

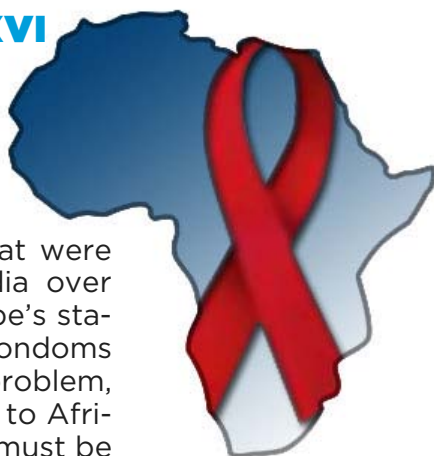
The FIQ demonstrates against the PPP's during the call for tenders for the construction of the CHUM

On March 30th, about thirty FIQ activists demonstrated in front of the offices where Premier Charest announced the start of the process of searching for private partners in the construction of the CHUM. The FIQ regrets that the government insists on electing for a public-private partnership (PPP) which, according to many experts, will cost taxpayers more. In spite of all the warnings given to the government over the last few months, the Charest government remains stubborn about moving on with this risky formula. The number of appeals for a return to the conventional procedure have been numerous, coming from labour organizations and also physicians from the CHUM, architects and economists.



The FIQ denounces the words of Pope Benedict XVI

The FIQ approached Monseigneur Veillette to make him aware of its indignation over certain statements made by Pope Benedict XVI that were reported by various media over the last few days. The Pope's statements, on the use of condoms aggravating the AIDS problem, made right before his trip to Africa, are unacceptable and must be denounced. The Federation can only disagree with such a statement considering the existing knowledge on the spread of this deadly disease and its impact on whole populations. To think that abstinence can be an effective solution when people are at risk of being completely decimated by this disease is irresponsible.



The consultation process for the next round of negotiations has started

All FIQ members will be asked to attend general assemblies in the coming weeks. They will be consulted on the sectorial priorities which specifically affect care professionals as well as on the intersectorial demands: salaries, retirement, parental leaves and regional disparities. The *FIQ en Action* which the members will receive around April 13 by mail, contains all the necessary information required for an informed vote. In addition, an electronic version of the *FIQ en Action* is available on the FIQ web site as of April 1st.

A General Assembly not to be missed!

FIQ participation in a Quebec/Haiti union and community mission

From April 1 to 8, 2009 the FIQ is joining the project developed by the *Fédération des travailleurs et des travailleuses du Québec* (FTQ) to collaborate in the organization and animation of a training session for Haitian nurses and representatives of their union, the *Syndicat du Personnel Infirmier* (SPI). This is an opportunity to discuss the various components of nursing practice, to see the Haitian medical system and to create new alliances in support of their efforts in getting a voice for Haitian workers. Murielle Tessier and Karine Crépeau, Union Consultants, will represent the FIQ on this mission.