

Minister Couillard announces measures for attraction and retention

“These measures are interesting but insufficient to truly have an impact on the attraction and retention of nurses,” was the initial reaction of Lina Bonamie, President of the FIQ, after Minister Couillard’s announcement. The FIQ sounded the alarm a long time ago and it’s high time that action be taken. The Minister announced an injection of 80 million dollars. This amount includes the 37 million dollars allotted for the premiums for critical care nurses. This does not leave much money for the purchase of equipment, pilot projects and the creation of positions. The Minister repeated on many occasions that he wanted to grant full-time positions. The Minister will undoubtedly have to speak to network employers since, until now, the majority of employers even refuse to create positions of two days per week, for lack of financial means, they claim. Indeed, the creation of full-time positions is far from done.

Recognition of the Quebec nation: Union organisations ask that Stephen Harper take action



Union organisations, including the FIQ, joined the Bloc québécois in asking that Stephen Harper take action for the recognition of the Quebec nation

“When he identified Québec as a nation, Prime Minister Stephen Harper recognized that the problems which Quebec faces are not the same as those of the other Canadian provinces. But, to face up to these challenges, Québec must dispose of the tools which it needs for the development of its culture, its immigration policy and the protection of its language. The Conservatives thus opened up a door, but they refused to go past the threshold,” stated Lina Bonamie, the President of the FIQ.

Demonstration for the 3rd anniversary of the Chaoulli decision



Photo : Daniel Mallette - FTQ

Almost 300 people participated in the demonstration organized on the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in the Chaoulli case. Around thirty FIQ activists were present. The *Coalition Solidarité Santé* had invited its partners to attend this rally on June 9 in front of the premises of the Rockland MD private medical clinic to demonstrate their support for public, free and universal health services, and to highlight the fact that this historical judgement is an important breach which opens the door to the privatization of the Quebec health-care system.

Summer Period

FIQ Express will continue during the summer period, however, it will not be published every two weeks. Look for a new issue online on Wednesday, July 23 and another on Wednesday August 20.

Beginning on September 3, FIQ Express will return to the normal schedule and will be online every second Wednesday.

Have a good summer period!