

Montréal, April 17th, 2014

Dr. Thomas J. Parsons

Director of Forensic Science

Mr. René Huel

Head of DNA Laboratories Division

International Commission on Missing Persons

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Object: Recognition for your help in our mass fatalities identifications.

Dear Dr. Parsons and Mr. Huel,

As you know, Québec province had to deal with two mass fatalities during the last year. Those two events happened in extreme climate conditions: July 2013, with temperatures reaching 40°C and January 2014, with temperatures as low as -40°C considering the winds. Those conditions made difficult the retrieval of bodies and remains for the staff that were on the sites.

In both events, intense fire occurred and severely burned remains were obtained from the scenes, leading to some identification issues. Your organisation was referred to us as a state-of-the-art laboratory for bone DNA analysis. As a matter of fact, your analyses were able to resolve some commingling issues during our identification process. Moreover, our face-to-face meeting in Australia, Dr. Parsons, and the many calls and e-mail exchanges made the process easy, even if our laboratories are far apart, in Canada and Bosnia and Herzegovina. This collaboration between our countries showed that boundaries don't matter anymore and is a good example of international networking.

The *Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale*, is grateful to you Dr. Parsons and Mr. Huel, for the help that the ICMP brought to our lab. Your support in these tragic events gave hope to the families as some remains, identified by your team, could be returned to their loved ones. Please accept, Dr. Parsons and Mr. Huel, my highest commendation.

Sincerely yours,

Diane Séguin

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