resignation about a year ago.

When we first met, ASC was recovering from a difficult period in its history and it has made great strides in the intervening period. Peter has played a key role in establishing ASC as a strong national organization, having served successfully as the leader of the Quebec Society before being

elected as the President of ASC. Peter is known and respected internationally for his understanding of ASD and for his unrelenting efforts to ensure that people with autism are treated effectively. His representations to governments, to health foundations and to caregivers, have helped to significantly increase the attention given to autism. Peter had strong links with professional experts who work with people with autism, including a number of leading physicians who are undertaking research into autism and its causes. Peter also had personal links with people with autism, including people he worked with as a volunteer and others with whom he has worked as a professor at UQAM. Peter organized a meeting of the ASC board in Montreal several years ago and I had the pleasure to meet with his research assistant, who is a high-functioning person with autism. After the board meeting, having dinner in Montreal, I sat with him, and was impressed with the unusual amount of insight he had into himself and how he could speak openly about his need to struggle with issues such as eye contact. He has much more insight into himself than others more neurologically typical. My conversation with him was uplifting.

Peter has been working with him for many years and has helped him immensely. We all learned a lot from Peter about autism. Unlike Peter, I had not had any family experience with applied behavioural analysis (ABA) but I quickly found that Peter operated a website, dedicated to disseminating information about it. As a champion for the cause Peter was in a league of his own. As an effective champion for people with autism Peter has been an influential voice across the country, within provincial autism societies, in the medical community and in the corridors of political power. His service to the cause as President of ASC and of the Quebec society has had a significant impact on the treatment of people with autism.

Peter had a gentle nature and gave freely of his time in the service of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. He had a relaxed style that put people at ease and could diffuse what might otherwise be a tense situation. Peter could be firm but diplomatic. His personal qualities included compassion, organizational skills, intelligence and humanity. We will miss him greatly.

I have admired the calm and methodical approach which Peter and Line have taken in responding to the needs of their son, Jérémie. At the last meeting of the ASC meeting I attended, in Ottawa, Peter showed us pictures of his son, making progress in learning to care for himself. I understand that in his last days Peter gave thought and guidance to the care which Jérémie should receive and identified challenges which should be put to him to stimulate his development. His son has shown real, positive progress because of the care and treatment he was receiving and the interest which his parents have taken in caring for him and for his future. Peter spoke to me about the provisions he has made to ensure that Jérémie continues to receive the care he requires after Peter's death. Along the way Peter has gathered a large group of friends, who valued his friendship and held him in high personal esteem. I am one of them. Peter Zwack was one who has chosen to uphold the rights of our most vulnerable citizens and to advocate for effective treatment. Peter is, on this count alone, an outstanding citizen, deserving of the highest honours our country can bestow. I am sure that all our colleagues join me in expressing our respect and gratitude for what Peter has done and for the leadership he has shown. Peter has made an important contribution to Canadian society and he has enriched our lives immensely. Peter has requested that those who would like to make a donation in his memory do so by contributing to the work of the Miriam Foundation and by giving to the Harriet and Abe Gold Learning Centre for Autism and Developmental Disability, which is a bilingual training and resource centre that develops training programs, conferences, workshops and parent education in the field of autism and developmental disabilities. My wife and I will be supporting the Gold Centre with a personal contribution and we encourage others to give to this worthy cause. With best personal regards, David Vardy past member ASC Board of Directors "



10-Nov-05
Eldon And Lillian Strachan,
Altona, Manitoba
estracha@mts.net

"We would like to offer our most sincere condolences to the Zwack family. Peter's knowledge and expertise on autism was second to none and his input on the me-list will be sorely missed. He was also a tremendous source on inspiration and encouragement for us, as well as many other families who undergo the battle against this dreaded disability. His leadership, commitment and dedication to helping families has had a tremendous impact on the lives of ASD children all across Canada. The autism community has lost a true champion. God Bless you Peter Eldon And Lillian Strachan Altona, Manitoba "



