

Number 11 - 23 March, 2010

## A Demonstration that Met Our Expectations !

The impressive participation of 75 000 public sector employees in the Saturday March 20 demonstration sends a message that couldn't be clearer to the government: we want negotiated collective agreements.

The participation of cegep teachers was very evident; we were there at the rendez-vous. All along the march route teachers from throughout the cegep system were there in impressive numbers with their green FNEEQ scarves in evidence!

### **Improving Public Services Requires a Significant Increase in Personnel**

If you squeeze the lemon for too long it ends up dry. Teachers in the cegep system have reached their limit and need to have their workloads reduced.

More Time to spend helping our students outside class is a necessity to improve our students' academic success. In higher education we require specialists in our disciplines. Only a Mathematics teacher can provide the supplementary or related explanations for his or her students; it's the same in Mechanical Engineering or Humanities.

More time to prepare the numerous different courses that need to be offered in the same year is also a necessity to prepare the youths who will have the needed abilities for university or the job market. Knowledge and skills are evolving more and more quickly, information and communications technology as well (if not more), plus the technologies used in learning activities in different disciplines. Each teacher must directly fulfill this responsibility.



For twenty years, there has been no increase in teaching resources, or, in other words, for the teacher-student relationship. Those who take on the primary mission of the cegeps have had enough of being marginalized.

### **Salaries that Affirm the Importance of Quality Public Services for Everyone**

The gap between the salary offers of the government and union demands is significant. Public sector employees do not want to continue to pay the costs of the governments ideological commitments. It is not public finances that are at issue, but the political choices of the government. Squeezing the lemon as much as you can results in ever-increasing parallel private education and health care systems. Two levels of service: medicine and education for the rich, and for the poor. The choice is clear: NO.

Valuing cegep teaching also requires a clear admission that it is part of higher education by recognizing the fair value of masters and doctoral degrees.





## The 11th Hour: A Negotiation Blitz ?

Will we be in a negotiation blitz this week? The Treasury Board President invited the unions to significantly accelerate the rhythm of talks at the negotiation tables, in a final effort to meet the March 31 target, the day after the budget (which was delayed by one week).

Mme. Gagnon-Tremblay has already made such an appeal in mid-March... without resulting, in our view, in any noticeable change with our employers' negotiators. Will this new appeal be translated into action this time?

On February 23, the FNEEQ Regroupement Cégep mandated its Negotiation and Mobilization committee to move into exploratory talks on many important issues with the hope of finding as soon as possible the outline of an eventual settlement this spring, in order that general assemblies might evaluate it in light of our strategic goals.

This did not happen, but perhaps it will start this week. Union delegates have been asked to be ready to meet on 48-hours notice whenever necessary.

Will Easter eggs replace the Christmas turkey? Will the strong Common Front demonstration lead the Charest government to increase their offers?

We will see in the days to come!

<http://www.csn.qc.ca/web/secteurpublic/negofneeq>