

Newsletter



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Headed toward mediation

Obviously, negotiations are stalling. There is a yawning gap between our legitimate demands and the employer party's sectoral and intersectoral offers (salaries, parental rights, regional disparities and pensions).

To make progress with negotiations, we now have no other choice but to ask the Ministère du travail to appoint mediators at the bargaining tables. In fact, that is what Common Front members announced at a press briefing on June 5.

- [Public-sector negotiations: The Common Front calls for the intervention of a mediator](#)
- [The FSE-CSQ and the APEQ call for mediation](#)

Unacceptable setbacks !

At the sectoral tables in health and education, the employer party pulled a fast one by tabling even worse proposals than its previous offers.

The most recent offer in education prompted both José Scalabrini, President of the Fédération des syndicats de l'enseignement (FSE-CSQ) and Richard Goldfinch, President of the Québec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT), to say: "Last week, the employer party presented us with a new offer, which was worse than the offer of December last year. This shows that the government is completely ignoring the work at the bargaining tables and that it is only interested in provocation."

In the health sector, a new offer from the Management Negotiating Committee mystified Claire Montour, President of the Fédération de la Santé du Québec (FSQ-CSQ). The employer demands include: payment of overtime at the regular hourly rate, abolition of some premiums, elimination of the compulsory sixteen-hour rest interval between shifts, ending the regular five-hour workweek, and limiting summer vacation to two weeks, etc.

"This proposal is despicable. It contains no fewer than 54 clawbacks, which, if applied, would reduce the content of our collective agreements to the same level as minimum labour standards. If memory serves, I do

not recall ever having received such a contemptuous employer offer at a bargaining table," she said in a [communiqué](#) entitled: Gaétan Barrette wants to take us back to the era of the *Grande noirceur*.

Mounting pressure

CSQ-affiliated unions have every intention of taking a proactive position in response to the employer party's arrogance. At the last meeting of the General Negotiations Council, they decided to seek strike mandates by the end of the summer and to build on other economic pressure tactics to force the hand of the management negotiating committees and the Conseil du trésor and to conclude a satisfactory agreement for all CSQ members and Common Front allies.

What conclusion have all the CSQ affiliates reached? It's only through sustained, intense mobilization that we will succeed with our negotiations. If the Couillard government persists in turning a deaf ear, we'll have to speak louder!



School staff wanted to remind the government that they carry our schools on their shoulders !

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