

## Parliament resumes in Québec

The FIQ used the return of Parliament in Quebec City to remind the Minister of Health and Social Services that the management problems in the health-care institutions have to be resolved. As the Government of Québec resumed its work in the National Assembly, the Federation hopes that Minister Hébert will give serious consideration to this blight that has existed for several years. The Federation believes that it is unthinkable to ask the healthcare professionals to maintain the current pace. Poor organization of work, staff cuts, and the use of independent labour are among the many bad decisions taken by the employers in the health-care institutions. This mismanagement has devastating effects on the healthcare professionals who are struggling so that the network doesn't collapse at the expense of their personal lives and sometimes even risking their own health.

You can read the complete release on the Federation website.



## Common Front to denounce the CETA

The Canada-European Union Trade Agreement (CETA) presently being negotiated secretly between Canada and the European Union still raises concerns for many groups from different walks of life. Even more so, as the parliamentarians and the elected officials themselves do not seem to be properly informed of the issues and the

dangers linked to such an agreement. Thus, on February 5, organizations from Europe, Canada and Québec created a common front by signing a joint statement. This transatlantic statement signed by more than 70 organizations - including the FIQ -, states that "we will vigorously oppose any transatlantic agreement that compromises our democracies, human rights and Aboriginal people, as well as our right to protect our health and the planet". Remember that the CETA opens the door to privatization of public services and water management, among others.

To watch the humorous video clip "1-800-LIBRE-ÉCHANGE" featuring Paul Ahmarani, go to the website of the Réseau québécois sur l'intégration continentale (RQIC) at the following web address: [www.rqic.alternatives.ca](http://www.rqic.alternatives.ca)

## Well-being of persons with diminishing autonomy

### Five organizations unite

While the autonomy of the elderly is at the head of the list of concerns for many in different walks of life, five large organizations are uniting and forming the *Regroupement pour le mieux-être des personnes en perte d'autonomie* (RMEPPA).

Joining more than 350,000 people, the *Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec - FIQ*, the *Réseau FADOQ*, the *Association québécoise des retraité(e)s des secteurs public et parapublic (AQRP)*, the *Regroupement interprofessionnel des intervenants retraités des services de santé (RIIRS)* and the *Association de personnes retraitées de la Fédération autonome de l'enseignement (APRFAE)* have chosen to act as one for the improvement of the quality of life for people with diminishing autonomy. The launching of the RMEPPA took place on February 11, during the study on budget credits in the National Assembly.

