



# Express

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## International Workers Day celebration

Thousands of demonstrators gathered in many Quebec towns to mark International Workers Day which is celebrated every May 1<sup>st</sup> throughout the world. In Montreal, several FIQ members joined the march of protestors to denounce the repressive measures contained in the last budget from Raymond Bachand, Minister of Finance. The demonstrators demanded that the government abandon the setting up of deductible health, which would be financed by directly dipping into the wallets of taxpayers, regardless

of their income. They protested against the orientations of the Charest government in matters of health. Orientations that lead to the progressive erosion of an accessible, free and universal public network, in order to further promote the private sector.

Régine Laurent, President of the FIQ, also denounced more widely the more and more obvious dismantling of public services and the clear lack of willingness on the government's part to quickly conclude a negotiated settlement and settle the present crisis. The march ended after a final tribute to Michel Chartrand, a union activist who died in April.

To indicate their disagreement with the flat-tax measure for health, a group of citizens have launched a petition that is accessible on line.



## MP's asked to wear the mourning symbol

At the demonstration on April 29 in front of the Quebec Parliament Buildings, Pauline Marois, leader of the *Parti Québécois*, several members of Parliament from the *Parti Québécois*, and Amir Khadir, leader of *Québec solidaire* were invited by the FIQ delegates to spend a day in a Quebec health institution, in order to measure the gravity of the crisis that is rampant in the public network. The delegates personally gave a FIQ black T-shirt to the Members of Parliament, before inviting them to have a taste of the medicine that the Charest government is currently reserving for the nursing and cardio-respiratory professionals who work in the public network. At the end of the demonstration, a few of the Liberal Members of Parliament joined the FIQ members for lunch on the steps of the Parliament Building.



Linda Silas, President of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions also came to express the support of her organization, which includes 158,000 members across Canada, for the Quebec healthcare professionals.

## Adoption of the essential services policy

The adoption of the essential services policy is going well in the institutions, where a majority of unions have adopted it unanimously or with a strong majority. The negotiation of the essential services will continue until May 14 in general assemblies.

## Calendar - Mobilization

### May

#### Black Wednesdays

Wear a black T-shirt on Wednesdays

Wear the wristband, the armband and jeans

Wear a transfer in the style of a temporary tattoo

Concealment of the ID badge

Send bereavement cards to the institutions administrations and the Boards of Directors, regional health and social services agencies

Meeting with the employers in order to inform them of the management offers and to find out if these correspond to their demands

### May 14, 2010 - Common Front national day of action

Symbolic picketing in front of the workplaces