



Voice of English-speaking Québec

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Concerns over the reorganization of the Quebec health system
and its impact on Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s**

Quebec, October 3, 2014 - Voice of English-speaking Québec (VEQ) joins a growing number of voices, among them the QCGN, expressing strong reservations about Minister Barrette’s proposed Bill 10 (*Loi modifiant l’organisation et la gouvernance du réseau de la santé et des services sociaux*) that was tabled on September 25th.

“I have heard from many community members who are extremely concerned about Bill 10,” states VEQ president Taylor Ireland. “VEQ has already met with elected officials to articulate the community’s deep unease and has requested access to the parliamentary hearings on Bill 10. We’re also coordinating community reaction by creating an online information-action hub for the *Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s: Our Community, Our Health, Our Future* campaign.”

Bill 10 will reduce the number of institutions from 182 to 28, creating one amalgamated institution per region called the *Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux* (CISSS). This would also entail a shift from community-governed boards to minister-appointed boards, which would end the English-speaking community’s historic right to govern its own community-established and directed health institution, Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s.

Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s has a special mandate as the region’s service provider to the English-speaking community which would, in principle, be transferred to the new CISSS of the Quebec City region. Abolishing Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s board of directors gives rise to serious concern over the lack of local representation to promote the community’s interests, now and in the future.

“For over 150 years, Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid’s has been at the heart of the English-speaking community of the Quebec City region as a leader and innovator. Removing the English-speaking community’s capacity to manage and control its own institution will have a detrimental and irreversible impact on the vitality of our community”, says Mr. Ireland.

About Voice of English-speaking Québec

VEQ is an autonomous, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of a dynamic English-speaking community in the Greater Québec City region and to the promotion of its interests. Please visit our website, veq.ca, or our Facebook page.

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