



No retreat, no surrender!

If there's one clear and non-negotiable position for the CSN, FNEEQ and *Regroupement cégep*, it's the importance of our college system. Since the 1960s, this system has been essential in furthering our intellectual growth and shaping the cultural, social and economic development of Quebec and all of its regions.

What energy our CEGEP teachers have devoted to creating a strong network across the province. What energy we have invested in developing a system founded on a humanistic approach to education. What energy we have poured into fighting the devaluation of our technical study programs. Well, the battle is unfortunately not over yet.

Let's make it plain: the downgrading of our job category by the *Conseil du trésor* has got us angry, to say the least. We, who believed we were partners in higher education following the creation of the new Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (MESRST). We, who saw this as a positive affirmation of

our profession and the role we play in society. Then, wham! So what level, exactly, do we fit into? It's crystal clear to us that our work needs and deserves to be recognized for what it is: higher education.

Of all the attacks levelled against our profession and the college system, this is probably the one that has shaken us the most. Of course, we remain deeply concerned about the attempts to abolish the qualifying DEC in nursing and the ongoing issue of underfunding, but this downgrading of employment by the *Conseil du trésor* strikes at the very heart of who we are and the work we do each and every day.

So we won't give in and we won't give up! With the solid support of the CSN and the strong mobilization of teachers, FNEEQ will continue, as it has always done, to put every ounce of energy it can into defending our college system.

Micheline Thibodeau
FNEEQ Vice-president

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