

WITH NEGOTIATIONS, EVERYBODY WINS!



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It's urgent for management to start really negotiating!

Do the government and our employers really want to reach an agreement by the end of the month? If so, it's high time for them to start putting their words into practice!

For the past year, we have done everything we could to achieve positive results in this round of bargaining by March 31, 2010. We built a solid, united Common Front representing 475,000 people. We set aside the period for changes in union allegiance, replacing it with a code of honour that enabled us to stay united for collective bargaining. All our unions agreed on a common set of targeted demands corresponding to what we need. We travelled the length and breadth of Québec to proclaim loud and clear that we had a Common Front and were ready to replace the 2005 decrees with signed collective agreements!

We presented our demands to government on October 30, the legally stipulated date. We offered to settle during a period when there wouldn't be strong pressure tactics. We stayed calm when the government made its petty offers on pay, and we continued to stay calm when the employer associations made their demands for unacceptable rollbacks.

It's time for the government to realize that in order to reach a satisfactory negotiated settlement by March 31, 2010, it's going to have to make the necessary efforts to satisfy our demands.

Two weeks ago, the Common Front met with Conseil du trésor chair Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, at her request. We asked for an intensification of bargaining talks at the sectoral level, a necessary pre-condition to any settlement by the end of the month.

The minister replied that she was willing to what was necessary at the various bargaining tables. Yet as of March 8, it has to be said that sectoral bargaining is not progressing as we had hoped or expected. At nearly all the tables, the employer associations are sticking to demands for absolutely unacceptable rollbacks, and the spokespersons for management clearly don't have the mandates they would need if we're to make any appreciable progress in bargaining talks. There won't be any settlement at the central table if we can't reach satisfactory agreements at the sectoral tables!

To obtain agreements, we're going to have to step up the pressure. This is why the national demonstration on March 20 is so important.

We have to show the government and our bosses that we are determined to obtain a satisfactory signed collective agreement. It's our union responsibility to convince our co-workers to support our collective action by participating in this demonstration.

**Big national Common Front demonstration
Saturday, March 20, 2010
Meet up on the Place du Canada,
corner of Peel and René-Lévesque West
Demonstration sets off at 1:00 p.m.**