10-Nov-05
Sandra Weizman,
Calgary, Alberta
weizman@telusplanet.net

"I first encountered Peter Zwack on the Me-List, an Internet discussion list for parents doing ABA therapy, about eight years ago when my son was first diagnosed with autism. Peter posted messages frequently and set up a database of articles and information on many aspects of ABA therapy, many archived posts from parents on various topics, and also on many alternative therapies. He was always updating this database, which he shared freely, and promoted it on the Me-List. Whenever I, or any other parent, would request help to prepare for appeals or court cases for funding for our ABA programs, Peter would always generously e-mail us any articles and scientific studies he had in his database that might help us in our preparation. I remember a couple years ago a mother of a four-year-old boy with autism posted in despair on the Me-List about how severely affected her son was, how many interventions and therapies she had tried, how little progress he was making, and how worried she was that he would never learn to speak, to take care of himself, or to live independently. Peter took the time to reply that his son with autism was now an adult in his 20s, that although living in a group home, he was able to work with supports, that he was able to go on outings and partake in recreational pursuits, that while he would never live independently, he enjoyed a very full life, and that he was very proud of him.

I was always struck by Peter's compassion and humanity. Three years ago, I joined the board of Autism Society Canada, where I got to know Peter personally, and had the pleasure of working with him. Since taking over as President of ASC a year ago, Peter has worked tirelessly and has been instrumental in bringing about several new initiatives. Peter's son began ABA therapy at the age of 10, as part of a pilot project through a university in Montreal. He was one of the first children in Canada to pioneer this therapy. Always a proud father, Peter would share recent photos of Jeremie on his laptop computer at ASC board meetings, and regale us with stories of the new self-help and adaptive living skills he was still learning in his 20s. Peter was a tremendous advocate for his own son as well as for all people with autism spectrum disorders. It has been both an honour and a privilege to have known Peter and to have worked with him. His passing is a tremendous loss for his family and friends, as well as for the autism community across Canada. He will be deeply missed. Sandra Weizman Calgary, Alberta"



11-Nov-05
Jean-Pierre Aumont,
Québec
jaumont@sympatico.ca

"Bonjour Je connaissais Peter depuis quelques années. Il m'a supporté dans mes nouvelles fonctions au Centre Miriam. On devient une meilleure personne quand on a rencontré une personne comme lui. Être généreux et un travailleur acharné, il était considéré comme une autorité dans le domaine de l'autisme et son acharnement pour faire développer les programmes et les services pour les personnes autisme au Québec ont été exemplaires et ont porté fruit. Si les services aux personnes autisme sont ce qu'ils sont aujourd'hui au Québec, c'est en grande partie dû à son travail de représentation, par les formations et conférences qu'il a données à travers le pays qu'il a contribué au développement de ces services de façon prestigieuse. Il sera un modèle et une inspiration pour plusieurs d'entre nous. J'offre mes plus sincères sympathies à sa famille et à toute la communauté de l'autisme pour la perte de ce grand homme. "



11-Nov-05
Donna Cohen,
Windsor, CT

"I was so sad to hear of your loss. Peter has been a great source of information and support for me on the Me-list over the past ten years. I have referred to his archives often, have looked forward to reading his replies and was always struck by how amazing it was that he took the time to reply to people in such a thorough and helpful manner. While we have never met in person, his influence on my family and his input and help with the decisions we have made over the years have been invaluable. I am so sorry for your loss and will keep you all in my prayers."



11-Nov-05
Jennifer Cantello Daw,
Whitby, ON
jcantello@autism.net

"My condolences to you at this very difficult time. I only knew Peter from teleconferences with the ASO research committee but for years I heard his name and knew his reputation as a dedicated professional and a strong advocate for individuals with ASD and their families. He will be greatly missed."



11-Nov-05
Kelley Harris,
Victoria Australia
satine14@bigpond.com

"As a member of the ME-List for the last 5 years I would actively seek out Peter's posts even when

life was too busy to read them all. His thoughts, advice and opinions were always well thought out, considerate and enlightening. My deepest sympathy to his family and know that your husband/father meant a lot to parents and carers throughout the world. Peter, although we never met, I will miss you. Kelley in Australia"



11-Nov-05
Kristian Hook,
Selkirk, Manitoba
kristianhooker@yahoo.ca

"Well, I never did get the chance to tell him in person, so I'll say it now. Peter, thank you for making me feel so welcome on the board of Directors in Autism Society Canada. Your tireless and selfless acts definitely didn't go unrecognized by me. Your legacy shall live on in ASC."



