

## Next round of negotiations:

### The political officers of the FIQ are meeting the president of the *conseil du trésor* (Treasury Board)

Last Thursday, September 18, Régine Laurent, President of the FIQ, as well as Daniel Gilbert and Nancy Bédard, both vice-presidents of the Federation and jointly responsible for the negotiations, were able to talk with Martin Coiteux, President of the *conseil du trésor*, about the negotiations which will begin in the fall, as well as with Yves Bolduc, who was present for the unions in the education sector, and Lucie Charlebois, the minister for Rehabilitation, Youth Protection and Public Health.

This meeting made it possible to have a better idea of the government's objectives and vision in this very important process for the members of the FIQ. The Federation also seized the opportunity to pass on its important messages to the president of the *conseil de trésor* and to the Minister of Health and Social Services, including its concerns about the major cutbacks currently being carried out throughout the network and about its expectations for Bill 90 which allows for more power for the healthcare professionals in the delivery of front-line health care.

Other labour organizations were also present, including the *Fédération autonome de l'enseignement* (FAE), with whom the FIQ jointly expressed its arguments for having a common table for the intersectoral matters in the upcoming negotiations.

## Massive cuts at the CSSS Haut-Richelieu-Rouville

### Sign the petition in great numbers!



The *Syndicat des professionnelles de la santé Haut-Richelieu/Rouville* (SPSHRR) recently launched an online petition in order to demand that the government force the administration of the institution to review its downsizing plan and to reverse its decision to abolish 80 healthcare professional positions. After the press conferences, the mobilization and the demonstrations, this petition is another action proposed by the team to stop the massive cuts at the *CSSS Haut-Richelieu-Rouville*. Sign it in great numbers at the following Web address:

<https://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/exprimez-votre-opinion/petition/Petition-4825/index.html>. The team is also expecting you for two demonstrations which will take place on September 29, the first at 13:00 and the second one at 17:00 in front of the *CLSC Vallée-des-forts* in *St-Jean-sur-Richelieu*. For more information, follow the FIQ Facebook page.

## The FIQ attends the PSI Global Trade Summit



On September 16 and 17, under the aegis of Public Services International (PSI), an international meeting of labour organizations representing public sector workers from all continents

was held in Washington. The purpose of this summit was to discuss the impacts of the various free-trade agreements on the privatization of the different public services, including health care, education and the management of drinking water. There was also a question of a lack of transparency surrounding these discussions, a factor that infringes on the right of citizens to be informed of the consequences of these agreements on their daily lives. The various conferences and attestations heard during these two days made it possible to clearly identify the negative effects of these agreements for the workers in the public service and for the population in general. The FIQ, which is affiliated with PSI, attended this event. At the press conference prior to the opening of the meeting, the 1st vice-president of the Federation, Line Larocque, spoke in the name of all the healthcare professionals that the FIQ represents.



### The FIQ in solidarity with the Coalition syndicale pour la libre négociation

At the major protest on September 20 last, the president of the FIQ, Régine Laurent, publicly showed her support for the *Coalition syndicale pour la libre négociation* which is fighting against Bill 3 which aims to reform the pension plans of municipal employees and which slashes the right of union bargaining. "Revisiting the agreements freely negotiated between the municipalities and their employees is an immoral action. Free bargaining is a cherished principle for Quebecers and which we believe in at the FIQ", she stated.

## Ebola virus - Be well informed!

Although there have been no confirmed cases in Québec and the experts agree that the risk is very low, the health authorities are on the alert for any illness related to the Ebola virus and are ready to intervene.

To preserve their health and safety, the healthcare professionals must take basic protective measures and additional measures have to be applied, as needed. You can consult the Infection Control Handbook on this subject on the FIQ website at: <http://www.fiqsante.qc.ca/infection-control-handbook>.

However it is always the responsibility of the institutions to have adequate protocols and to make the necessary information and material available. Do not hesitate to ask questions and to find out! To learn more, consult the document recently published by the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ): [http://www.inspq.qc.ca/pdf/publications/1875\\_Ebola\\_Prevention\\_Contrôle\\_Hopitaux.pdf](http://www.inspq.qc.ca/pdf/publications/1875_Ebola_Prevention_Contrôle_Hopitaux.pdf).