



BREAKING NEWS

We just learned that the Presidents of the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ), the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ), the Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS), the Fédération Interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec (FIQ) and the Fédération autonome de l'enseignement (FAE) have been invited by the Treasury Board president, Sonia LeBel, to a joint meeting to take place on Tuesday, March 30, in the evening.

The central table negotiation team will receive new employer offers the next day, on Wednesday, March 31.

We ask you to reserve your day, on April 1, in case a general negotiation council (CGN) is called.

Beginning of the CSQ members' strike

As announced at the March 18 event in front of the National Assembly, the unions affiliated with the three college network federations of the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ) will be the first to exercise their strike mandate on March 30.

In connection with this announcement, the presidents of the CSQ, the Fédération des enseignantes et enseignants de cégep (FEC-CSQ), the Fédération du personnel professionnel des collèges (FPPC-CSQ) and the Fédération du personnel de soutien de l'enseignement supérieur (FPSES-CSQ) invited the government to reconsider its financial framework and give new mandates to its negotiators.

Yet, since March 18, 2021, no change has been observed at the sectoral negotiation tables or at the central table. At the same time, the Finance minister tabled its new budget, in which the amounts dedicated to the renewal of the collective agreements of State employees remained unchanged.

Radio silence from the government, no budget flexibility

Despite the imminence of the strike beginning by the CSQ unions, nobody representing the government engaged representatives of the Centrale or the federations to avoid a work stoppage.

"Faced with the government's silence, in the absence of new mandates from the employer's representatives at the negotiations tables and with the continuation of the financial framework, the teachers, professionals and support staff of the FEC-CSQ, of the FPPC-CSQ and of the FPSES-CSQ feel they have no choice but to exercise their right to strike on March 30," confirms Sonia Ethier.

Activities in close to 40 CEGEPs and colleges all over Québec will thus be disrupted on this occasion.



Call for solidarity

FEC-CSQ, FPPC-CSQ and FPSES-CSQ members will thus be the first to exercise their right to strike in this current negotiation round of the public and parapublic sectors. This means that, in many cases, only one union will be on strike in various CEGEPs. Moreover, this strike will unfold in the unprecedented context of the health crisis. This means, among other things, that many colleagues who are members of other union organizations in the same CEGEP, will be isolated in telework during this time.

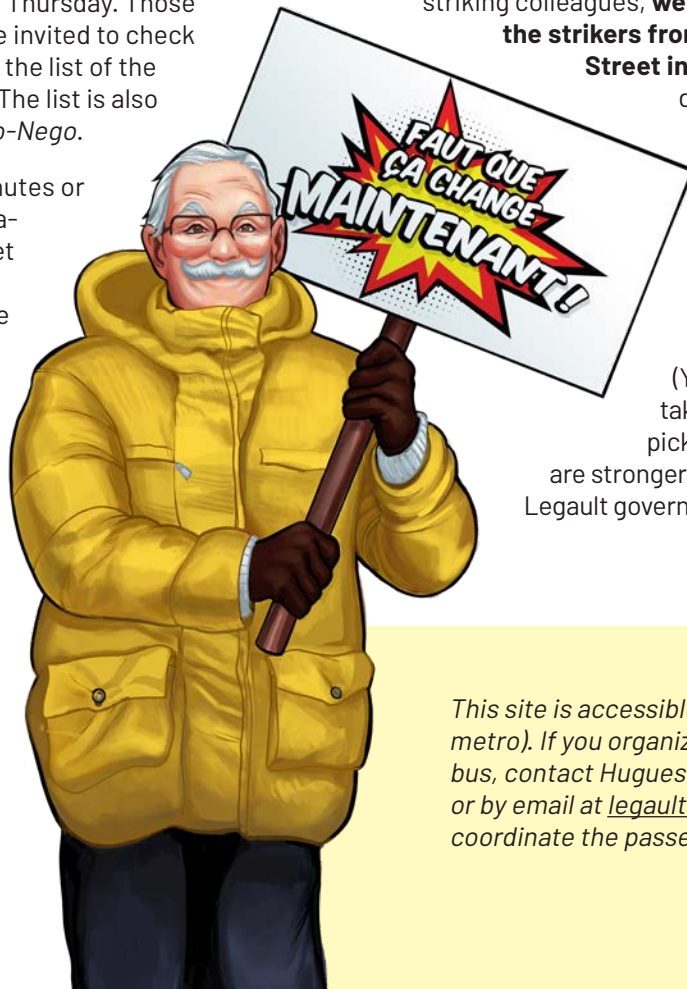
So, a call to union solidarity has been underway since the March 18, 2021, announcement. Unions affiliated with the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), the Syndicat de professionnelles et professionnels du gouvernement du Québec (SPGQ) and the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ) already offered their collaboration and confirmed they will be supportive of the CSQ's strikers.

Those who need to go to their CEGEP will be invited to respect the picket lines. Those who are teleworking will be able to demonstrate their support towards their colleagues on strike, namely by using a wallpaper that we offered them. The CEGEP students' associations will also be asked to respect picket lines and to use the same wallpaper.

