

Quebec Parliament resumes The SISP issues orientations

On March 9th, on the eve of the reopening of Parliament, the union leaders of the *Secrétariat intersyndical des services publics* (SISP), including the FIQ president, made public an important statement in response to the financial crisis, which has become an economic crisis and a social justice crisis. This statement, entitled, *De la parole aux gestes*, contains clear and essential orientations for putting Quebec back on track. The SISP demands that the Quebec government focus its efforts on sustainable development, sharing of the collective wealth and improving access to quality public services. The demands on the next Parliamentary session address six domains of intervention.

For more information: <www.sisp.qc.net>

Meeting with Minister Bolduc Insufficient guarantees

The urgent meeting solicited by the SISP with the Minister of Health and Social Services, Yves Bolduc, took place March 9th. The discussions and information received did not meet the preoccupations of the SISP concerning the privatization of the Quebec

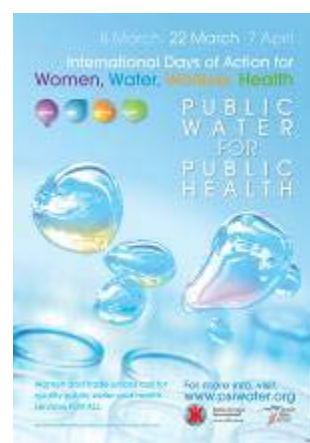
health care system. Following this meeting, the SISP therefore filed, in Superior Court, a motion to quash in order to have the Regulation respecting the specialized medical treatments provided in specialized medical centers declared illegal. The Regulation covered by the motion allows about fifty additional surgeries to be performed in private specialized medical centers besides the hip, knee and cataract surgeries already approved. For the SISP, this regulation goes beyond what is permitted by the Act respecting health services and social services as well as by Bill 33. Filing this motion is aimed at pressuring the Quebec government to stop the legalization of the private sector.

“Women, water, workers, health”

Public Services International (PSI), of which FIQ is a member, is organizing an international campaign entitled *Women, Water, Workers, Health*.

Three days of mobilization are planned. The first is March 8, International Women’s Day. The next two are March 22, World Water Day and April 7, World Health Day.

To find out more and see the tools:
<www.psiwater.org>



Closing of the Commission on the Status of Women at the UNO

Since the opening of the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UNO, the member States and the non governmental organizations present at the meetings worked relentlessly to put forward amendments to the proposed conclusions, so that, in some cases, they better protect women’s rights to equality and, in other cases, to limit their obligations on this subject. After two weeks of debates and intensive lobbying, the agreed upon conclusions were passed by consensus on March 13th. Thanks, in large part, to societal pressures these conclusions offer the women’s movement and social organizations a tool to force governments to respect their obligations in respect to the sharing of responsibilities between men and women.



The union delegation, composed of Public Services International (PSI), Education International (EI) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) who attended the 53rd session of the CSW at the UNO.

Watch for

03.19.09

Tabling of the Quebec government’s budget.

On the agenda

23 to 03.27.09

Federal Council and Special Federal Council in St-Hyacinthe. On the agenda: follow-up of the organization of work plan of action, May 1st demonstration, fight against privatization, Youth Committee, SISP, Quebec negotiations.

03.24.09

The Youth Committee is holding a happy hour on the conciliation of family-work during the next Federal Council. This meeting will enable the young delegates age 30 or under to clarify the expectations of the new generations and to discuss the various possible solutions.