

Happy New Year 2012!

The entire FIQ Executive Committee wishes all 60,000 healthcare professional members of the Federation a happy 2012. Happiness and health for all!



Support for locked-out workers at Rio Tinto Alcan

From left to right: Louise Ménard, Union Consultant FIQ, Martine Côté, President of the SPSICR du CSSS de Chicoutimi, Marc Maltais, President of Local 9490 of the *Syndicat des Métallos*, and Lina Doré, President of the SPSS Lac Saint-Jean Est



On January 6, 2012, those locked out at the Rio Tinto Alcan Alma plant were visited by FIQ union representatives from the Saguenay - Lac-Saint-Jean region.

In addition to giving their profound solidarity to the workers, the representatives from the Federation took advantage of this opportunity to discuss the specific demands of the employees with Marc Maltais, President of Local 9490 of the *Syndicat des Métallos*. The Federation strongly condemns the employer's pressure tactic.

Health Accord

Harper offers a poisoned chalice

On December 19, Stephen Harper's government gave the provinces their Christmas present, which, in fact, turns out to be a poisoned chalice. The Federal Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty, enacted the Health Accord Plan and thus announced in the same breath that there will be no negotiations with the provinces. According to Régine Laurent, President of the FIQ, this situation is very disturbing and will considerably limit our capacity to meet the needs of the Quebec population in matters of health care.

Internship in Nicaragua

Submit your application!

Within the framework of the New Practices in Solidarity Programme at the FIQ, 9 activists will have the opportunity to get involved in international solidarity during an internship in Nicaragua, which will take place from April 16 to 25. The activities and meetings scheduled in the programme will allow them to deepen their knowledge of the issues raised between the countries of the North and of the South and to develop ties of solidarity with the Nicaraguan community. Activists interested in submitting their applications should consult the FIQ website at the following address: <www.fiqsante.qc.ca/stage-nicaragua>.

TRAC-FIQ de Laval et des Laurentides

A nice sharing gesture

A few days before Christmas, the Table régionale d'action et de concertation (*TRAC-FIQ*) de Laval et des Laurentides, (Laval and Laurentians Regional Action and Consensus-Building Table) in collaboration with the SPSICRAL (CSSS Antoine-Labelle) Youth Committee, made a nice sharing gesture with the less fortunate of the Mont-Laurier region. In fact, on December 20, the TRAC gave money, non-perishable food items and toys to the *Manne du Jour* organization.



Sylvie Dumoulin and Véronique Plouffe from SPSICRAL (CSSS Antoine-Labelle)

Manne du Jour is a non-profit organization which assists those less fortunate. Despite the fact that a fire damaged their office a few weeks ago, the organization still assisted 160 families over the holiday period. The TRAC will support this organization throughout 2012.

RREGOP - Annual statement

This fall, for the first time, all the participants in the Government and Public Employees Retirement Plan (RREGOP) in the health-care sector received an annual statement from the CARRA for the year ending December 31, 2009. It also supplied estimates of the pension annuity prior to and after age 65 for the majority of the participants.

In addition to this information, the CARRA supplies information on pension indexing, other sources of income at retirement, death as well as the contributions paid. An explanation sheet is attached to the statement in order to make it easier to understand.

From now on, the participants will receive an annual statement every year. Thus, an annual statement for the year ending December 31, 2010 will be sent in the fall of 2012.

It is important to validate the information in the annual statement and, if there are errors, you must contact the employer. This is a reference document so it should be kept in a safe place.

