



## Consensus-building table on the nursing shortage

The work of the Quebec table on the workforce project for the health and social services network continued until the end of March. At the last meeting which the FIQ attended, the issue of the organisation of work, working conditions and practice, and continuing education were discussed. On March 31, the Chair of this task force, Madam Lise Verreault, was to present her report to Minister Philippe Couillard. The next meeting is scheduled for April 29.

## The experimental Quebec medical record project

Last February, the *Gazette officielle du Québec* published a declaration of intent to implement the experimental Quebec Health Record project (QHR) in the Quebec City region. The QHR will allow interveners to obtain electronic access to health information regarding individuals who have not indicated that they wished to withdraw from this system. Thus, the FIQ sent to the Minister of Health and Social Services a series of comments on the procedures being proposed. However, the project for the implementation of the QHR depends on the adoption of various bills, in particular Bill 70. By way of a brief which it will soon present to the *Commission des affaires sociales*, The Federation will thus have another opportunity to make comments and especially to express its reservations about the introduction of the QHR across Quebec.

## Protect women's reproductive rights

Last March, the Federal government adopted in second reading Bill C-484 - *The unborn victims of crime Act* designed to modify the Criminal Code to grant legal status of the foetus. This bill would modify the current definition according to which a child becomes a human being only when he/she has come out of his mother's womb and is living. Thus, with the new bill, the rights of the foetus would be opposed to women's right to control their bodies and to choose to pursue or interrupt their pregnancy. The Federation has already expressed its opposition to this bill and it will continue to keep a close eye on this issue.

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## Montmarquette Report

The Montmarquette report, ordered a few months ago by the Minister of Finances, Monique Jérôme-Forget, was tabled on April 10. This report proposes the end of low rates for public services such as electricity, university education and daycare services. Instead, the rates should reflect the real cost of these services. The FIQ is wary of the absence of reaction by the Minister and is sceptical that the report will be shelved. A similar situation occurred when the Castonguay report was tabled, but the government nonetheless rushed to apply several of its recommendations.



## Together for Health on International Workers' Day

A major Quebec-wide demonstration will be held on May 3 in Montreal to mark International Workers' Day..

For more information, contact a local union rep.