

A mobilized start to the school year!

The picket signs, scarves, buttons and pamphlets piled sky high in union offices are a sure sign that the pressure is ramping up in our CEGEPS, where the campaign of widespread disorder is in full swing. "Teachers United" everywhere have pledged to disrupt the back-to-school period in protest of the lack of progress at the collective bargaining table.



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For the first time in the history of our CEGEPs, teachers are negotiating with a single voice! Having joined forces in the *Alliance des syndicats des professeures et des professeurs de cégep (ASPPC)*, FNEEQ-CSN and FEC-CSQ are sitting down at the same bargaining table and have adopted a joint action plan.

The *Regroupement cégep* has adopted the same plan of action it has been following for years: to give the local unions full autonomy to carry out their local mobilization campaigns within an effective province-wide movement of coordinated action. Noisy demonstrations, disruption of opening-year addresses, awareness-raising in the college community about labour's positions and blanket postering in our CEGEPs were some of the more commonly-used tactics, and they paid off: for a full two weeks, we were in the news each and every day, earning us a total of 70 mentions in the national and local media during that period.

These acts of solidarity were an opportunity to denounce the attacks being waged against our profession by the college management negotiating committee (CPNC). These include increases in our workload (more course preparation, larger class size, longer teaching hours), and greater job precarity resulting from, among other things, the limited access to tenure and job security.

CEGEP teachers also took advantage of the start of the new academic year to reiterate their demands to their college administrations. Labour negotiators, it will be recalled, have been given the mandate to fight job precarity, particularly in the continuing education sector, strengthen professional autonomy, preserve the viability and sustainability of the college network and secure the resources needed to ensure the academic success of students with disabilities (SWD).

With the campaign of disruption well under way, the Common Front has been consulting employees to determine their willingness to strike. At FNEEQ, all of the unions that have held votes to date have come out in favour of strike action. The next major show of mobilization and solidarity will play out on the streets of Montréal this coming October 3rd with a province-wide demonstration by the Common Front. We hope to see you there in droves! ■

