

13.5 minutes of picketing



To mark the expiration of their collective agreements, the members of the FIQ and the *Fédération autonome de l'enseignement* (FAE) conducted local, regional and provincial mobilization actions on March 31.



Noisy demonstrations took place in front of the health institutions and the schools. This symbolic picketing lasted 13.5 minutes, a nod to the 13.5% in salary catch-up that government employees are demanding.

The healthcare professionals took this opportunity to wear the sticker "BILL 10 - Sad day for the health network", to indicate their indignation with the coming into force on April 1 of an Act to modify the organization



and governance of the health and social services network, in particular by abolishing the regional agencies.



A press conference also took place at the FIQ head office in Montréal



Daniel Gilbert, Vice-President, FIQ

The healthcare professionals: the solution for safe and accessible care

On March 25 the FIQ presented its memorandum entitled - The healthcare professionals: the solution for safe and accessible care for all Quebecers - in response to Minister Barrette's Bill 20. Nancy Bédard, Vice-President, was accompanied by Christine Laliberté, a nurse practitioner specialized in front-line care to the FIQ presentation during the consultations. Ms Laliberté made a concrete, audacious and innovative proposal to the minister, that the staff in the clinic where she currently works completely change their organization of work, by focusing on a team of healthcare professionals and physicians who would work in close interprofessional collaboration and where the nurses would act as a tool of excellence. This clinic is called *Archimède*.



For all the details, consult the release by the FIQ published on March 25 on fiqsante.qc.ca.

In camera session for Leitaio budget - The FIQ fears the worse

On March 26, when the 2015-2016 budget of Minister Leitaio was tabled, the vice-president of the FIQ, Nancy Bédard, denounced the continued plundering of the health network. "It's worse than what we had announced and worse than anything we could have imagined. This budget is a disaster for the patients, for the care and for the workers in the health network. The Liberal government holds the sad record for the weakest growth in healthcare expenditures ever seen", she stated.

With only 1.4% growth in healthcare expenditures, not only is the Couillard government renegeing again on its electoral commitment, but it is backtracking on what it announced last year in the budget credits with a growth of 2.7% for 2015-2016. In effect, a growth in healthcare expenditures less than 4% represents cutbacks, because that does not cover the increase in the costs of the system. Without counting that two thirds of the growth in healthcare expenditures will go towards the salary increase for the physicians.

The FIQ meets the students at the *Université de Montréal*

Representatives of the Federation met with the students in nursing science at the *Université de Montréal* on March 23. Organized by their student association, this meeting-conference made it possible to address what is at the heart of the healthcare professionals' present concerns: the negotiation of the collective agreement and Bill 10. A meeting full of solidarity!