

Bill 30: The government appeals the Superior Court decision

On December 21, the Quebec government announced that it would lodge an appeal against the Superior Court decision declaring Bill 30 to be unconstitutional. The FIQ laments this decision which demonstrates, once again, that the government is incapable of recognizing and correcting its errors. Yet, when the Court decision was issued, the government had declared that it would resume talks with union organisations in order to find a middle ground.

Insidious privatisation of the public health system

Shortly before the Holiday season, as is customary, the Quebec government revealed its proposed regulation concerning specialized medical treatments offered in specialized medical centres (SMC). By means of this regulation introduced by Ministre Couillard, many surgeries will now be practised by the private sector, that is in specialized medical centres. The Federation was rightfully concerned when it said that it feared that the list of surgeries which could be performed by specialized medical centres could be modified by mere ministerial regulation. Thus, on December 21, the FIQ sent the MSSS comments on this proposed regulation which it considers to be totally unacceptable.

The SISP participates in the distribution of *MédiaMatinQuébec*

In addition to the substantial financial support offered to the employees of the *Journal de Québec* under lock-out since April 22, 2007, before the Christmas break, the FIQ participated in the distribution of *MédiaMatinQuébec*. This daily was produced at the initiative of these locked-out employees. In addition to being an instrument of communication, it is a pressure tactic in view of a negotiated agreement between the unions of the *Journal de Québec* and Quebecor. On December 20, union leaders and employees of SISP union organisations took part in this distribution in the streets of the capital city.



Photo : Jean-Claude Tremblay <www.mediamatinquebec.com>

From left to right: Réjean Parent (CSQ President), Lina Bonamie (FIQ President), Dominique Verreault (APTS President), Rollande Vézina (locked-out employee of the Journal de Québec), Michel Sawyer (SFPQ President) and Gilles Dussault (SPGQ President).

Table on workforce planning: the FIQ on three sub-committees

On January 21, three sub-committees of the *Table nationale du projet de main-d'œuvre pour le réseau de la santé et des services sociaux* (Quebec workforce planning group for the health and social services) will begin their work. The FIQ will sit on these sub-committees whose focuses are the organisation of work, working conditions, including conditions of practice, and continuing professional training. A Quebec-wide workforce plan will be presented to the MSSS authorities by next March 31.

Happy New Year 2008!

The Executive Committee and the staff of the Federation wish all care professionals happiness, health and solidarity for the year 2008.