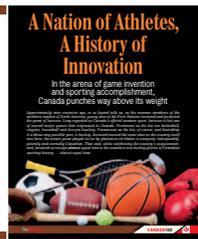


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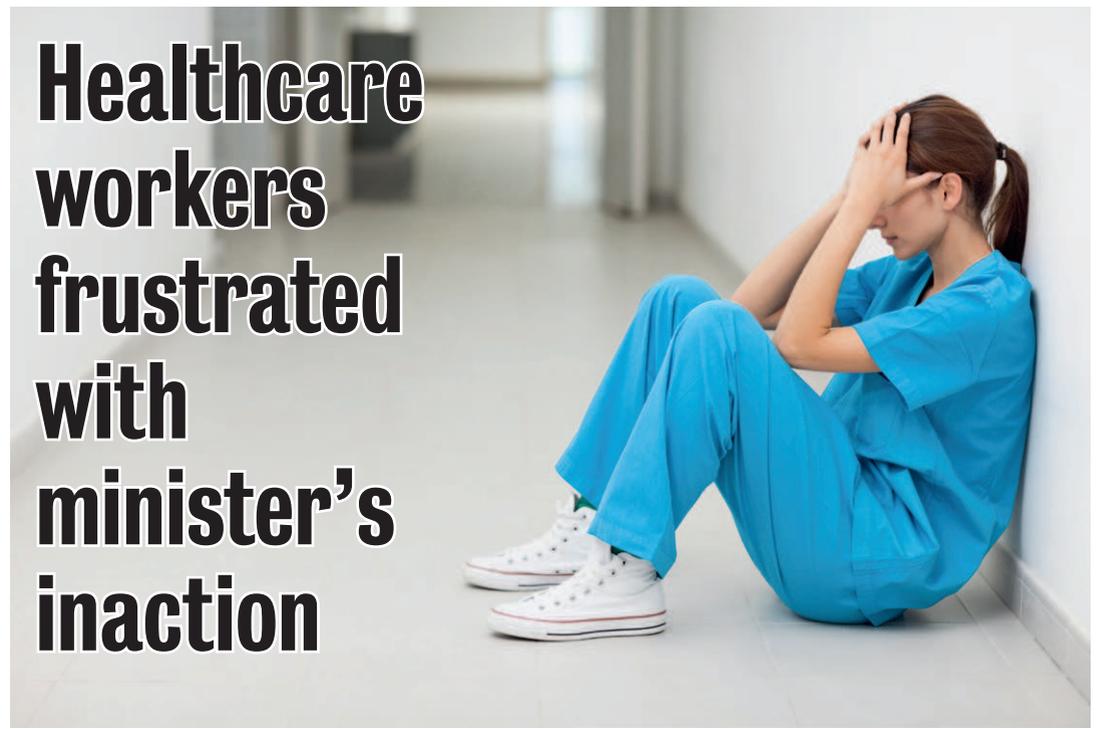
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The Suburban

WEST ISLAND FEBRUARY 21, 2018

VOTED BEST OVERALL NEWSPAPER BY QCNA FOR 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 QUEBEC'S LARGEST ENGLISH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER 1ST PLACE WINNER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE IN SNA'S NORTH AMERICAN AWARDS.



Healthcare workers frustrated with minister's inaction

By Joel Ceausu
The Suburban

It's turning out to be an annus horribillus for Quebec health minister Gaëtan Barrette as front-line health-care workers break their silence and increasingly vent their anger and frustration at the Liberal government's health reform.

"Minister Barrette is still slow to show that he is interested in discussing the problems of overloads and exhaustion of network personnel," said Félix-Olivier Bonneville, a nurse at Sainte-Justine Hos-

pital and vice-president of the Fédération de la santé et des services sociaux.

In the last few weeks, workers in all categories have been feeling fed up with their reality in the network. We have heard from nurses, but also from orderlies, administrative officers, social workers, and so on, all of whom have seen their workload increase in recent years.

According to the Quebec Order of Nurses, (OIIQ), nurses devote only 53 percent of their time to their field of expertise, the rest monopolized by tasks of other professions. "Increasing nursing positions will not

solve the problem if we continue to decrease administrative, clerical or housekeeping positions. This is the reality of the network."

The most recent stream of vitriol levelled at the minister was prompted by the viral end-of-shift post by 24-year-old Sherbrooke long-term-care nurse Émilie Ricard detailing outrageous working conditions and overloads that suggest burnout as a real outcome for those with as little as five years in the field.

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On Rock starts year with waiting list, broken van and flooded diner

By Kevin Woodhouse
The Suburban

So far, 2018 has not been an easy start for the non-profit agency On Rock Community Services. Due to the overwhelming need from recent asylum seekers leaving the United States, the food bank has had to place those needing help on a waiting list, a flood caused the agency's roof to flood and the delivery van has broken and will need to be replaced.

For most NGOs, this could be a serious setback but Executive Director Kim Reid and his staff and volunteers are undeterred. "We have always done really well with what we have and we never focus too much on problems but rather the solutions," Reid told *The Suburban*.

"Our attitude is to not fold but to say 'let's get on with this,'" said Reid. Reid said that the "van bid us adieu

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