



Kickoff to the 8th Convention of the FIQ

“For the past 20 years, the Convention has allowed the Federation’s activists to reflect together and map out the paths to be taken in the pursuit of a common goal – to improve the living conditions of the members represented by the FIQ, as well as those of women, families and the Quebec population in general. This 8th Convention is especially important, because it is the first to be held under the FIQ banner.”

Lina Bonamie, President of the FIQ

Orientation for the years ahead

For the FIQ to remain a progressive organization, in the vanguard of the Quebec labour movement, it is time to take a moment to reflect, with the aim, once and for all, of reversing this offensive by neoliberal governments, which are seeking to demolish the acquired rights of care professionals. For the FIQ to remain a strong, living organization of which its members are proud, it is time to unite our forces to “renew our action together”.

Activity reports of the sectors, services and committees

As the activity report presented today shows, the efforts, energy and work of over 200 employees divided into 13 sectors and services have been applied over the past three years to allow the FIQ to achieve its goals. Constant efforts and innovation, struggles and demands, alliances and solidarity, pitfalls and victories – all this has been part of everyday life for the FIQ, which has been active not only with health professionals but in the major social debates and in the struggles to stop the neoliberal tornado.

Solidarity – new practices

Francine Néméh, guest speaker and director of CISO, made a plea for a commitment by everyone to social justice. Two phenomena require action by progressive forces – the effects on populations of the war on terrorism and the global free trade agreements. She called for union of political, community and union forces and sociopolitical education. “To feel concerned, we need to understand,” she emphasized.

In solidarity, the delegates decided to take more positions on major national and international issues and increase the presence of union speakers from foreign countries to contribute to these debates. They also decided to initiate international cooperation projects and to facilitate participation by nursing and cardiorespiratory care graduates in cooperation internships. The delegates also want to encourage participation by the FIQ’s youth members in international cooperation internships and missions.

Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU)

The delegates had the opportunity to hear Linda Silas, President of the CFNU, who gave an overview of the reality of nurses in Canada. Nursing shortages and excess workload seem to be everyone’s plight.

However, there is some good news: nursing students are now members of the CFNU, without having to pay dues.



On tomorrow’s agenda

Close of nominations

Panel: *Crisis of the labour movement and new avenues*

Youth Committee: outlook

Collectif Québec sans pauvreté: conference