

Negotiations : where are we at ?

Progress is slow at most of the federation sectoral bargaining tables, as well as at the central table, which is where the topics of salary, pension, parental rights, regional disparities and skilled workers are negotiated.

In fact, the employer party has not shown any real interest in negotiating. It has not contributed to discussion, preferring to stick to the content of its proposal. Furthermore, it is doing everything it can to get the union party to accept the problems it has singled out and the assessment it has made of public finances.

At the same time, it has completely ignored the issues identified by the union party, disregarded concerns expressed about the impacts of its demands and austerity measures on the structure and the quality of the public services, and dismissed the anger that its clawbacks have provoked among unionized employees.

Although the union party wants bargaining to get underway, it is also contemplating the potential need to exert significant pressure tactics, including strike action. As a result, General Negotiations Council delegates debated the matter on April 16-17, 2015. They decided to move quickly to discuss the strategy with members.

Anti-Closure Protest

“ Crions plus fort, parce que Couillard nous ignore ”

Deeply offended, the General Negotiations Council (CGN) delegates of the CSQ demonstrated on the morning of April 17 to protest the Couillard government's intention to invoke closure on Bill 28. This is the second time it has forced legislation through the National Assembly in just over a month. The demonstrators reminded the government that :

1) Children are our collective wealth, not private-sector assets

The sliding scale for childcare rates, one of the measures proposed in the bill, accelerates the privatization of educational childcare services, reduces quality of services, increases taxes on families, penalizes women and destabilizes the labour market. By moving in this direction, the government is turning children into a source of profit for private enterprise, whereas the public network is focused on the needs of young children, not profit margins.

2) Credit cards are no substitute for a health insurance card

Access to care and drugs should not depend on our credit rating. The bill will fling the doors wide open to the privatization of health services because certain types of care will simply no longer be covered, just like pharmaceutical services that are considered necessary. This is unacceptable!



3) The Liberal government is the grand champion of the economic downturn

With this bill, the Couillard government proves it is by no means the champion of economic recovery. And no wonder: by abolishing regional conferences of elected officers and local development centres, the key players in business development, it is destroying strategic resources for regional and local development, job creation and Québec's prosperity.



In the media: Closure for Bill n° 28: union members demonstrate in Québec City, SRC <http://m.radio-canada.ca/regions/quebec/2015/04/17/003-manifestation-baillon-projet-de-loi-28-vendredi.shtml>.



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