

Workers have spoken: agreement officially adopted

Following a series of general meetings held between January 15 and February 20, 2024, CSN members adopted the agreement. Invited to vote on both the central table agreement and the sectoral agreement concerning them, 81% of workers voted in favor.

Extensive consultation

The overall agreement was adopted by 85% of the Fédération des professionnelles (FP-CSN), 80% of the Fédération de la santé et des services sociaux (FSSS-CSN), 84% of the Fédération nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ-CSN) and 76% of the Fédération des employées et employés de services publics (FEESP-CSN).



Hundreds of general assemblies were held across Quebec to present details and answer members' questions. Some unions organized several sessions to enable as many workers as possible to participate. This proved beneficial, with participation rates ranging from 35% to 75%, depending on the union.

On the Common Front side, the agreement was adopted by 74.8%.

Over the next few weeks, the negotiating committees of all the tables will complete the writing of the texts of the new collective agreement with the employer, which will lead to the signing of the collective agreement. The aim is to complete the work quickly.

A foot in the door

By improving the working conditions of the people who work in our networks, the 2023 round of bargaining will have given us a foot in the door in anticipation of the fight that



remains to be waged to enable our public services to play their role to the full, and to enhance the value of our essential work for all Quebecers.

After 40 years of neglect imposed on our networks, the formidable mobilization of our members combined with the massive support of the population forced the government to make a choice that was not initially its own: to invest in public services. In fact, we forced it to grant unprecedented pay rises, protection against inflation, extra vacations and improvements to insurance, among other things. In short, we forced him to make the only good political choice: to improve your conditions and strengthen the health and social services, education and higher education networks, for the benefit of the quality of services to the population.

Will these gains solve all the problems? Of course not. A lot of work remains to be done. There are still too many precarious and low-paid workers. There are still too many overburdened patients, pupils and students who should be better cared for. Waiting lists are still too long, and many facilities are in need of refurbishment. The list of problems is vast. However, the gains achieved in Round 2023 will enable workers to start from a lower starting point in the struggle to rebuild public services. Of course, the CSN will be there to support them unreservedly. The whole of Quebec is now fully aware of the urgent need for action and the importance of strong, quality public services.

Every worker can be proud of the battle that has been waged. If the public's impressive support for us proves one thing, it's that you've been on the right side all along, fighting for our public services.

In solidarity.

