

# VRAIMENT PUBLIC

Une campagne de la CSN pour déprivatiser, décentraliser et démocratiser la santé et les services sociaux.



Solidaire depuis 1921

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CSN NEWSLETTER ABOUT HEALTH ET SOCIAL SERVICES

WWW.VRAIMENTPUBLIC.ORG



## A SHOW OF FORCE

On November 23, nearly 4,000 CSN members gathered at the Colisée in Trois-Rivières for a major show of strength in our fight to defend public health and social services. Thousands of workers from other sectors also attended the large festive gathering.



We tend to take our accessible and universal public healthcare system for granted. However, it is not yet 60 years old and has been steadily eroded since it was created. The privatization of health and social services is forcing many people to make heart-wrenching choices: according to a recent Léger poll commissioned by the CSN, no less than 43% of Quebecers have gone without care because of lack of access to services in the public system. Privatization also has a significant impact on household budgets, forcing people to pay fees for services or pay more for group insurance.

THE FIGHT AGAINST PRIVATIZATION IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS!

## OUR EMERGENCY PLAN

We must act now to stop the privatization of the public health and social services system. On November 23, the CSN presented a three-pronged emergency plan to stem the exodus to the private sector and improve the public system:

- Stop the exodus of doctors to the private sector
- Stop licensing private, for-profit clinics
- Declare a moratorium on all plans to privatize work performed by employees of the public system

These are three measures that the government could implement in the very short term and which would have an immediate effect. The

CSN is calling on the government to act on these three demands by May 1—or we will ramp up the pressure.

These demands are in line with the CSN's broader goal of deprivatizing, democratizing and decentralizing the public system while also addressing the social determinants of health.

### ON OUR WEBSITE

READ CAROLINE SENNEVILLE'S OP-ED

LE VRAI CHANGEMENT DEMANDE DU COURAGE POLITIQUE



# BILL 83

## NORMALIZING WHAT ISN'T NORMAL

Health Minister Christian Dubé now acknowledges that the exodus of doctors and staff to the private sector is undermining health and social services. The Collège des médecins had called for the minister to intervene. The CAQ has now introduced Bill 83, which will require new medical graduates to practice in the public sector for five years

before they can opt out and go into private practice.

However, the problems with access to healthcare are already critical; if nothing is done until a few years from now, when the future cohorts of doctors graduate, it will be too late. Currently, more than 700 doctors have

left Québec's public system. These are the people we need to bring back. Now is the time to stop the exodus!

Bill 83 falls short of the mark. It is liable to simply chart a path for the doctors of the future to leave the public system after five years and will ultimately normalize profit on the backs of sick people.

## NEW FOR-PROFIT SURGERIES

IN EARLY DECEMBER, Health Minister Christian Dubé issued a regulation that expands the list of surgeries that can be performed in the private sector in specialties such as orthopedics, otolaryngology, gynecology and urology. These relatively simple procedures will be covered by Medicare, which will pay not only the cost of each operation but also a profit of up to 15% for the private medical centres and their shareholders. It should be noted that these specialties are among the ones where we already see the most movement of doctors between the public and private systems.

These private medical centres drain resources from the public system, undermining efforts to recruit and retain staff in public institutions. What's more, the contracts stipulate that the public network is responsible for following up on these operations and dealing with any complications.

## SURPRISE VISIT



## AT THE BIRON GROUPE HEAD OFFICE

On December 10, activists went to the head office of Biron Groupe Santé to denounce the privatization of health care and social services..

WATCH IT ON FACEBOOK



## Santé IS BORN Québec

Since December 1, the 330,000 workers in Québec's public health and social services system have a new employer, the largest in Canada: Santé Québec. For employees and users of the public system, this is what has actually changed in the past year:

### A NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board's first job is to cut \$1.5 billion from the health and social services budget. This is not promising!

## NO UNION MERGERS



There's also some good news: the government has announced that union certifications will not be merged and the four personnel classes will remain unchanged.

"The creation of a single employer, combined with deep budget cuts, does not bode well," said CSN vice-president David Bergeron-Cyr. "Bill 15's merger of union certifications would have created even more instability in an already shaky network. For once, the government has resisted its centralizing instincts. We welcome this decision."