

Convicted **pedophile** on board of **Quebec** children's centre

Phil Couvrette, CanWest News Service

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A convicted **pedophile** was on the board of a centre housing intellectually handicapped children until he was confronted by one of his victims earlier this month.

The head of the Centre Louise Bibeau in St-Hyacinthe, 65 kilometres east of Montreal, learned about the man's priors from someone who had come to register her child at the facility.

Josiane Deslandes, 28, said she was sexually assaulted by Yves Plante, then her mother's boyfriend, for three years from the age of eight and testified at the closed hearing that put him away for 4 1/2 years.

He actually served a year and seven months and, when Deslandes took her three-year-old daughter to register her on June 5, Plante was the one who opened the door.

"Shock does not start to describe what I felt," said Deslandes, who had just ended a year of therapy that day and had come to the centre to find some support to raise her handicapped daughter.

"Seeing him that day answered the question I was asking myself: are you really healed?" she said.

Deslandes immediately asked to see the head of the centre, Sylvie Gazaille, storming into her office. "The man who just opened the door for me is called Yves Plante and he was my aggressor for three years . . . what is he doing here?" she recalled asking Gazaille.

The news came as a shock to members of the centre's board. "It was like the world flipped upside down," said board member Daniel Lanoie.

Soon after Deslandes notified the board, Plante was told to "cease his activities" at the centre, said Lanoie.

Plante officially quit his post last week at the end of his mandate, which was to oversee the reconstruction of the building, he said. "He was not in contact with children, but he was still here."

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