

# Political conferences

## “Exchanging ideas for better mobilization”



The FIQ and FIQP are pleased to offer members and union reps a series of conferences on several sociopolitical issues, which will help shape their roles as agents of social change and their efforts to improve the life and work of members. The eight presentations will provide perspective on political, social and economic topics, especially those related to the health and social services sector.

The FIQ and FIQP are proud to fuel members' and union reps' reflection in order to encourage them to take action and influence political decisions in anticipation of government initiatives.

Are you organizing a day of reflection? Do you want to raise awareness among your members? Our Sociopolitical Sector consultants would be happy to come meet your teams and give a free conference at your workplace. The conferences vary in length and include a discussion period.

To request a conference, fill out the online form available here.





## The health and social services budget: credits allocated to centres of activity



**Length:** 1 hour

The figures presented when the Finance Minister's budget was tabled seem remote from healthcare professionals' everyday experience. However, since the healthcare budget is by far the government's biggest, it is necessary to understand how resources are allocated, as it characterizes Quebec's health and social services network.

The main purpose of this conference is to explain the mechanisms used to determine budgets, from provincial to institutional budgets. This will enable you to:

- Decipher the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux's current budget;
- Better understand the budgetary cycle and its impact on how your managers make decisions;
- Understand and enhance the FIQ's various positions on the budget.



## Regional profile: beyond the walls of my institution



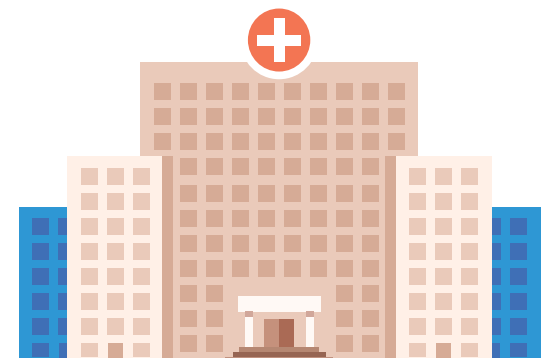
**Length:** 1.5 hours

The health and social services sector is one of the most important parts of a community. Healthcare professionals play an essential role due to the nature of their work, and see first-hand both the positive and negative effects of the decisions made by their managers and government officials.

The main objective of this conference is to provide an overview of health and social service issues in your region, as well as the specific needs of the population and available resources. After the conference, participants will:

- Have an overall picture of the health and social services system in their region;
- Be able to prioritize health and social service issues in response to the needs of their communities and work settings.

A presentation on participants' specific regional profile will be given during this activity.





## Trade agreements

**Length:** 1 to 1.5 hours

Humans have always negotiated, shared and traded amongst themselves. This romantic notion of trade between nations is often used to justify and ease tensions over free trade agreements. However, despite this idealized notion of peaceful trade in which nations exchange specialized products, in reality, trade agreements have little to do with trade!

This presentation focuses on identifying the main issues with trade agreements. It will take a close look at the direct impacts of trade agreements on healthcare professionals.

After the conference, participants will be able to:

- Understand the content generally found in free trade agreements;
- Understand who stands to lose and gain the most from free trade agreements;
- Evaluate the impact that free trade agreements have on our everyday lives, especially on health and union action.



## Shortened version of sociopolitical training

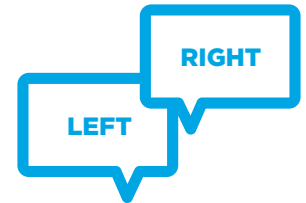


**Length:** 3 hours

It is sometimes difficult to make connections between past situations in our health institutions and politics. And yet, the majority of problems behind the growing cases of grievances and healthcare professionals' deteriorating working conditions are political in nature! This is why it is urgent that we get involved in politics so that they don't run our lives.

This presentation is actually an excerpt from the 2-day sociopolitical training program. In this shortened version, participants will discuss the following:

- Why is it important that the FIQ and the union movement be concerned by and involved in politics?
- What is the difference between the political left and right? What are the values and ideas associated with each side? Why is the FIQ progressive?
- Where do the political parties, stakeholders and organizations stand on the political spectrum?





## Current political context—the rise of populism and unionism: opportunity or threat for the FIQ?

**Length:** 1.5 hours

The context is characterized by questions that have arisen concerning the role of institutions. Given the insecurity and increasing inequality, different theories are circulating in an attempt to satisfy a population looking to place the blame. The usual suspects include the elite, politicians and unions.

This presentation aims to provide an overview of the sociopolitical context the FIQ must navigate.

After the conference, participants will be able to:

- Identify the challenges and opportunities of labour organizations in a world in turmoil;
- Identify solid strategies that will enable us to use current opportunities more to our advantage.



## Public-private partnerships (PPP)



**Length:** 1.5 hours

Our elected officials still prefer the PPP model when building new public infrastructure. While heavily criticized in the past, several new Quebec infrastructures have been built based on the PPP model. For example, the two university hospitals in Montreal, the CHSLD St-Lambert-sur-le-Golf, highways 25 and 30, several roadside rest areas and the new Champlain bridge under construction.

This presentation will take a look at the different facets of public-private partnerships and their impacts. Is it in our interest to continue using this model? Would it be more economical to nationalize these construction projects?

After the conference, participants will:

- Understand PPPs better;
- Be able to identify who benefits from PPPs;
- Be able to discern the specific issues around PPPs in the healthcare sector.

## Tax havens



**Length:** 1.5 to 2 hours

Following the giant *Panama Papers* and *Paradise Papers* data leak, tax havens have become a key political issue. Due to the astronomical amounts and people involved, tax havens are raising public concern at a time when the government is increasing austerity measures and asking the public and public service employees to tighten their belts and do more with less.

This presentation is intended to shed light on issues around tax havens. After the conference, participants will:

- Have a better understanding of tax havens and who benefits from them;
- Have a better understanding of how tax havens affect healthcare professionals' daily practice;
- Be able to identify measures that our elected officials could implement to crack down on them;
- Know more about the Coalition against tax havens and the FIQ and FIQP's involvement in it.



## Operation Snowflake: mobilize to rule more effectively



**Length:** 1.5 hours

Mobilization is the corner stone of union bargaining power, but it does not happen all on its own. It takes a carefully planned strategy and ground work to build and maintain it. How do you build a sustainable and efficient mobilization team? What conditions make a mobilization campaign successful? We will try and answer these questions together with tips and practical exercises!

After the conference, participants will be able to:

- Build an efficient mobilization strategy;
- Identify innovative ways to achieve mobilization;
- Identify the conditions that make a campaign successful.



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[fiqsante.qc.ca](http://fiqsante.qc.ca)