

SEPTEMBER 21 TO 27, 2025

NATIONAL SUPPORT
STAFF WEEK IN THE
EDUCATION SECTOR



Behind every

success

there's a team that

supports

education!

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Behind every success story, there's a team that supports education!

When a slogan says it all, there's no need to reinvent it: you are the ones who work as a team to support the success of thousands of young and not-so-young people who pass through our education system every year, from elementary school to university.

We knew that a single day was not enough to show you all the recognition you deserve. It seems we weren't the only ones who felt that more needed to be done, so this year, the day is becoming a full week of recognition for your work, from September 21 to 27, 2025.

As we do every year, even though we are taking advantage of this week to celebrate your work, we must still take the time to denounce the main issues that affect you.

Unacceptable cuts

Half a billion dollars in budget cuts to elementary and secondary schools: this is what the CAQ government is leaving us with as we begin the 2025-2026 school year. The CAQ is playing with words, and the outgoing minister has even announced the return of the funds, but with so many conditions that the real effects are practically the same as a cut. Yet, in his own words, there is nothing left to cut in the education system. The result? Services to students and their families, already affected by years of restrictions, hiring freezes, and other constraints imposed by the Legault

government, are now literally at risk of disappearing. The cuts now affect positions that not only provide direct services to students, but more specifically to those who need them most. Dozens of positions for special education technicians and attendants for students with disabilities were cut over the summer in all School Service Center, not to mention the impact on the purchase of equipment, the organization of activities, building maintenance, etc.

Despite being a proud defender of policies against violence and bullying, Bernard Drainville, Minister of Education, and his government have committed the most violent act against all students in Québec: depriving them of the resources they need to grow and to develop. It is a suffering network that he is passing on to his colleague Sonia Lebel, who was newly appointed Minister of Education in September.

We will be closely monitoring this important change.

A college network at the end of its rope

The government is applying the same logic to the college network, imposing cuts of more than \$150 million without regard for needs. This attack is in addition to a series of other measures imposed over the past year. Since November 1, 2024, the CAQ government has implemented an indefinite hiring freeze across the public sector, including cegeps. Added to this, there are severe cuts in operating budgets and MAOB (the French acronym for furniture, equipment, tools, and library) budgets, as well as a slowdown in infrastructure investments, all announced earlier between 2024 and 2025. This is a particularly absurd situation considering the outdated infrastructure and the growth in the student population. It is becoming increasingly difficult to believe that the Legault government is not actively trying to destroy cegeps. As in education, higher education is now under the leadership of a new minister, Ms. Geneviève Biron. We will keep a close eye on her handling of these issues.

Violence, less in the news but still present

The violence suffered by support staff in elementary and secondary schools has unfortunately not disappeared, quite the opposite. However, news of the government's numerous attacks on the education and higher education systems will have overshadowed this issue in the news. Yet violence against support staff in Québec elementary and secondary schools is still on the rise. Between 2022 and 2024, claims to the CNESST for workplace violence, for all school staff, rose from 650 to 1,149 cases. And for school support staff, the number of cases nearly

doubled, from 359 to 703. These statistics, that unfortunately represent only the tip of the iceberg, reflect an increasingly frequent and serious phenomenon. Yet the government has simple and quick solutions to reverse this trend. It is therefore urgent to fill vacant positions in order to reduce staff work overload and fatigue; to roll out targeted training on violence prevention and psychosocial risk management to give you the practical tools you need in crisis situations; and to standardize and strengthen emergency protocols with systematic follow-up of every injury on duty and incident. It is imperative that measures be put in place to ensure the safety and protection of those on the front lines supporting our students.

Exacerbated pressure on universities

The university network is not being left out. The government is also tightening the belt, demanding cuts that represent a total of 0.7% of what is normally allocated to them. Depending on the institution, this represents a total of around \$200 million. Once again, the government will be of no help in finding solutions, preferring instead to engage in wishful thinking. While several universities have insisted that these cuts will not affect staff, it is clear that, in order to compensate, university administrations have had to and will continue to make decisions that impact the work of support staff.

With force and conviction

At the Fédération des employées et employés de services publics (FEESP-CSN), we are here, by your side, and we will continue to fight to defend the education and higher education networks and to represent you.

Whether it is with the help of our team of employees who support you in your labor relations with your local employers or through public interventions by elected officials on issues that affect you, the FEESP-CSN will never stop finding ways to improve your working conditions.

With force and conviction, we will continue to defend you!

We repeat once again: thank you, be strong, be proud!

Have a great National Support Staff Week!



Frédéric Brun, President of FEESP-CSN