11-Nov-05
Kelley Harris,
Victoria Australia
satine14@bigpond.com

"As a member of the ME-List for the last 5 years I would actively seek out Peter's posts even when life was too busy to read them all. His thoughts, advice and opinions were always well thought out, considerate and enlightening. My deepest sympathy to his family and know that your husband/father meant a lot to parents and carers throughout the world. Peter, although we never met, I will miss you. Kelley in Australia"



12-Nov-05
Liz Starr,
Windsor, Ontario
estarr@uwindsor.ca

"I was shocked and saddened to receive the email about Peter's death. What a tragic loss of such a warm, intelligent human being, who offered so much to the world--particularly in the world of autism. I first met Peter at a CAIRN conference I believe, and immediately felt him to be a friend. When I visited Montreal I called him and he picked me, and a friend of mine up, gave us a little tour of Outrement and we had a memorable lunch at a mussels restaurant with Line and Jeremie. It was a wonderful day. As I read through the guest book I see what an amazing reach Peter had! Peter was so energetic and so committed to working to improve the lives of people with autism and their families. My sincere condolences to his family. He will be sorely missed."



12-Nov-05
Wanda Reynolds,
New Brunswick
pollockwanda@hotmail.com

"I am sorry I had received this notice a little late. But the Autism Society has lost a good person on their team. "



12-Nov-05
Autism Society Manitoba,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
asm@mts.net

"On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of Autism Society Manitoba, we would like to extend our sincere condolences to Peter's family. Peter was very well respected in the Autism Community, not only in Canada but internationally as well. His determination and drive for the quality of life for all Canadians with ASD will not be forgotten, nor will Peter. He was a man who dedicated so much of his life educating, supporting, assisting and advocating for so many individuals with ASD and their families. He will be missed and he will be remembered by those who's lives he touched in many ways for years to come.."



13-Nov-05
Karl Smith,
Columbia, SC, USA
ksmith@dttrainer.com

"As another parent that is trying to make a difference, it feels like we have lost a shining star. Peter saw the possibilities and helped get things done. I am sure that many children would have very different lives if it were not for Peter. Our kids need so much help and it takes people like Peter to make it happen. He was a warm, caring, funny, and an all around great guy. It really sucks to lose him. I hope his family knows how much Peter meant to the autism community. I know that sometimes giving as much as Peter did meant sacrifices for his family. I know that we can never replace Peter for you, but if there is anything that your family needs, please do not hesitate to ask. I do not mean this for just now, but over the years where Peter will not be there for you. He made a difference for us... we need to make a difference for you. Karl Smith Accelerations Educational Software "



13-Nov-05
Michelle Cohen,
West Chester, Pennsylvania
micohen@mindspring.com

"I have known Peter for 11 years and he helped create the best data base for families of children with autism. He was a champion and helped me with my daughter and our family when we were going through legal difficulties with our school district. He devoted his time and passion to every family with autism on the ME-List. He will be truly missed. "



14-Nov-05
Séverine,
Grenoble, France
severine.joumard@neuf.fr

"Bonjour, Je suis une ancienne élève de Peter. Sa rencontre, nos échanges, sa spontanéité, son intérêt pour les autres ont été pour moi une vraie leçon de vie. Son départ prématurée me rempli de peine. Mes pensées vont à sa famille, et plus particulièrement à sa femme et son fils que j'ai rencontré lorsque Peter l'enmenait exceptionnellement en classe. Je vous souhaite de traverser cette épreuve difficile entourés et en gardant l'espoir que Peter semblait avoir inconditionnellement en lui. Je n'étais pas une proche mais Peter m'a donné la foi en l'Homme. Merci Peter d'avoir été l'homme que tu as été. Séverine."



14-Nov-05
Denise Thomson,
Edmonton, Alberta
dthomson@ualberta.ca

"I am writing on behalf of a group of researchers that is currently putting together an autism research project. Peter Zwack joined our group for several meetings. Although our acquaintance with Peter was very short, we gained enormous benefit from it. He contributed to all the aspects of our project - defining the questions, working out the methodology, and, most especially, fine-tuning the relevance of our work for families of individuals with autism. The breadth of his expertise was immediately clear to us. We became very fond of Peter, and were greatly saddened to hear first of his illness and then of his passing. We can readily imagine how much he will be missed by his family, friends, and the international autism community."



