



Image: Céline Bianchi

Public community meeting on Bill 15

Should the Clinic Worry about the Dubé Reform?

By Margot Silvestro, Community Organizer

Health Minister Christian Dubé is presently working on another reform of our healthcare network, the third in twenty years after the Couillard reform (2003) and the Barrette reform (2015). The bill's title - *An Act to make the health and social services system more effective* - clearly states the objective: to improve the "efficiency" of our healthcare system. But what are the government's intentions? How will it affect healthcare professionals and users? The Clinic will attempt to untangle the various aspects of this bill at a public meeting to be held on November 22 at the Pavillon des aînés in Point St. Charles.

Bill 15 is the most extensive bill ever submitted, containing more than 1,000 clauses. It aims to revolutionize healthcare administration by creating an independent agency, *Santé Québec*. This institution will be responsible for managing the healthcare network, while the ministry will retain responsibility for making rules and verifying results.

But what's really going on? Since the bill was proposed, dozens of voices have been raised to criticize it. One of the main concerns is that the private sector will take on a greater role in the provision of care. Some worry about the centralization of decision-making, while others wonder whether healthcare professionals will lose their ability to make decisions. Midwives in particular have already sounded the alarm on this very subject, since the new law intends to place them under the hierarchy of a medical director, erasing more than half a century of struggle for their professional autonomy. And we still don't know exactly how users will actually be affected.

Finally, should the Point St. Charles Community Clinic worry about this reform? Let us not forget that our Clinic is a special establishment, an "exception" in the healthcare system. What impact will this reform have on our very particular model?

All these questions will be addressed at our public community meeting on the Dubé reform, to be held on **Wednesday November 22 from 5 to 7 p.m.** at the Pavillon des aînés (2401, Mullins Street).

Our guest panellists will be **Philippe Hurteau**, researcher for the Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS), who will explain the foundations of the reform, as well as the government's interests and intentions. **Josyane Giroux**, president of the Regroupement Les sages-femmes du Québec (RSFQ), will talk about the direct effects of the reform on the autonomy and practice of midwives. **Margot Silvestro**, community organizer at the Point St. Charles Community Clinic, will discuss the effects of the reform on the Clinic, its autonomy and organization.

There will be a drop-in daycare on site, as well as snacks and whispered English translation. Please note that the Pavillon des aînés is accessible to people with reduced mobility.

We look forward to seeing you! 