



FÉDÉRATION
DES MÉDECINS
OMNIPRATICIENS
DU QUÉBEC

For immediate release

THE FMOQ HOPES THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL UPHOLD ITS AGREEMENTS

Montréal, April 23, 2014 – CNW/Telbec — La Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec (FMOQ) welcomes the appointment of Dr. Gaéтан Barrette as Minister of Health and Social Services and wishes to collaborate, as it has in the past, with the newly-elected government team to improve access to health care, specifically primary health care. Having made acceptable wait times to see a family doctor its priority for all Québécois for several years now, the Fédération has every intention of continuing in this direction by encouraging the Liberal government to make the right decisions to improve this access to health care when and where it is needed.

“Last fall, the FMOQ published a report by its working group on improving access to primary health care. This report (available at fmoq.org), produced by actively practicing family doctors, contains ambitious proposals that, when implemented, will allow Québécois to have quick access to their family doctor or another family doctor for a semi-urgent consultation. We are convinced that these proposals are efficient. They were, in fact, presented to the Liberal Party of Québec representatives and were very well received. We now encourage the new government to adopt these proposals and implement them,” affirmed Dr. Louis Godin, President of the FMOQ.

“More specifically, during the recent election campaign, the LPQ agreed to introduce superclinics. These would be located in various regions of Québec, have longer opening hours, possess medical imaging and laboratory equipment and, lastly, would be supported by other health professionals and technicians. The model is similar to the access units proposed in the aforementioned working group report. In our view, it is a very promising project. It is crucial that the government respect this agreement, which was repeated time and again over the course of the last election campaign. As far as the Fédération is concerned, if there is one agreement that needs to be upheld in the health sector, it is this.”

“For a number of years now, the FMOQ has been instrumental in both promoting family medicine and improving access to family doctors. Giant steps have been made in improving the status of family medicine. With regard to access, however, much remains to be accomplished despite the considerable efforts of family doctors who have taken on hundreds of thousands of new patients over the last several years. The key to improving the situation is well recognized and simple: give priority to and invest in primary health care. In other words, clinics, CLSCs and home care. No matter what the past or the people in power, government decision-makers clearly understand the importance of investing in our primary health care. This is why we expect the new government team in power to respect the agreements made, particularly with regard to the implementation of modern, properly equipped medical clinics where genuine professional and technical support will finally be offered to family doctors,” concluded Dr. Godin.

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

— 30 —

Source: Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec, Communications Department
Jean-Pierre Dion, Director, jpdion@fmoq.org | Marie Ruel, Advisor, mrue@fmoq.org
Tel.: 514-878-9160 or 1-800-361-8499