

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND**

Dear members,

It is only today that I am able to pay tribute to a friend and colleague who killed himself on Tuesday of last week. This tribute is for Me Eugène Abarrategui, lawyer at the AGESSS but above all, tireless defender of the middle managers of our network.

Why only today? We were, Nathalie, our counsellor and I, with him in the afternoon of this fateful day, for hours, listening to him, encouraging him, valuing him and trying to give him hope. To learn of his departure was a brutal shock for us.

Beyond the competition between our two associations, the fact remains that we are all humans who work to defend you, help you and support you in difficult times.

At a certain distant time, I was Eugene's boss and his tutor as an aspiring lawyer. He was a brilliant, rigorous and incisive lawyer. We could have intense debates with him and I, but we still had deep respect for each other, knowing that we both had the same passion for defending you.

Last October, I saw that Eugène was not doing well. The APER, Nathalie and I, we welcomed him and we gave him the mandate to represent you on the professional relations committee of the MSSS for the negotiation of your working conditions' bylaw.

He was the ideal person to represent you having spent 35 years of his life dissecting, defending, attacking this bylaw and even, writing a book which today is The ultimate reference, even for our human resources departments.

We valued and kept him busy during a difficult period of his life. His former employer struggled to prevent him from doing so for reasons that belong to them and despite having retired 2 years ago.

The departure of Eugène is more than the departure of a fierce defender of middle managers in the health and social services network, it is also the departure of the memory of our network. He was an inexhaustible source of information in this regard.

Beyond the competition that drives us every day, I could not ignore the departure of a great defender and a friend.

Rest in peace Eugène.

Me Anne-Marie Chiquette