

BILL 20: QUOTAS AND DEHUMANIZATION

Montréal, February 16, 2015 – CNW/Telbec – As public consultations on Bill 20, led by the National Assembly’s Committee on Health and Social Services, loom on the horizon, the Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec (FMOQ) has launched a new advertising campaign to sensitize Quebecers to the important and inherent dangers of this bill. Drafted without any prior consultation, stemming from prejudices that demonstrate a shocking ignorance on the part of Minister Barrette, Bill 20 is not only an attack against the medical profession but also against the future quality of care provided to patients.

“The FMOQ feels it is crucial to inform Quebecers of the risks associated with the eventual adoption of Bill 20. The bill, which was dreamed up and sponsored by Minister Barrette can only, in the long run, serve to dehumanize family medicine by imposing a mathematical logic of quotas when empathy and sound medical practice should prevail in any circumstance. The goal of our campaign is to send a clear and straightforward message, with a call to engage in dialogue so that we can find real solutions to improving access to health care,” said Dr. Louis Godin, President of the FMOQ.

Starting today, advertisements will be disseminated on television, the Internet and in print media, both to denounce Bill 20 and to promote the microsite iamnotanumber.ca, which explains many of its undesirable outcomes. We are convinced that Quebecers need to be informed of the irreparable damage that Gaétan Barrette will cause to our healthcare network if this detrimental bill is adopted.

“With the mathematical, coercive and aggressive approach the Health Minister has taken, the Québec government is endangering the way our health network operates, particularly with regard to access to quality primary care. To this day, instead of working with health professionals to find realistic solutions on improving access to medical care, Minister Barrette has preferred to work in isolation, demeaning the work of family doctors and insisting on proposing solutions that not only will not work, but also cause considerable damage. Family doctors want to improve access to health care and are ready to work to achieve this goal. If the government wishes to do likewise, it should act in good faith and retract Bill 20 and focus on collaborating with doctors instead of persisting in pushing through with initiatives that are doomed to failure,” concluded Dr. Godin.

To see the FMOQ’s advertisements against the potential dehumanization of family medicine:

English message

<http://www.fmoq.org/fr/union/president/pl20/articles/Lists/Billets/Post.aspx?ID=3>

French message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtNqZYbu4A0&feature=youtu.be>

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The FMOQ is an 8,800-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

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