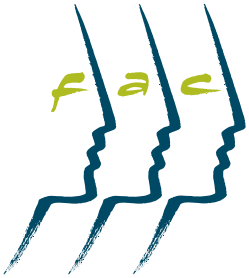


Montreal, May 11, 2009



Fédération
autonome
du collégial

To all FAC teachers

Dear Colleagues,

You probably have already heard about the recent departure of two FAC unions. As it is, after a lengthy review, our colleagues at Dawson College and at the Centre d'études collégiales de Baie-des-Chaleurs have democratically chosen to end their affiliation with FAC. Although regrettable, these departures do not make our unions less willing to follow the path of autonomous unionism. Furthermore, at the meeting at the special Intersyndical Council (CI) on May 1, FAC union delegates by majority reiterated their desire to see FAC continue its activities and to remain a leading actor in the college network.

Autonomous unionism is a fundamental conviction of FAC because it corresponds to the values and practices that the federation has defined over the last 20 years. We believe that such unionism best meets the aspirations of the teachers we represent. Autonomous unionism is also grounded on the expertise and quality services that FAC has developed. But perhaps even more, it is the democratic union practices FAC has always promoted that best characterize autonomous unionism. At FAC, power truly resides with the general assemblies, which are regularly consulted on a wide range of subjects. FAC's autonomy and the autonomy of its unions also enable our federation to conduct negotiations in its own way. This unionism of outreach and proximity, a unionism shown both by the regular presence of elected representatives at local unions and by the direct power of the general assemblies over the negotiation process, is a fundamental characteristic of our union actions.

The primacy of the powers of the general assemblies, a primacy that constitutes the foundation of FAC union life, will lead your executive to consult you very soon on your FAC affiliation. Is our organization still relevant? We are convinced it is. Is it viable? We believe it is, especially if union members, in full knowledge of the cause, reaffirm their commitment to FAC. Beyond the uproar arising from the departure of some unions, we are convinced that FAC remains the tool of choice for Cegep teachers.

Choosing FAC is perhaps not the easiest choice to make: it requires the commitment of everyone and calls on the general assemblies to take up their responsibilities fully. Nevertheless, we invite you to continue in the path of responsible unionism and once again to make FAC your choice.

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