

An urgent meeting with Minister Bolduc

Following a reporter's story about the fees charged by a private clinic on the programme, *La Facture*, aired on Radio-Canada last week, the Secrétariat intersyndical des services publics (SISP), of which the FIQ is a member, asked for an urgent meeting with Yves Bolduc, Minister of Health and Social Services. Preoccupied and concerned with some of the orientations and examples that are accumulating and encouraging more privatization of the Quebec health-care system, the SISP wants to know the minister's real position on maintaining the public character of the health-care network and respecting fairness in access to care.



The struggle for another world

Michèle Boisclair, Vice-President and Suzanne Lavoie, Secretary, the FIQ representatives at the World Social Forum were part of the 100,000 participants at the 9th edition of this forum which was held in Belém, Brazil. All the workshops and activities focused on reaching the objectives of the Forum which were, among others:

- to build a world of peace, justice, ethics and respectful of various religious beliefs, without weapons;
- to free the world from capitalist domination, multinationals, imperialist and patriarchal domination and from unfair trade systems, to cancel the debt of impoverished countries;
- to build and develop political and economic structures and institutions that are truly democratic, with the full participation of the people in decisions and to control public resources.



Such large objectives can sometimes seem like a burden, but the large number of people and organizations who are members are paving the way to changes in the future. The FIQ representatives will present a summary of their participation at the next Federal Council.

Less poverty. More health

The *Collectif pour un Québec sans pauvreté* is holding a Quebec-wide week of action under the theme of health and social services within its *Mission collective : Bâtir un Québec sans pauvreté* campaign from February 23-27, 2009. The FIQ is joining the efforts of the *Collectif* and is asking the National Assembly to implement the spirit of the Law to fight against poverty and social exclusion and is asking its members to sign the petition cards demanding the following measures:

- Access to free, quality, universal public services for all citizens, specifically by free medications and an increase in the financing of first line services.
- A minimum wage set at 10.16\$/hour which is reviewed annually
- Increase in public protections and adjusted annually in order to insure an income at least equal to the market basket measure.

The petition is available on line at:
<www.pauvrete.qc.ca>.

On the agenda

Federal Council

March 23, 24 and 25, in St-Hyacinthe

Special Federal Council on negotiations

March 25, 26 and 27, in St-Hyacinthe