

OPENNESS AND RESPECTING COMMITMENTS

Montréal, February 20, 2014 /CNW-TELBEQ/- The Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec (FMOQ) wishes to publicly respond to the government's intention, revealed in its budget, to renegotiate some of the terms stipulated in agreements signed in good faith in 2011 between the medical federations and the government. Having been confronted by the government on the subject, the FMOQ, true to its principles and tradition, intends to act in a responsible yet fair manner on the issue.

"First, we would like to make it clear that we are ready to discuss the matter with the government to help it address budgetary pressures in the short term, while maintaining the quality care provided by family doctors in all the regions of Québec. Having said that, we would also like remind everyone that just last year the Fédération submitted, upon the government's request, a proposal aiming to defer the planned increases. While our proposal corresponded to the government's objectives at the time, the government then opted to take another route," said Dr. Louis Godin, President of the FMOQ.

Second, the Fédération would like to point out that the agreements currently in effect were negotiated in good faith by all parties, and without the use of any pressure tactics. In this context, the government clearly has a moral obligation to honour its signature. Any unilateral action on its part to renege would, in the Fédération's opinion, be reprehensible and considered completely unacceptable by the medical profession.

Moreover, the FMOQ condemns the prevailing attitude that targets doctors' remuneration as part of the government's budgetary problems. This sort of analysis, which views people who provide medical care as an expense without ever questioning resources allocated elsewhere, particularly sums spent by the government for managing the healthcare network, perfectly illustrate the deep-rooted problems currently affecting Québec: too much bureaucracy and too many misplaced priorities.

"Family doctors are extremely proud of the work they do on a day-to-day basis with their fellow citizens in all the regions of Québec. They work hard to offer their patients the best healthcare possible, often in work settings that are less than optimal and without the appropriate support. They deserve their pay. The FMOQ will accept to work with the government to provide it with some flexibility regarding the budget, but the government must take into account its past commitments to family doctors and move forward in a genuinely collaborative manner," concluded Dr. Godin.

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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

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