



Isabelle Hall, interim president of the *Syndicat des professionnelles en soins infirmiers et cardiorespiratoires du CSSS de la Haute-Côte-Nord-Manicouagan*, and Régine Laurent

Retention premium for the public sector employees

The FIQ launches a petition

On March 4, the president of the FIQ, Régine Laurent, was on the North Shore to launch a petition for maintaining the 8% retention premium for the public sector employees and extending it to the entire region, in line with the *mega institution* created by Bill 10. The FIQ wants to apply pressure on the Couillard government so that they will backtrack on their intention to abolish this premium, which will have dire consequences for the region.

The petition is sponsored by the Member for René-Lévesque and the Chief Whip for the official opposition, Marjolain Dufour.

“The Government does not seem to realize the damages that they are about to cause to the North Shore. The premium is necessary to ensure accessible public services and in particular to maintain safe, quality health care. I am inviting the healthcare professionals and the citizens of the region to make themselves heard by signing the petition in great numbers”, stated Ms Laurent.



In the evening, the FIQ invited the population of Baie-Comeau to a conference on “The impacts of austerity on our healthcare system and on women”. Given jointly by Régine Laurent, President of the FIQ, and Simon Tremblay-Pépin, Researcher at the IRIS, the event attracted several dozen people.

The petition can be signed at

<https://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/exprimez-votre-opinion/petition/Petition-5185/index.html>.

Visit to the Minister for the Status of Women



To mark International Women's Day, the union representatives of the FIQ and the *Fédération autonome de l'enseignement* (FAE) went to the office of Stéphanie Vallée, Minister for the Status of Women in Outaouais on March 9.

At the same time, their colleagues in other regions simultaneously visited the offices of their MNA's across Québec.

These symbolic actions were to denounce the austerity measures which are tainting the negotiation of the collective agreements of Government employees, in particular the teachers and the healthcare professionals, which are a majority of women.

Austerity seriously penalizes women

On March 2, following the unveiling of a study conducted by the *Institut de recherche et d'informations socio-économiques* (IRIS) on the austerity measures and women, the members of the *Collectif 8 mars*, in which the FIQ takes part, sounded the alarm on the seriousness of the situation.



“The IRIS study confirms a belief that we have had for a long time: the austerity measures penalize women more, even more so when they are poor, immigrants, racialized or living with a handicap”, stated Alexa Conradi, spokesperson for the *Collectif 8 mars* and president of the *Fédération des femmes du Québec* (FFQ).

A meeting of the members of the *Collectif 8 mars* with the Minister for the Status of Women, Stéphanie Vallée, is scheduled for this March 13.

The numbers of mass destruction



Don't miss the most recent blog of the president of the Federation, available at fiqsante.qc.ca/fr/contents/bloge/les-chiffres-de-destruction-massive.html.

On February 24 last, the SIAM-FIQ of *CSSS Ahuntsic et Montréal-Nord* held a special general assembly in light of the negotiation of the 2015 collective agreement.



The president of the FIQ, Régine Laurent, was present.