

THE FMOQ REQUESTS CHANGES TO BILL 10

Montréal, October 21, 2014 – CNW/Telbec – The Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec (FMOQ) today announced during its appearance before the National Assembly's Committee on Health and Social Services that substantial changes need to be made to Bill 10 if the government genuinely wants to improve the functioning of the health network. While the Fédération fully agrees with doing away with regional health and social services agencies, it has significant reservations about the content of Bill 10. The following are its chief concerns:

The extent of the merging of institutions seems excessive. Rather, the FMOQ recommends maintaining an adequate number of institutions within the regional territories to ensure that services, particularly community-based services, are provided efficiently.

The difficulties anticipated in managing medical resources in the planned mega-institutions of the bill. The FMOQ recommends decentralizing medical-administrative bodies such as the Council of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists (CPDP) and departmental clinics to make them functional.

The exclusion of general practitioners from the boards of directors of healthcare facilities, when said general practitioners work at these facilities. In Québec, 7,124 of the province's 8,800 family doctors work in healthcare facilities! Preventing more than 80% of Québec family doctors from sitting on the boards of directors of these institutions is not only ridiculous, it's discriminatory. The FMOQ recommends changing Article 8 of the bill to do away with this ban.

The new powers granted to the Minister might politicize the health network and lead to a loss of confidence in the good governance of public health and social services. To avoid this, the FMOQ recommends reviewing the appointment process envisioned by the government to make up boards of directors of healthcare facilities.

"Family doctors look favourably upon any measure that reduces bureaucracy and improves resources allocated to direct patient care. However, the Fédération has considerable reservations about many important elements of Bill 10. The number of institutions to be merged seems excessive, the planned centralization of medical-administrative bodies seems doomed to failure and the exclusion of family doctors working in these healthcare facilities from their boards of directors is unacceptable. Lastly, the new powers granted to the Minister from this bill could very well bring about a very politicized health network, and create a highly undesirable situation. Let's hope now that the government will be wise enough to listen to those who provide health care while making the necessary changes to Bill 10," concluded Dr. Louis Godin, President of the FMOQ.

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The FMOQ is an 8,000-member strong Professional union representing the general practitioners of Québec. Its mission is to represent the professional and scientific interests of its members. For more information on the FMOQ, please consult its Web site at www.fmoq.org