

STAND **with us**

to increase our clout and leverage



BARGAINING UPDATE No. 8 • CENTRAL BARGAINING TABLE • NOVEMBER 20, 2015

A STRATEGY THAT IS BEARING FRUIT

Last Wednesday, November 18, the Common Front made a significant gesture when it tabled an amended union proposal to the Treasury Board. A significant gesture designed to restart negotiations at the central bargaining table.

The reaction of the President of the Treasury Board, Martin Coiteux, was swift, virulent, but in no way representative of the discussions that were taking place at the very same time at the bargaining table. While the President of the Treasury Board was grandstanding in front of the media, his own negotiators were demonstrating a genuine desire to negotiate in the course of discussions that were held until Wednesday evening. Certain areas of convergence were identified regarding a number of issues, linked both to our concerns and those of the Government. The work at the central bargaining table is likewise continuing today.

At the present time, the goal we identified has been achieved: negotiations are thus unambiguously moving in the right direction. Our exemplary mobilization, our job actions over the past few weeks and the strategy we've deployed in launching this movement are bearing fruit and progress is possible. The population supports us and the balance of power is tipping in our favour.

On Wednesday, we announced the postponement of the strike days scheduled for December 1, 2 and 3, as a concrete demonstration of our good faith and seriousness, and of our desire to leave all the room possible for negotiations so that we can reach an agreement as quickly as possible. Martin Coiteux has to grasp our message: the members of the Common Front are determined to improve their working conditions and the population's access to

our public services. And the postponement of our strike days could end up being of short duration, if no significant movement is observed at the bargaining tables.

In the meantime, various visibility actions will nonetheless be organized by the Common Front to support the negotiations that are continuing and we invite you to contact your union representatives for more information regarding the foregoing.

LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

It is important to rectify a certain number of affirmations made by Martin Coiteux when he reacted to our counter-proposal:

The cost of our salary demands: the Common Front economists have evaluated the net cost of our salary demands to be about \$1.8 billion dollars,

subject to certain adjustments depending upon the evolution of Quebec's economy. Very far removed from the \$16.6 billion that Martin Coiteux was denouncing the day before yesterday!

The Generations Fund: the Minister also accused the Common Front of dipping into the Generations Fund to finance its salary demands. This is simply not true. As of this year, the Government is planning to increase the payments into the Generations Fund from \$1 billion to \$3.5 billion. The Common Front's proposal is to reduce these transfers over the next few years in order to create a certain amount of leeway that we evaluate at \$5.3 billion, over 3 years. More than sufficient to finance the Common Front's proposals and to reinvest in our public systems without sending Quebec into debt, nor increasing the fiscal burden of Quebecers.

