



## At top speed!

This is the phrase that comes to mind when we try to review this past year. We began the year mobilized around two major issues: preserving the right to practice for nursing graduates, and convincing the Conseil du trésor to upgrade its ranking for us in the evaluation of our job class.

When the *Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec* (OIIQ) was demanding that nurses' right to practice be associated with a university degree, we turned to our partners to create a broad coalition that gave us the bargaining clout to influence the government of the time. But we will stay vigilant. Preserving college programs is an on-going challenge, and the return to power of a Liberal government that has never made any bones about its lack of attachment to the college network is hardly reassuring.

We will have to pay close attention to the results of the task force chaired by Guy Demers on college programs offered. In fact, our fears could become reality faster than we thought. Colleges are already implementing recommendations contained in both the progress report released last January and the regional portraits used as consultation materials for carrying out the work of the task force. The final report is expected in June.

Mobilization for the Disruption 21 operation was exemplary, but the work on salary relativity continues. We still haven't succeeded in coming to an agreement with the *Conseil du trésor* on either a ranking that would fully recognize us as part of higher education, or echelons for teachers holding a master's or doctoral degree.

The struggle against the meta-evaluation proposed by the *Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial* (CEEC – commission to evaluate college education) in its quality assurance process seems to already be well under way. The CEGEP Regroupement adopted a number of recommendations as well as an action plan on this. Quality goes hand in hand with respect for our professional autonomy; it doesn't fit well with accountability that ignores our expertise in this field. We take to heart our students' success, which means we are also concerned with giving them quality training.

Work in preparation for the upcoming round of bargaining in the public and parapublic sectors is off to a good start. An operating protocol has been signed by the CSN, the FTQ and the SISF that means we will be able to count on a Common Front of close to 400,000 workers to defend our demands on pay. For sectoral bargaining, the members of the FNEEQ bargaining and mobilization committee used the round of general membership meetings in the spring to discuss the various concerns that teachers have. The analysis of the current situation is already available on our Web site, and the set of sectoral demands should be completed by the start of the fall session. We'll be ready!

I'll spare you an account of various other issues, like the saga of the history course saga, or our concern about having a single minister in charge of the ministries of both Education and Higher Education ...

As I said, at top speed. Have a good summer!

  
Nicole Lefebvre  
FNEEQ Vice-president

### SUMMARY

- 3 Round of union meetings - Invigorating meetings
- 4 Collective bargaining calendar: Action!
- 5 Interview - Quality assurance
- 8 Progress report from the task force on what college education is offered
- 10 Vigilance on college programmes of study

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