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COMMUNIQUÉ

Dr. Gauthier receives kudos as she leaves Task Force

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 10, Enniskó:wa/March 2021) The Kahnawà:ke COVID-19 Task Force wishes to thank Dr. Annick Gauthier, MD, CM, PhD, BSc, CCFP, for her exemplary service to the community as she steps away from her duties as the Medical Advisor to the Task Force.

Dr. Gauthier informed the Task Force yesterday that she will be refocusing her energies to serving her clients. As many are aware, she is a family physician at the Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre (KMHC), as well as at the St. Mary's Family Medicine Center.

She has been the Medical Advisor since March 2020.

“Dr. Gauthier has been a key part of our team,” said Lloyd Phillips, Head of the Task Force. “As a virologist, she provided the Task Force with top notch insight into the virus. She was hugely instrumental in providing our community with the most up-to-date and reliable information possible, which also had the positive effect of building trust in the difficult decisions that the Task Force had to make during the pandemic. We were very fortunate to have her on board.”

“Information and, specifically, *science*, is the most important tool in the battle against COVID-19,” added KMHC Executive Director Lisa Westaway. “Dr. Gauthier has helped give us the right tools we need to continue fighting this virus as a community. The entire Task Force appreciates her dedication, expertise and the obvious care she has shown for this community.”

“On behalf of the community, I'd like to say ‘Niawenhkó:wa’ to Dr. Gauthier for a job well done,” said Ratsénhaienhs Clinton Phillips, who is the alternate MCK Liaison to the Task Force. “Our community has managed to keep our numbers relatively low in comparison to other communities. She had an important role in keeping our vulnerable population safe.”

Information will be provided shortly regarding a replacement as Medical Advisor to the Task Force as we roll out the vaccination campaign and move into a new phase of the pandemic.