

Negotiations moving forward!

An important step was taken Friday, October 30, when the list of sectoral demands, adopted by the regroupement cégep, was tabled with representatives of the *Conseil patronal de négociations des collèges* (CPNC).

At 2:30 pm, members of the FNEEQ Negotiation and Mobilization committee headed to the drop-off after meeting for almost an hour and a half. Marked by a caucus requested by the CPNC, this first contact gave us a chance to reiterate our desire to negotiate an agreement by March 31, 2010.

The CPNC is composed of people named by the minister of education and the Fédération des cégeps (FC). It consists of spokespersons Bernard Pepin, Élisabeth Boisvert and Jocelyne Drouin, representing MELS, as well as Diane Brien, Céline Paul-Hus and Serge Racicot, who represent the FC.

We'll soon have some news for you about the negotiation timetable and employer demands.



Members of the FNEEQ Negotiation and Mobilization committee handing the list of demands to the *Comité patronal de négociation des collèges* on October 30.

From L-R, Éric Kirouac, from Collège François-Xavier-Garneau; Yves Sabourin, from Cégep Édouard-Montpetit; Yves de Repentigny, coordination delegate from the regroupement cégep; Jacques Bazinet, spokesperson, Bruce Toombs, from Champlain Regional College in St-Lambert; Nicole Lefebvre, from cégep de Maisonneuve; and Guillaume Fournier, Cégep de Saint-Laurent.

An honour guard to escort members of the Common Front to the Treasury Board's door

An enthusiastic crowd accompanied FTQ president Michel Arsenault, CSN president Claudette Carbonneau, and Gilles Dussault, spokesperson for the Secrétariat intersyndical des services publics (SISP), as they handed central table demands to Treasury Board on October 30 in Quebec City.



To recap, these demands involve salaries, the family-work balance, parental rights and retirement. Filed by Common Front negotiators, they aim to renew the collective agreements of 475,000 workers in the health and education system as well as the public sector that are united under one banner. The collective agreements imposed by the Charest government in December 2005 expire on March 31, 2010.

A gathering of 2,000 people beforehand at Parc de la Francophonie sent a clear message: the decree has run its course and now workers in the public and parapublic sectors want a satisfactory and negotiated agreement.



A busy day for FNEEQ union members!

at Ahuntsic...

There was picketing in front of the college from 6:30-8 AM. A large number of professors and students were in attendance. Information on the tabling of our demands was distributed outside and inside as well. At 2 PM, with support staff and faculty union representatives on hand, available professors went to present the Common Front's Negotiation Declaration to the director-general. They had made a blown-up copy for the director-general and suggested that he laminate it and hang it in his office! They stated loud and clear that he could expect more visits throughout the negotiations.

at Chicoutimi...

Around 80 members of the support staff, professional and faculty unions accompanied their representatives to the director-general's office, where sectoral demands related to the next collective agreements were filed. They also read the Negotiation Declaration and everyone read out the last sentence: "Today, we stand TOGETHER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES and we won't rest until a satisfactory conclusion is reached." The cegep's director-general expressed her wish for a peaceful negotiation process and indicated that she shared many of the concerns raised in the negotiation declaration, namely the issue of personnel recruitment.

at François-Xavier-Garneau...

At 10 AM, the faculty, support staff and professional staff unions met for a symbolic delivery of negotiating demands to the employer. There were student association and FNEEQ negotiation committee members present, along with some professors. The tone was respectful; each group, union and

employer, took turns speaking and worked to establish a favourable climate conducive to negotiations. At the end, each person in attendance was given some chocolates that symbolized three major elements of the upcoming negotiations: a decent wage, reasonable workload, improved job security.

at Maisonneuve...

The Common front was fully represented, as members of the support staff, professional prsonnel, and faculty unions, handed over the Negotiation Declaration as well as a list of demands to the college's director-general and academic director. The event took the form of a friendly lunch in the college's main entrance, which gave the three unions a chance to demonstrate their unity and to ask the directors to recognize, at whatever forum, the quality and the necessity of the work that cegep employees perform. The choice of these managers to work in the public service logically presumes that they share certain values and understand the needs of the milieu that they should support.

at Montmorency...

Fifty members from the three unions participated in a symbolic picket from 7:30-8:15 AM. Armed with a megaphone and 500 leaflets, they welcomed the Montmorency community into a friendly and festive setting. Afterwards, 20 members from the three unions escorted their three spokespeople who were going to read the Negotiation Declaration to the director-general. She commented that it was an interesting declaration and that she hoped they would achieve a negotiated agreement. Given the current economic situation, though, she also indicated that this negotiation would be a challenge. The unions' response to this: the economic

situation is linked to societal choices made by governments. They added that they hope our elected representatives look for solutions based on the common good, aimed at a just and equal society that supports those without a voice, that offers quality care to citizens as well as a quality education accessible to everyone.

at Saint-Laurent...

A large gathering was organized by the three local unions. By inviting management to attend, the unions wanted to demonstrate their wish to come to a satisfactory agreement quickly. Through the sheer force of numbers, union members sent a clear message to their employers.

at Valleyfield...

Executive committee reps from the college's two employee unions presented the Negotiation Declaration to the director-general. He received the document and promised to give it a close reading. The faculty union president stressed the importance of Common Front demands and mentioned that everything must be done to avoid a government decree. The director-general was asked to pass on this inter-union position to the Fédération des cégeps. He declared that negotiations should remind the public about the importance of education in today's society.

Around...

Lots of picketing and meetings with board members or management at l'Assomption, at Dawson, at Édouard-Montpetit, at Granby, at Saint-Hyacinthe, at John-Abbott, at Jonquière, at Limoilou, at Marie-Victorin, at Saint-Lambert, at St. Lawrence, at Sept-Îles, at Trois-Rivières...

For detailed info on the negotiations: <http://www.csn.qc.ca/web/secteurpublic/negofneeq>

