



## The English Speaking Catholic Council

---

### Le conseil catholique d'expression anglaise

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Dr. Gaétan Barrette  
Ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux  
Édifice Catherine-de-Longpré  
1075, chemin Sainte-Foy, 15e étage  
Québec (Québec)  
G1S 2M1

Dr. Barrette,

The Board of Directors of the English Speaking Catholic Council (hereafter the ESCC) would like to express its support of the Brief submitted by the Quebec Community Groups Network (hereafter the QCGN) to La commission de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec concerning Bill 10, an Act to modify the organization of the health and social services network, in particular by abolishing the regional agencies.

Since its creation in 1980, the ESCC has engaged in a competent and meaningful way with policy makers and community organizations in the health and social services sector. To name just two instances: in 2004 the ESCC participated in the public consultations on building new health and social services networks in Montreal and in 2002 a brief was submitted to the Romanow Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada. In addition to these and similar contributions, the ESCC ensures effective representation before government bodies and on various boards, committees and councils.

We share the QCGN's concern with the fate of recognized and designated institutions and appreciate the very precise and reasoned outline they have drawn of the effect of the proposed legislation in this regard.

The ESCC is particularly concerned with **the rupture which the implementation of the proposed legislation would create between the institutions and the communities which they serve**. Given the historical connection between the English-speaking Catholic community and two Montreal institutions namely, St. Mary's Hospital and the Father Dowd Home, the ESCC has witnessed the vital importance which community involvement plays in the health and vitality of these institutions. This participation takes place in very specific ways: through management and control via community representation on Boards of Directors, by substantial private

funding support through the institutions' foundations and by strong volunteer participation in the day-to-day life of the Hospital and the Home. These three elements are vitally linked. Members of the community contribute their time and resources to institutions with which they feel a connection of representation and control. Though the Council understands the need to eradicate unnecessary spending, we must underline that there is no cost-savings to be had in eliminating thousands of volunteer Board members.

As a Catholic organization, one of the guiding principles of the Council is that of subsidiarity, i.e. that **central authority should have a supportive role to the local community, performing only those functions which cannot be best dealt with on the local level.** Expanding the role of the Minister of Health and Social Services to making both Board and staff appointments of regional institutions contravenes this principle, and does not realistically acknowledge the vagaries of political life which would make communities subject to the good will, or otherwise, of the current minister.

Along with the QCGN, the ESCC does not believe that simple amendments to Bill 10 will sufficiently address the concerns of our community. We would urge you to reconsider the entire approach to the proposed re-organization in order to safe-guard the hard-won provisions for the English-speaking minority in Quebec.

Yours truly,



John Zucchi  
President

c.c. Dr. Philippe Couillard, Premier