

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

### LOVE LETTER FROM MEDICAL RESIDENTS TO HEALTH SYSTEM CARE PERSONNEL

**Montreal, Wednesday, February 14, 2018** – “On this Valentine’s Day, the *Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec* wishes to send a message of support and encouragement to its members, and to all those working in the healthcare system, in acknowledgment of their contribution to patient care,” stated FMRQ President, Dr Christopher Lemieux, underscoring his colleagues’ work today.

Dr Lemieux pointed out that Quebec’s 3,600 medical residents work in the healthcare system, across Quebec, for an average of 72 hours a week. They receive you in Emergency day and night, on weekdays and weekends; they go to long-term residential care facilities, and make home visits. They diagnose, treat, perform surgery, or work in laboratories. Also, medical residents teach their fellow residents and medical students. And they perform research in the different medical and surgical disciplines. “Medical residents are at the service of Quebecers every day of the year,” the FMRQ president continued, “working alongside practising physicians, nurses, and other health system professionals and employees. Our members are in the front lines of the healthcare system,” he stressed, “and observe on a daily basis the exhaustion of all those they work with—nurses, aides, technicians, professionals, physicians, etc.—who also live at the frenetic pace imposed by Dr Barrette’s recent reforms and the population’s growing needs.”

Dr Lemieux says the Ministerial authorities do not appear to understand the extent to which all carers have need of rest and recognition. The recent case of nurses is a good example of this: they work long, constantly accumulating hours, and unfortunately, solutions are found only when the elastic is stretched to breaking point.

We are taking advantage of this Valentine’s Day to acknowledge the unique contribution of all healthcare system stakeholders. Since no one can say Minister Barrette is showing them much love, the FMRQ therefore wishes more respect and recognition to all these women and men who keep the healthcare system from running aground.

#### ***Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec***

The *Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec* is made up of the four medical resident associations linked to the healthcare establishments in the University of Montreal, McGill University, University of Sherbrooke and Laval University (Quebec City) healthcare system. It has some 3,600 members, who deliver services to the public in Quebec’s healthcare establishments. One quarter of these medical residents work in family medicine, while the remainder are in other medical, surgical and laboratory specialties.

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Source: Dr Christopher Lemieux, President  
*Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec*

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