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Bill 130 Worries the Next Generation of Physicians Montreal, October 27, 2017

The Fédération médicale étudiante du Québec would like to state its indignation following the adoption of Bill 130, which modifies the organization of medical practice and the management of health and social services institutions.

“This bill worries the next generation of physicians in Quebec. The changes proposed by the Minister are at risk of undermining physicians' professional autonomy and ultimately the quality of care offered to patients,” says Samuel Bergeron, President of the Fédération médicale étudiante du Québec. *“Indeed, moving decision-making capabilities away from physicians regarding the care required for their patients may lead to poor decisions made by managers, who could put budgetary interests ahead of patient care. Self-regulation of medical practice ensures the quality and individuality of care provided to the population,”* he adds.

Bill 130 is of particular concern for future doctors, as it leads to the introduction of clauses that disadvantage physicians at the beginning of their practice. Hence, by reducing the initial length of privileges to 18 “probationary” months and imposing on physicians the obligation to make a formal request to renew their privilege each time they expire, Bill 130 sets unfavorable practice conditions for those young doctors who must already face numerous challenges at the beginning of their practice.

The FMEQ recognizes the importance for current and future doctors to meet the needs of the population. Medical practice is based on a social contract that requires practitioners to place their patients’ interests as an objective and a purpose. By adopting this Bill, the Minister once more limits medical practice and undermines the fulfillment of this social contract between physicians and the population.

For those reasons and in these dynamics of unilateral dialogue, the FMEQ stands against Bill 130. Furthermore, the FMEQ favors the government creating resources to support physicians in their endeavors to meet the needs of the population. The FMEQ demands that the Minister open a dialogue with today’s and tomorrow’s physicians, regarding, among others, the granting of privileges and obligations, in order for all of us to work to ensure the best possible care for all Quebecers.

On the Fédération médicale étudiante du Québec

Founded in 1974, the Fédération médicale étudiante du Québec (FMEQ) has always had as first mission to unite the four medical faculties of medicine of Quebec (Université Laval, McGill University, Université de Sherbrooke and Université de Montréal) to promote and defend the collective interests specific to Quebec medical students on pedagogical, political, and social matters. It represents the 4200 medical students of Quebec.

