

Back to school means back to pressure tactics

Takeaway

The ASPPC is prioritizing its sectoral demands. General assemblies will be held to consult the members.

Next steps

Participate in the Front commun's big provincial demo in Montréal on September 23

Watch

A series of videos on the main thrusts of our demands.

As the fall term starts and bargaining talks resume, we are stepping up our pressure tactics. During the spring, we made little headway at the sectoral table now it seems the pace may be picking up. Since the beginning of the school year, the bargaining committee has been meeting with the employer's committee, the CPNC, about twice a week. While they remain quite unreceptive to our demands, the CPNC says it has received a mandate to start meaningful bargaining.

What's happening at the bargaining table?

While the tone of the talks has changed, progress remains slight. The employer doesn't seem to fully recognize the problems in our workplaces and in the CEGEP network that we have long been pointing out. For example, they have shown no signs of openness to setting guidelines for distance education, lightening teachers' workloads in view of students' changing needs, reducing the number of teachers with insecure status, or resolving the serious problems of equity and consistency in our salary scales.

Let's get our priorities straight!

At this point, we need to focus on some of our demands and push for productive discussions at the sectoral table. In the coming weeks, all the teachers represented in these bargaining talks will be asked to attend general assemblies on a proposed order of priorities. This democratic process will determine which of our demands are must-haves, rather than leaving it to the CPNC to interpret our needs and pick and choose among them. It will also serve to build solidarity around a limited number of demands we consider critical and to build on the momentum created by the Front commun. At the end of the day, we will have a list of priorities that we hope will be balanced among the needs of all the unions in the ASPPC alliance of CEGEP teachers' unions, given the diversity of their members' situations and workplaces.

Eyes on the prize

We will press our clearly legitimate demands through a strategic approach at the

bargaining table combined with pressure in our workplaces and in the public arena. We believe this will make the difference with the employer. We are dealing with a government that seems unable to see beyond its utilitarian vision of the CEGEP system and assumes that improving teachers' current conditions of employment is of little importance in supporting student success. At present, the financial framework for the negotiations remains too narrow and focused on the government's priorities, ignoring the urgent needs we have outlined in detail. Mobilization is key to changing the situation. We have the strength of our sectoral alliance and of the Front commun to make it happen!

By proudly wearing our bargaining T-shirts, participating in local and regional actions and taking part in the Front commun's big provincial demo in Montréal on September 23, each of us can help build the bargaining power we need in order come out of these negotiations with significant gains that will support the mission of the CEGEP network we are defending.

