

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CNW CODE 01 + WEEKLIES**

The Expert Panel on Activity-Based Funding in the Health and Social Services Sector Begins Its Deliberations

Québec, July 10, 2012 – To deal with the challenges facing the health and social services network in the future, the Minister of Finance, Raymond Bachand, announced the formation of an expert panel on activity-based funding in the March 20, 2012 Budget Speech. The expert panel, consisting of Wendy Thomson, chair, Roger Paquet and Pierre Shedleur, is now beginning its deliberations.

An experienced team

Ms. Thomson distinguished herself in the public sector of the United Kingdom as chief advisor to the British prime minister for the reform of public services. She is currently professor of social policy and head of the McGill University School of Social Work.

Mr. Paquet, in addition to being CEO of a health care institution, is a former Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Shedleur, an expert in strategic planning, is a former CEO of, in particular, the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail and the Société générale de financement du Québec.

The expert panel's mandate

The expert panel has been mandated to make recommendations for the gradual implementation of activity-based funding in the health and social services sector, to improve the organization of services and allocate resources more fairly and more optimally.

Initially designed in the United States, this funding method has been applied for 25 years in a growing number of countries in Europe. In Québec, to sustain the increasing volume of surgeries in the regions, this method is used to allocate funding. In Canada, British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario have also decided to use it more or less broadly.

“This mandate is important for Québec's health system. In undertaking it, we are relying on everyone's support to successfully carry out the work entrusted to us,” Ms. Thomson pointed out.

The panel will carry out its deliberations in four phases, focusing respectively on understanding of the existing situation, assessing the options, concrete initiatives and formulating recommendations. An interim report will be filed with the Ministers of Health and Social Services and of Finance in January 2013. The final report is expected no later than December 2013.

Information document

The expert panel has already begun discussions and an information document, *Implementation of Activity-Based Funding in the Health and Social Services Sector*, is now available. In the document, the members of the expert panel review the context of their mandate, the approach, the workplan and the terms and conditions under which players in the sector may participate in finding creative and effective solutions for activity-based funding of Québec's health sector.

The support of all

"Individuals and organizations interested in the implementation of activity-based funding will have an opportunity to contribute to the exercise. Over the coming months, we will be inviting individuals and groups to speak to us on the issues surrounding activity-based funding as well as certain specific aspects of its implementation in Québec," Wendy Thomson, chair of the expert panel, concluded.

To learn more about activity-based funding and to obtain the information document, visit www.santefinancementactivite.gouv.qc.ca.

– 30 –

SOURCE:

Secretariat of the Expert Panel
on Activity-Based Funding

INFORMATION:

Nathalie Lévesque
Media Relations
Ministère de la Santé et des Services
418 266-8914