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We'll judge by the results

The chair of the Conseil du trésor announced on Friday, March 19 that she was agreeing to undertake a bargaining blitz at all the tables and would instruct all the employer bargaining committees to this effect.

This is certainly good news, but we'll wait and see what the final outcome is. The blitz is supposed to begin at all the tables by Wednesday, March 24 and continue for a week through to March 31. The four CSN federations will engage in this process at their respective sectoral tables.

A bargaining blitz means that there is no longer any formal calendar of work; talks take place continuously, in the same location, throughout this entire period. At the central table, the Common Front will also be working more intensively. The goal is still to obtain satisfactory settlements at the central table and all the sectoral tables by March 31, 2010, when the decrees expire.

To maximize the possibility of success in this blitz, we won't comment directly on specific developments at the bargaining tables. We will, however, continue to keep you informed about the general climate of talks and the issues, using our web site and the various social media at our disposal. As well, you can go to www.secteurpublic.info every morning at about 8:00 a.m. for a one-minute video update by CSN vice-president Louis Roy.

A very impressive demonstration

On March 20, more than 75 000 public service workers and citizens concerned about the future of our social safety net demonstrated in Montréal. They sent an unequivocal message to the government: yes to a bargaining blitz, but it has to result in negotiated solutions to the problems we face. *Thanks for turning out in such large numbers for the demonstration!*

Show your support on Wednesday, March 31

We have to keep up demonstrating the same firm determination until we obtain a final settlement. Between now and March 31, you are invited to keep up the pressure by continuing to work at promoting our demands and convincing the general public of the validity of our position.

On March 31, you will be asked to participate in a visibility action with your employers and even outside, in front of your institutions. March 31 will no doubt be decisive in bargaining talks, and it will be important to demonstrate your support for the bargaining committees. As well, the government will bring in its 2010-2011 budget the day before, on March 30. We will undoubtedly have to ask for additional investments in public services, so March 31 will be a good opportunity to express our point of view!



March 20, 2010, more than 75,000 of us demonstrated in the streets of Montréal. A historic Common Front action!

