

Presentation of the Castonguay report to the Montreal business community

On February 20, Claude Castonguay presented his report before the *Board of trade of Metropolitan Montreal*. On this occasion, various organisations rallied in front of the hotel where this conference was being held to demonstrate their discontent.



Public solutions: forum for discussion and thought

The FIQ will participate on March 15 in a thought-provoking and discussion forum designed to put forward public solutions for the preservation of the Quebec health and social services system.

Initiated by the *Coalition Solidarité Santé*, this forum will be held at *Collège de Maisonneuve*, in Montreal, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Over 300 activists from all sectors of society will be present: unions, community organizations, etc.

52nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Two members of the FIQ Executive Committee attended the 52nd session of the CSW held in New York. The government of Canada, also a participant, declared that it would eventually draw up an action plan to reduce the poverty of women. The FIQ is greatly disappointed with the government's inertia in the struggle for equality between women and men. "Since the Harper Conservative government has come to power, measures of assistance to women's groups have constantly been reduced. Moreover, with the presentation of the Flaherty budget just a few days ago, it is clear that the situation will not improve," indicated the President of the FIQ, Lina Bonamie. There will be a report on this event in the next issue of *FIQ en Action*.



Legislative action needed: SLAPPs are a real threat to our democracy

The memorandum presented by the SISP to the public hearings on *Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation* (SLAPPs) is now available on line on the FIQ website <www.fiqsante.qc.ca>. Since freedom of opinion and expression are fundamental rights in a free and democratic society, the defence and promotion of these rights are at the heart of the union mandate of the organisations that compose the SISP. In the memorandum, the SISP argues for the need for legislative action to protect these fundamental freedoms.

Centre international de solidarité ouvrière (CISO): internship in Mexico



From February 16 to 25, 2008, a member of the FIQ Executive Committee and six other representatives of Quebec union organizations took part in an internship, in the context of a project between CISO and its Mexican partner, the *Front authentique des travailleurs* (FAT). With training sessions on the Mexican union movement, factory visits and meetings with workers affiliated to the FAT, participants were able to reach their objective : to gain better knowledge of the history and development of the Mexican labour movement and to develop links of solidarity.

Coming events

03.08

International Women's Day

03.18 to 03.20

Federal Council