15-Nov-05
Caroline Weber, Director General, Office for Disability Issues,
Gatineau, QC
caroline.weber@sdsc-dsc.gc.ca

"The Office for Disability Issues, Social Development Canada, offers its sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Peter Zwack, and to the community he served. He was a great Canadian who dedicated many years of his life to advance knowledge and awareness of autism and the related spectrum of disorders. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. "



17-Nov-05
Steve M. Solomon,
Jerusalem, Israel
steve-s@jerusalem-foundation.org

"After recovering from the shock of learning of the tragic death of Peter, I began to reflect on my relationship with Peter which spanned close to twenty years. I first came to know Peter as the father of a young son , Jeremy, living with the challenge of autism. At the time, I was the new CEO of the Miriam Home & Services Centre , in Montreal. Peter impressed me, and all who knew him, with his quiet dedication and perseverance to create the best life , first for his son Jeremy, then as a loving husband to Line and ultimately, as a champion for others struggling to learn of the best treatment approaches, their latest in research and the right to receive governmental and NGO services for those dealing with Autism. Peter, who could have been angry with his lot, angry with service providers, angry with governments. But Peter, if he was angry, never allowed it to overshadow his assertion of the rights of Jeremy and of family caregivers, to raise sons & daughters with no fewer rights than those of us with children not challenged by Autism. And Peter's perseverance worked - for him, for Line, for Jeremy & for thousands of others in Montreal, in Quebec and throughout the world! One of my favorite memories of Peter , was when he & I took our sons to attend a game of the (late) Montreal Expos Baseball Club at Montreal's Olympic Stadium. Taking Jeremy to such a noisy environment with multiple stimuli was the ultimate statement & commitment to Jeremy's living a normal life. Well, our boys and Peter & I had a great experience at the "Big O" , and I saw first hand that Peter's belief in Jeremy and in his approach to helping Jeremy, worked ! I will always remember the grace, the positive attitude and the tirelessness of Peter Zwack. He was an inspiration to me ! My condolences to Line, to Jeremy and to all who loved him. May his soul be bound up in the bonds of everlasting life. Steve "



18-Nov-05
Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador,
St. John's, Newfoundland
info@autismsociety.nf.net

"The Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador wishes to express its sorrow at the death of Peter Zwack. He will be remembered for the leadership, dedication and intelligence he brought to his many roles in the autism community. He will also be remembered as a kind and thoughtful friend to many people in many circumstances. The Society wishes also to express its condolences

to his wife and son. Elizabeth Oliver, Secretary ASNL"



19-Nov-05
Suzanne LaBelle,
Saint John, New Brunswick
twosome@nbnet.nb.ca

"I am sorry to writing so late, but I too, lost a loved one the same day that Dr. Zwack passed away. Before my son was diagnosed, I remember doing all the research I could, and coming across news paper articles about Dr. Zwack and autism, in the Montreal Gazette. It helped me to learn more about autism and sadly, I learned about the lack of services and treatment. He certainly was a champion. He not only spoke for other families, but inspired them to speak up and demand more services for their families. I hope that it will comfort his family and friends to know that he did make a positive difference in this world, and his work will be remembered for a long time to come. Thank you. Suzanne LaBelle"



26-Nov-05
Pamela Gonzalez,
Brussels(Belgium)
pamelagonzalez@tiscali.be

"Je viens d'apprendre la triste nouvelle et je présente mes plus sincères condoléances à la famille de Mr. Zwack. "



28-Nov-05
Georges Huard,
Montréal Québec
ghuard@sca.uqam.ca

"I want to say, that I am deeply saddened by the loss of Peter Zwack, and offer my condolences to his family and loved ones. I want to thank him for all the efforts he put in advancing the cause of people with Autism Spectrum Disorders. His championing of scientifically proven methods was a great influence on the mindset of those who care for people with autism. I especially want to thank him for his efforts of bettering the life of my brother, Antoine, who has Kanner autism. He was removed from the grip of a psychiatric institutions, and placed in a more productive environment where he even works in a sheltered workshop. Peter Zwack has empowered us to change the life of people with autism for the better. The best form of respect we can show to Peter Zwack, is to continue his work, and help people with ASD participate in society."



