

# WITH NEGOTIATIONS, EVERYBODY WINS!



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## Leaving people poorer is no way to settle!

On February 11, the Common Front met with the Conseil du trésor. It was an opportunity for our negotiators to explain to the government why its offer on pay is clearly inadequate. Our meticulous preparatory work paid off and we were able to give the government solid economic arguments in support of our positions.

### The trend towards impoverishment has to be stopped!

We stressed to the Conseil du trésor that our goal of protecting our purchasing power was absolutely crucial. We first explained that our purchasing power has declined by more than 3% in the past 7 years: as a result of the wage freezes and small increases imposed by the 2005 decree, our pay hasn't kept up with inflation. And the government's offer doesn't do much to remedy the situation. Worse, its offer of 5% over 5 years would mean a further reduction in our standard of living, since inflation is projected to run at about 2% annually in the coming years.

### The pay gap has to be closed!

Right now, pay for government employees lags behind that of other employees in comparable jobs in Québec by about 8.7%. The government is offering an increase of 0.5% for 2010. Compare that to the private sector, where employees can expect raises of 2.5% to 3% in 2010. These figures don't come from the unions: they come from eight private accounting firms. Obviously, an offer that doesn't even let our pay keep up with inflation won't do anything to close the gap between what we're paid and pay for comparable jobs in the private sector. Yet if we want to hold on to qualified workers and attract the new younger employees our public services so desperately need, this gap with the private sector has to be tackled.

### Where's the enrichment?

So the Conseil du trésor's offer on pay falls far short of our expectations. We intend to continue negotiations, of course. But if the government agrees with us on really wanting to reach a settlement by March 31, it will have to offer more.

We have become poorer in recent years, and the government is proposing that we go on getting poorer. Leaving people poorer is no way to settle! Reaching an agreement requires a decent offer. The only way to get one is to make ourselves heard and to mobilize. So make sure you and your colleagues are there on March 20!

## National demonstration Montréal March 20

Gathering at Place du Canada, corner of Peel and René-Lévesque West  
Leaving at 1:00 p.m. for Jean Charest's Montréal office



