

Demonstration on March 20, 2010

Together for public services

“Never has the first day of spring been so green” the moderator proudly chanted before 75,000 demonstrators who showed the colours of the SISP-CSN-FTQ Common Front Saturday afternoon in front of the Montreal office of Premier Charest.



Thousands of workers from the civil service, the health and education sectors claimed loud and clear their discontent regarding the abysmal working conditions which continue to exist in the public sector. They also denounced the increasing disengagement of the State in the maintaining of quality public services and the lagging negotiations at the central table.

At this historic demonstration, the three spokespersons of the Common Front, Dominique Verreault (SISP), Claudette Carbonneau (CSN) and Michel Arseneault (FTQ) accepted the challenge launched the day



before by Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, President of the *Conseil de Trésor*, for a negotiations sprint until March 31, 2010. However, they reminded the government that, in spite of their willingness to negotiate, the public sector workers are not expecting to live off love and water alone. The proposals put on the table must be sufficiently substantial to uphold and adequately develop public services.

Walkout by the nurses at Charles-Lemoyne and Pierre-Boucher Hospitals in Longueuil

Like their colleagues at Maisonneuve-Rosemont and Haut-Richelieu, some nurses from the Charles-Lemoyne and Pierre Boucher Hospitals in Longueuil refused to start work on the weekend to protest against the obligation to work mandatory overtime, which they have been subjected to more or less systematically.

Hélène Roussel, a nurse at *Hôpital Charles-Lemoyne* and Régine Laurent, President of the Fédération, granted an interview to Anne-Marie Dussault, Journalist. Hélène Roussel testified to the intimidation to which she and her colleagues are sometimes subjected and to the professional burnout that such personnel management measures cause. Ms Roussel explained that she was called to work mandatory overtime once or twice a week, with barely 30 minutes notice.

Ms Laurent took advantage of *Téléjournal-Midi* to comment on the words of Paul Brunet, President of the *Conseil de la protection des malades* (Council for the protection of patients), who believes that the problems are not due to a labour shortage, but to poor management of personnel. Although the management practiced by several institutions should be questioned, the nursing shortage is definitely real, stated the president of the FIQ.

More than 6,000 followers of FIQ on Facebook



The bar for the 6,000 followers of the FIQ Facebook page has been easily crossed. The Federation’s page has been systematically updated since its launching at the beginning of 2010 in such a way as to offer a source of information on current events for its followers. It is a place for enlightened exchange and discussion on the difficulties linked to the current working conditions of the care professionals in healthcare. Numerous solutions have been formulated to counteract the problem of attraction and retention of the labour force and to assure the survival of a quality and accessible public health network.

<www.facebook.com/FIQSante>

Calendar – Mobilization

March
 Members wear the armband
 Members wear the temporary transfer in the style of a tattoo
 Massive emails targeted to a person in power (Charest, Gagnon-Tremblay, Bolduc)

March 29 and 30
 Special Federal Council: adoption of the Essential Services Policy

April 1st
 Demonstration organized by the *coalition opposée à la tarification et à la privatisation des services publics* (Coalition opposed to the pricing and privatization of public services)

More information at www.nonauxhausses.org