We are also, of course, calling upon the solidarity of all CSQ members to support the college network colleagues on strike on March 30, 2021. For this purpose, an invitation was sent to all Centrale's affiliates last Thursday. Those who can get to the picket lines are invited to check out that message, which includes the list of the institutions that will be on strike. The list is also included at the bottom of this *Info-Nego*.

Whether you can spend a few minutes or a few hours with our CEGEP colleagues, go honk in front of the picket line or bring a placard or signs to support them, your support will be greatly appreciated. For those in telework on that day, we suggest below in this *Info-Nego* a wallpaper to use to show your solidarity.

Finally, please note that other components of the CSQ will very soon be able to announce their decision to exercise their strike mandate as well.



"We take no pleasure in preparing to exercise a strike mandate, but it is our duty to denounce the Legault government's refusal to grant additional resources to support the exhausted staff and to prevent services to the public from entering a dead end," repeats the Centrale's president.

We hope the government's big names will finally listen to reason and will understand that our members will be in the street because things have to change now in education and in healthcare.

Wallpaper to show solidarity with FEC-CSQ, FPPC-CSQ and FPSES-CSQ members



CSQ on strike: Another way to show support to the college network!

As the college network workers will be the first among CSQ members to exercise their right to strike on March 30, an event is organized to mark the occasion.

To show support in a different way to the college network striking colleagues, **we also invite all CSQ affiliates to join the strikers from 11:30 am to 1 pm at 600 Fullum Street in Montréal** (offices of the ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur) to demonstrate their support and attend a performance by Laurence Nerbonne who will sing live the negotiation song: "Faut que ça change"!

The event will also be broadcasted live on the CSQ web platforms (YouTube and **Facebook**), and we will take the opportunity to virtually visit the picket lines all over Québec! In CSQ we are stronger. Let's send a clear message to the Legault government: things have to change now!

This site is accessible by public transport (Papineau metro). If you organize your members' transport by bus, contact Hugues Legault by calling 514 229-2184 or by email at legault.hugues@lacsq.org to coordinate the passengers' safe unloading.

CSQ gearing up to strike: Kick-off in Québec City on March 18

Faced with the dead end of the public sector's negotiations on March 18, the CSQ announced the execution of the strike mandate it had obtained from its members, by confirming that its college network unions would be the first to hold a day strike.



Almost a hundred people were then gathered in front of the National Assembly where, supported by all opposition parties, Sonia Ethier sent a message to the government.



"We won't tolerate the red herrings at the negotiation tables anymore, denounced the CSQ president. Mr. Legault, you insisted for the negotiations to happen in spite of the crisis? Well then, negotiate in good faith! Do better and do it quickly; on March 30, we are on strike."

You can read the full statement by following [this link](#).

Québec budget: Where are the true priorities?

The CSQ and its members were present early on March 25 to remind the Finance Minister that the budget he was about to present was the opportunity to show the population of Québec that education and healthcare are true priorities.

Sadly, the government's inertia is CONFIRMED. The financial framework of the negotiation hasn't moved an inch and is still established at 6.2%.



The government thus once again sends the signal that it has no intention to invest to improve services to the public or the working conditions in the schools, the centres, the CEGEPs or the hospitals. We will be there on March 30 at 7 pm for a more detailed analysis of the budget, presented live on Facebook.

You can read the full statement by following [this link](#).

Ad campaign to come

The CSQ will unveil in the next few days an important ad campaign in support of the public sector's negotiation, and it will put the focus on services to the public. This big visibility operation will be relayed to you in an upcoming *Info-Nego*.

List of CEGEPs and colleges on strike on March 30

- Cégep Beauce-Appalaches
- Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles - Campus des Îles
- Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles à Gaspé
- Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles à Montréal
- Cégep de La Pocatière
- Cégep de l'Outaouais
- Cégep de Rivière-du-Loup
- Cégep de Saint-Jérôme
- Cégep de Sept-Îles
- Cégep de Baie-Comeau
- Cégep de Drummondville
- Cégep de Granby - Haute-Yamaska
- Cégep de Matane
- Cégep de Rimouski
- Cégep de Sherbrooke
- Cégep de Sorel-Tracy
- Cégep de Ste-Foy
- Cégep de Victoriaville
- Cégep du Vieux-Montréal
- Cégep Édouard-Montpetit
- Cégep François-Xavier-Garneau
- Cégep Gérald-Godin
- Cégep Limoilou
- Cégep Marie-Victorin
- Cégep Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu
- Centre de formation aux mesures d'urgence
- Champlain Regional College - Campus Lennoxville
- Champlain Regional College - Administration offices
- Champlain Regional College - Campus St Lawrence
- Champlain Regional College - Campus St-Lambert
- Collège Ahuntsic
- Collège Bois-de-Boulogne
- Collège de Maisonneuve
- Collège de Valleyfield
- Collège Lionel-Groulx
- Collège Shawinigan
- Dawson College
- Heritage College
- Institut maritime du Québec
- Vanier College

To view the French version of this newsletter, visit the [Info-Négo](#) section of our website.

TO STAY ABREAST OF THE NEGOTIATIONS...

Follow the evolution of public and parapublic sector negotiations by visiting the [CSQ website](#) and subscribing to the [newsletter](#).



Centrale des syndicats
du Québec