



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clarification regarding medical student retention at McGill University

OTTAWA, Sept. 4 2012 – In the midst of Québec’s provincial election, there has been some confusion regarding a supposed exodus of medical students from McGill University.

François Legault, leader of the Coalition Avenir Québec, has claimed that approximately 50% of McGill medical students leave the province after they graduate. However, statistics from the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) demonstrate otherwise. Among graduates from McGill’s Class of 2012, only 32% left the province to pursue residency training elsewhere. This compares favourably to a number of Canadian schools, including University of British Columbia (52%), Memorial University of Newfoundland (47%), and University of Calgary (45%). In fact, McGill ranks 10th among Canada’s 17 medical schools in terms of retaining postgraduate physicians within the province.

Data from McGill University also show that 75% of medical residents remain in Québec following the completion of their postgraduate training. This includes students from elsewhere in Canada who migrate to Québec to complete their training.

Ensuring an adequate supply of physicians is instrumental to the health of Québec residents. However, Mr. Legault’s concern regarding McGill medical students is not borne out by the facts. McGill’s medical students, along with the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) support McGill

**Canadian Federation of Medical Students
Fédération des étudiants et des étudiantes en médecine du Canada**

324 Somerset Street West, Suite 300
Ottawa, ON K2P 0J9 Canada
Tel: 613-565-7740 Fax: 613-288-0524
E-mail: office@cfms.org
Web: www.cfms.org

University's ongoing efforts to promote medical education and practice within the province of Québec.

The Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) is a national organization that represents over 7500 medical students at 14 medical schools across Canada.

For more information:

Matthew Tenenbaum, Vice President Communications
Canadian Federation of Medical Students
Cell: (905) 520-8832 • vpcommunications@cfms.org

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