29-Nov-05
Linda J. Smith,
Halifax, NS
smithlj@gov.ns.ca

"I have recently learned of the sudden loss of your president, Peter Zwack. On behalf of Nova Scotia's Department of Health-Mental Health, Children's Services and Addiction Treatment Branch, I would like to express our condolences. I was well aware of Dr. Zwack's long standing commitment to the needs of those diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder. I know your organization has benefited from his devotion and enthusiasm and that he will be greatly missed. Again, please accept our sympathy at this time"



29-Nov-05
Nathalie Burlone,
Gatineau

"J'ai été profondément attristée du départ de Peter Zwack. Je me suis occupée de Jérémie pour une courte période pendant mes études de baccalauréat et cette expérience ne m'a jamais quittée. Cette famille est un bel exemple de courage, de détermination et de joie. Toutes mes pensées vont à Line et Jérémie."



05-Dec-05
Christophe POIRIER,
Toulouse, France
christophe.poirier@meteo.fr

"C'est avec stupeur (et avec 1 mois de retard) que j'apprend le décès de Peter. Je l'ai cotôyé à l'Ecole Nationale de la Météorologie en 1994/1995 lorsqu'il était venu nous présenter ses travaux sur l'état de balance atmosphérique. A l'époque, j'étais enseignant à l'ENM. Je garderais le souvenir de quelqu'un de très gentil et d'immensément intéressant et pédagogue. Toulouse, le 5 décembre 2005, Christophe POIRIER Prévisionniste de Météo-France"



06-Dec-05
Gail Wyatt,
Sherwood Park, Alberta
gwyatt@compusmart.ab.ca

"I was so very sad to learn that Peter has passed away. As a former ASC board member I certainly recognized his significant contributions to this organization. His dedication and commitment were phenomenal. I especially appreciated his insight into the world of research given the challenges of moving that agenda forward. I also recall that Peter was very personable and approachable. I remember one evening we all went out for supper following a very long day of ASC meetings. Business was put aside and it was a chance for all of us to get to know one another. I recall Peter

proudly showing pictures of his family from their vacation (beaches and palm trees). I also recall that Peter looked forward to a good glass of wine. He shared some of his memories of living in Edmonton on Whyte Avenue. He also shared his observations of how terrible he found the "Prairie" francais. He appeared to enjoy life and make the most of what time he had. It is a shame that time was so short! I am grateful I had the opportunity to meet him. My sincerest condolences to his family. Gail "



Dec-05

Ginette Côté, présidente

ginettecote@ccapcable.com

Fédération québécoise de l'autisme et des autres troubles envahissants du développement

J'avais adressé un message à Peter lorsque j'ai appris sa maladie l'automne dernier. «Prends bien soin de toi, nous n'avons pas les moyens de perdre un guerrier de la première heure comme toi.» Pourtant, nous l'avons perdu ce guerrier de la première heure, celui qui a été un guide pour beaucoup d'entre nous. J'ai connu Peter à mes débuts à la Société québécoise de l'autisme. Il était déjà à mes yeux un personnage impressionnant, alors que j'y arrivais avec mes expériences d'un gamin de 4 ou 5 ans . Je crois qu'il revenait de Toulouse où il venait de séjourner une année avec sa famille. Je l'ai abordé lors d'un congrès ou d'un séminaire en lui disant que j'avais entendu parler de lui. Sourires et jasette et puis nous nous sommes connus davantage au fil des ans, alors qu'il est devenu président à Société québécoise de l'autisme. Nous avons combiné nos expériences politiques et communicationnelles pour faire avancer une cause en laquelle nous croyions fermement. Nos façons de faire divergeaient parfois, mais nos convictions profondes nous ont amené à travailler ensemble à maintes occasions pour faire avancer la cause de nos enfants. J'ai beaucoup appris au contact de Peter, comme plusieurs d'entre nous. Il a été un précurseur à plusieurs égards pour faire reconnaître l'importance de la stimulation précoce infantile, pour défendre les personnes autistes placées en institution ou pour faire reconnaître l'expertise d'ailleurs. Nous sommes nombreux aujourd'hui à reconnaître la qualité de l'homme et de son engagement. Je souhaite sincèrement qu'à l'aube de l'année nouvelle, les énergies combinées de toutes les personnes qui, comme lui, croient dans un avenir de qualité pour la personne atteinte d'autisme ou d'un autre trouble envahissant du développement, feront la différence.

Au revoir Peter, mes plus sincères condoléances à ta famille.

