



## ACCELERATED NEGOTIATION THE CSQ MAKES THE GOVERNMENT BACK DOWN

**The March 31, 2020, deadline having expired almost a week ago, the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ) is pleased to have burst the accelerated negotiation framework the government wished to impose for the renewal of the public sector's collective agreements.**

As soon as the Legault government expressed its desire to renew the employment contracts of public sector employees in a short time frame, the CSQ made it clear that it wouldn't take part in an accelerated negotiation process. Besides, the Centrale has always regretted the sense of urgency, sparked by the government, that prevailed during discussions at the negotiation tables, while the only real urgency is the current unprecedented health crisis.

### Manage the crisis and extend the collective agreements

While the March 31 deadline is expired, the CSQ notes that it was able to get the government out of its accelerated negotiation framework.

In a meeting on April 2 and 3, 2020, the General Negotiation Council's (CGN) delegation gave the Centrale's negotiation team the mandate to reiterate its proposal, already presented

on March 26 (see Info-Nego number 14), to the Treasury Board Secretariat.

The Centrale asks for the extension of the current collective agreements for a 24-month period in order to continue the negotiations after the crisis, as well as for guarantees to be put in place to protect the purchasing power of its members and ensure a real ability to quickly improve some working conditions.

"We are aware of the issues brought about by the current crisis situation and we will continue to work for the improvement of the working and practice conditions of our members. In the current context, it's important that the communication channels with the government remain open: that's why discussions with the Treasury Board representatives continue," concludes the CSQ's president, Sonia Ethier.

### In the next few days...

The intersectoral negotiations council (CIN) will meet in the next few days to take stock of the situation and analyze the negotiation context. The next CGN meeting, planned for April 10 at the latest, will also aim to review the adopted approach and adjust it, if needed.

The CSQ will continue to put forward and defend the strategy adopted in the CGN with the goal of protecting its members' interests in this crisis and economic uncertainty context.

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