

## Committee demands Lachine Hospital remains part of MUHC, rallies community

*“It’s not a done deal...”* says Quebec Health Minister Réjean Hébert



The Chairman of the Board of the Lachine Hospital Foundation Jacques Filion, MNA for Marquette François Ouimet, Mayor of the borough of Lachine Claude Dauphin and Mayor of the City of Dorval Edgar Rouleau, from left to right, centre (wearing ties), all spoke at the press conference held Monday, January 14, 2013, which announced the formation of a committee to keep the Lachine Hospital part of the MUHC. They are surrounded by members of the committee.

**M**NA for Marquette, François Ouimet, the Chairman of the Board of the Lachine Hospital Foundation, Jacques Filion, and the mayors of Lachine and Dorval announced the creation of a committee to keep the Lachine Hospital part of the McGill University Health Centre on Monday, January 14, 2013. The committee is co-chaired by Claude Dauphin, mayor of the borough of Lachine, and Edgar Rouleau, mayor of the City of Dorval.

The announcement is in reaction to the *Ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux* Dr. Réjean Hébert’s declaration of the transfer of the hospital’s management to the CSSS de Dorval-Lachine-LaSalle without any consultation with the parties involved.

François Ouimet maintains that “since its affiliation with the MUHC, the hospital has seen major improvements in health care for the benefit of all patients. It is clear that language has never been an issue at this hospital. We ask that the Minister change his decision immediately and invest the \$63 million that has been promised for the much-needed modernization of our hospital.”

Edgar Rouleau reminds the Minister that “the primary vocation of this hundred-year-old institution is above all to provide excellent health care for the benefit of the entire community, and is not, as he has suggested, a ‘Francophone vocation.’ Since becoming part of the MUHC in 2008, major enhancements have been made in the quality of care being delivered at the hospital. This is the

worst solution to a non-existent problem.”

Jacques Filion declares that “the staff at the hospital as well as the Francophone and Anglophone patients are happy with the current situation. The community has clearly demonstrated their satisfaction by contributing \$2.5 million to our Best Care for Life Campaign in support of the hospital’s modernization. We strongly believe that a return to the status quo prior to 2008 would be a terrible scenario.”

Claude Dauphin urges Minister Hébert to renounce his decision immediately. “There is still time for the Minister to reconsider his position. In the meantime, the community is already mobilized. In 2007, we marched in the streets to save our hospital and we will do it again if we have to. We call on the citizens of Lachine and Dorval to join us by signing our petition and expressing their disagreement with the Minister.”

The two mayors have already written to the Minister asking him to change his decision.

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*Please see page 2 of the regular Enbref for a message from Normand Rinfret and quotes from other stakeholders concerning the Health Minister’s tentative decision to pull Lachine from the MUHC family.*

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In a letter dated December 20, 2012, the Minister mentions having consulted 'different participants motivated by the concern of maintaining services within this establishment that are adapted to the health care of the citizens.' We represent the users of this hospital, and we consider ourselves to be among these 'participants.'

However, the Minister did not consult us. Had he done so, we could have told him that we are very committed to maintaining the Francophone character of the institution and its role in the community. We would have said that since the integration of the Lachine Hospital into the MUHC, Lachine users have emergency services that previously had been closed, and that they have access to more specialties in Medicine and Surgery..."

**Clarise Samuels,**

SECRETARY OF THE MUHC USERS' COMMITTEE



Facing mounting opposition, Health Minister Réjean Hébert said "it's not a done deal" that Lachine Hospital will be pulled out of the bilingual McGill University Health Centre so that it can be "re-integrated into a local network of the French language." However, Hébert maintained that it still makes sense to yank Lachine Hospital out of the control of the MUHC because the West Island institution would never be a priority of the MUHC's.

"I'm waiting for the report from the (Montreal Health and Social Services) Agency on whether it's feasible ... and what the plan would be if it is feasible," he said.

**Réjean Hébert,**

QUEBEC MINISTER OF HEALTH

We have already received many calls from employees who have shown much concern for their uncertain future. As you know, they have already lived through difficult years and they do not want to relive the same situation. Your hasty, unfounded decision may cause a massive exodus of professionals and greatly affect recruitment to the Lachine Hospital, whose needs continue to grow."

**Line Larocque,**

SPSICR PRESIDENT OF MUHC-FIQ AND FRANCINE CARRIER, APTS LOCAL PRESIDENT OF MUHC

I am confident that the community will come together again, if necessary, as it has done before, to save our hospital and defend the interests of our community. Mr. Minister, I am appealing to you on behalf of all my fellow citizens, and all patients and families of Dorval to ask you to reconsider your position on the Lachine Hospital."

**Edgar Rouleau,**

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DORVAL

**We must mobilize!"**

**Jane Cowell-Poitras,**  
LACHINE COUNCILOR

I don't want to live through a language debate on health care. We mobilized our population six years ago to save our hospital and we'll do it again if we have to. For the Health Minister to say in his letter that the fact we are with McGill doesn't help our francophone identity doesn't make any sense at all. It's going well with the MUHC!"

**Claude Dauphin,**

MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF LACHINE