

## Agreements approved, but the work continues

After consulting all the general assemblies of the Alliance des syndicats de professeures et professeurs de cégep (ASPPC), the FEC-CSQ and FNEEQ-CSN can announce that the agreements in principle for the current round of bargaining have been approved. A majority—around 80% of the votes cast in each federation—found the content of the draft settlement at the CEGEP teachers' sectoral table satisfying enough to endorse the renewal of their collective agreements.

In light of the mandates obtained by the ASPPC's two member organizations, the Negotiating Committee can now proceed to sign the agreement in principle and pursue its preparations for the deployment of our new work contract. Some technical work on the distribution of new resources will be carried out between now and March 31st, and the provincial parties still have to validate certain texts. This means that the Negotiating Committee will continue to work diligently in line with the provisions of the agreement. Once this "clause-by-clause" process is finished, we will finally be able to sign the collective agreement, after which the payment of retroactive wages can begin.

The strong mobilization in our ranks was essential for securing this sectoral agreement in principle. The political context in which the negotiations took place—namely the CAQ's apparent priorities and its centralizing approach to bargaining—was far from favourable for the defense of our college network. Nevertheless, we demonstrated our tenacity and our determination throughout.

### What next?

The consultation process, with its high level of teacher participation, also gave us the opportunity to discuss the choices that we had to make along the way as well as our expectations. An evaluation of this round of bargaining will soon be undertaken by our respective federations and will give us the chance to reflect on our collective approach.

At the provincial level, throughout the term of our new collective agreement ending on March 31st, 2028, the parties will be able to focus on the dossiers and issues that by their very nature fall outside the scope of bargaining, and to prepare for the next round in advance. At the local level, we should nurture the practices and structures that enabled us to mobilize and express our solidarity throughout the process of renewing our work contract. Whether in our struggles in the workplace or in broader sociopolitical campaigns, our union action, strengthened by the experience of the last two years, will clearly be a force to reckon with for local management, the ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, the Fédération des cégeps—and the CAQ!