

BLOC-NOTES

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November 26, 2012



to all members
of affiliated unions

ON THE WAY TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT

The election promise of the Parti Québécois to hold a Higher Education Summit is on track to being fulfilled. Our union federation, FNEEQ, will be represented there by two members of its Executive. The CSN and its three federations in the education field - representing support staff (FEESP), professionals (FP), and teachers (FNEEQ) - are working together to develop their positions. This is to ensure that we will be heard and influence the decisions to be made by the governments.

Now that some information has become available on how the Summit will unfold, here's how FNEEQ intends to proceed. The government has proposed a multi-stage, participative approach. In the first stage, there will be four meetings on different themes to discuss the issues and possible courses of action of the Summit, including one that will take place in Montréal in mid-February.

The themes that have been announced for these meetings are:

- The quality of higher education, November 29-30 in Québec City;
- Accessibility and participation in higher education, December 13-14 in Trois-Rivières;
- The governing and financing of universities, January 2013 in Rimouski; and
- The contribution of universities and of research to the development of all of Québec, January 2013 in Sherbrooke.

In preparation for each of these meetings, starting next week, FNEEQ will prepare and make public a series of documents that will guide our interventions. You will be able to find them in the coming days on the FNEEQ website as well as on various social media. On each theme, the federation will draft a synthesis text that will be sent to the Ministry of Higher Education and to our affiliated unions. We invite you to consult them and make them known to your members.

The approach proposed by the government also includes a citizens' component with a website and a Facebook page (<http://on.fb.me/XWJrqq>), citizens' forums in the four cities that will host the thematic meetings (including a forum in English in Montréal), and a "winter school" that will bring together 400 to 500 young people. As soon as we have more details, we will find out how FNEEQ and its affiliated unions can register, but in the meantime, we invite you and your members to participate directly in the electronic platforms that have been set up by the Ministry.

FNEEQ's interventions will be based primarily on positions that it has taken in the past on these issues, as well as on the CSN's education platform. This latter document was adopted recently (in March 2012) following a broad consultation process in the CSN, including workshops and study days in which our federation's unions participated. You can find this platform, an executive summary and all of the recommendations that it contains on the CSN's website (<http://bit.ly/Uo9sep>).

The weeks and months to come will be of the utmost importance for the future and vision of higher education in Québec, as well as for the union members we represent. Therefore, we plan as a federation to play an important role in all of the arenas that are available to us. We invite you to also participate and to keep informed as events unfold, so that FNEEQ, the most broadly based and representative union federation in higher education, can make its voice be clearly heard.

FNEEQ-CSN brings together 33 000 members. It represents 85% of cegep teachers, employees at 35 private educational institutions (including colleges), and thousands of members at a dozen universities: nine unions of lecturers, including the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill, the tutors at Télé-Université and the course lecturers at the École de technologie supérieure (ETS).

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