

BLOC-NOTES

12

May 15, 2013



for cegep teachers

Saving the DEC in nursing

TIME FOR ACTION!

As you know, the DEC as an access diploma to the nursing profession is in jeopardy, and this month is going to be decisive in the debate. Indeed, the interdepartmental task force on the training of future nurses—a group in which FNEEQ was not invited to participate—is due to wrap up its deliberations in June. We believe that the challenge against the DEC as a qualifying diploma is wholly unjustified and is yet one more attempt to erode the CEGEP system.

Let's make ourselves heard!

Contrary to what some may think, the final decision on whether or not to maintain the DEC as an entry diploma into the profession has not yet been made. That decision ultimately rests in the hands of the Quebec Cabinet (*Conseil des ministres*).

It should be recalled that in April, the *regroupement cégep* called for the development of an action plan, in collaboration with the central councils of the CSN, to defend the DEC as an entry-level diploma into nursing. The purpose of this plan was to ensure the promotion and visibility of our positions during the month of May. It's now time for action!

It is with that in mind that we issued a [press release](#) for International Nurses Day on May 12 and will be supplying you with a petition calling for the preservation of the DEC as an access way into nursing to circulate around your respective colleges. This petition will be sent to both Health and Social Services Minister Réjean Hébert and Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology Minister Pierre Duchesne. You will also soon be receiving a supply of buttons that we urge you to wear in support of the cause.



The unions have been asked to send a letter to their local MNA requesting a meeting to discuss the repercussions of raising the academic requirements in nursing.

Our research suggests that making a bachelor degree mandatory for entry into the nursing profession will not only do nothing to improve direct patient care, it will also certainly aggravate the existing nurse shortage. What is the logic in pushing forward such a change, which we estimate will cost the province about half a billion dollars a year, when employers are perfectly satisfied with the training received by college nurses? Is the population complaining about the quality of care?

This proposal by the Quebec Order of Nurses (OIIQ) will lead to a dead-end for college nursing graduates who, for whatever reason, decide not to—or may be unable to—pursue their studies at the university level. FNEEQ is firm in its conviction that the DEC in nursing must remain a qualifying diploma, for the good of our future health.

**DEC IN NURSING
WE TRAIN FOR YOUR HEALTH!**

For further information, see the special edition of [Carnet collégial](#) devoted entirely to the nursing question.

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