

OFFERS AT THE CENTRAL BARGAINING TABLE UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED

It is with a unanimous NO that the Front commun has rejected, over the last few days, the offers tabled by the Treasury Board on December 15. With one voice, union delegations at the CSN, CSQ, FTQ and APTS dismissed the government proposals as totally inadequate to deal with the serious problems wracking public services.

Getting poorer, no thanks!

While facing an unprecedented labour shortage – one in which attracting and retaining personnel is a huge challenge, the Québec government’s response is to propose pay increases that don’t even keep up with the rising cost of living. This offer would actually leave our members poorer off! How could they possibly accept it? We’ll be pushing hard at the bargaining tables to make their voices heard – especially since the government proposal is so completely out of sync with what we need to restore and enhance our public services.

Government’s own numbers don’t add up

Government wage proposal		Inflation forecast by the government	
April 1, 2023	3%	2022	6.8%
April 1, 2024	1.5%	2023	3.7%
April 1, 2025	1.5%	2024	2.2%
April 1, 2026	1.5%	2025	2%
April 1, 2027	1.5%	2026	2%

Reminder of the wage demand of the Front commun

APRIL 1, 2023	\$100 PER WEEK OR CPI + 2%
APRIL 1, 2024	CPI + 3%
APRIL 1, 2025	CPI + 4%

The government is talking out of both sides of its mouth. While offering nothing to cover cost-of-living increases for public-service workers, it wonders why we have a major problem attracting and retaining people. To address the labour shortage in our public services, our proposals are as clear as day, written in black and white in the Front commun demands. We fail to see how these government offers – which look more like a public relations exercise – will benefit Quebecers and public-sector workers.

Ready to bargain!

The Front commun is ready to do its part at the bargaining tables. We heard Minister LeBel’s invitation on January 11 to negotiate. But our commitment must be reciprocal. Treasury Board mandates are needed to make sure these contract talks provide solutions that will ensure the future of public services. The Front commun is now urging the Treasury Board to start negotiating at the central bargaining table. For the public sector to become an attractive and competitive employer, the necessary measures must be set in place so that all Quebecers can have access to quality services in schools, health and social services, and higher education.