

apply to programs whose numbers of hours range from 135 to over 2,000, depending on the institution. Such massive variance makes it imperative that we establish a common province-wide classification system for AEC programs.

Moreover, we believe the development of AECs and RACs needs to be regulated to ensure these do not become ways of bypassing programs leading to a DEC and, in the broader sense, to prevent them from being used for strictly utilitarian purposes to the detriment of the

citizen-focused humanistic approach to training that is inherent in the college education system.

The devolution of many of the ministry's powers to the colleges poses a very real threat to the coherence and strength of Québec's

For a **strong** college network
in **all** regions of Québec

college network. Allowing such a degree of local latitude in crucial areas like the issuing of diplomas runs

the risk of fragmenting the network by fueling competition among institutions and thereby jeopardizing the very existence of some of our CEGEPs in the regions. ■

Let's make this about cohesion instead!

No to the disengagement of the State!

Yes to the protection of our provincial programs and diplomas!



**Fédération des femmes
du Québec**

The *Fédération des femmes du Québec* (FFQ) is in the throes of a major financial crisis, a situation brought on, in large part, by the deep funding cuts that women's groups have had to endure in recent years, particularly at the hands of Stephen Harper's Conservative government. Despite the best efforts of the FFQ team, that situation has escalated into a full-blown state of emergency.

So, after only just having celebrated its 50th anniversary, the FFQ is now in a fight for its life: cancelling activities at the last minute, paring its action plan back to the bare bones, abolishing key jobs. A mere shadow of its former self, the organization is devoting every ounce of energy it has to rebuilding its financial health while retaining a presence in coalitions and remaining active through its network of volunteers.

The FFQ is an indispensable conduit for the voice of Québec women. It is a convergence point for the wide diversity of groups and individuals who believe in social equality and solidarity. Its history is marked by vigorous debates and courageous positions that have advanced the feminist cause. For a half-century, it has defended the rights of women while waging an unyielding battle against poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination.

Now, the FFQ needs the public's support to ensure its survival and the pursuit of its mission. That is why FNEEQ is issuing an urgent appeal to you today for financial support to help this essential organization. You can help by making a donation and/or becoming a member by signing up your union, your women's committee and your individual members.

FNEEQ will continue denouncing the underfunding of rights organizations like the FFQ and encourages you to do the same! ■

To show your concrete support, go to <http://www.ffq.qc.ca/simpliquer/faire-un-don/>