

Regroupement privé



PHOTO: MICHEL CHOUX

Caroline Quesnel
FNEEQ Vice-President

This year is lining up to be a little calmer than the last on the private school front—at least in terms of negotiation! In all, only 8 of the 35 unions will be entering into or pursuing their collective agreement talks in 2013-2014. For four of them, this will mark their very first negotiation as FNEEQ members: the music teachers and non-teaching staff at Villa-Maria school, teachers from the Innu

community of Pessamit, and teaching staff at both *Collège Laurier* and *Collège Jean de la Mennais* in La Prairie. Quebec high schools are continuing to feel the effects of the drop in the student population, and will until 2017.

Consequently, some schools in the sector are showing signs of financial vulnerability. Local executive committees will need to step up their vigilance and be actively involved in administrative decisions in order to prevent the kind of drastic and regrettable solutions we experienced last year with the closing of two schools.

With respect to sector coordination, we will be producing later this fall an updated version of the comparative table on the 35 collective agreements of our affiliated unions. This is an invaluable

Regroupement CEGEP



PHOTO: FRANCE DESAUNIERES

Micheline Thibodeau
FNEEQ Vice-President

The CEGEP sector has had some intense moments since the start of the academic year. Several important matters have been eliciting reaction and generating considerable debate.

The first came when union representatives were apprised of the results of the *Conseil du trésor's* latest job category evaluation, an evaluation that saw our

ranking downgraded to below that of teachers working in the school board system. There was an immediate and strong reaction across the sector to this devaluation of college education and the work done by CEGEP teachers. An action plan was quickly launched on the theme "Operation Disruption 21."

Since the beginning of September, numerous meetings have taken place with *Conseil du trésor* and Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (MESRST) representatives to secure proper recognition for our work and to promote our three main objectives in the file: a separate pay structure for CEGEP and school board teachers, recognition of our membership in the higher education system, and the valorization of master's and doctoral degrees. As we get set to go to print, the action plan is still in effect.



PHOTO: ISTOCK

document in that it allows us to get an accurate picture of the reality in the sector and to better set local negotiation targets. A new section on the clauses relating to special needs students (EHDA) will be added to the comparison. It should also be noted that, as of this year, a training session will be offered to new executive committee members to provide them with tools to facilitate their union work and to familiarize them with federation resources.



PHOTO: FRANCE DESAUNIERES

A number of other important files also figure on the sector's agenda. These include, but are not limited to, negotiation preparations, countering the attacks against certain technical programs and the devaluation of college teaching, and addressing the issue of special needs students and of the recognition of acquired knowledge and skills in continuing education.

Regroupement université



Sylvain Marois
FNEEQ Vice-President

In the wake of the Higher Education Summit, Claude Corbo, former rector of UQAM and head of the working group on the future *Conseil national des universités québécoises* (CNUQ), tabled his report this past June, followed by Lise Bissonnette and John Porter, co-chairs of the working group on a new framework for universities, who tabled theirs in September.

While the Corbo report does go in the desired direction of creating a council to coordinate Quebec's university network—a council in which the university community would be represented—it seems to have completely left course lecturers out of the mix. And in the Bissonnette-Porter report, as well, while considerable emphasis is placed on the

value-creation of teaching, no mention is made of the essential role course lecturers play in this area of a university's mission. In both cases, FNEEQ was quick to publicly express its disappointment and demand that course lecturers be given the representation and recognition they deserve for the contribution they make to the quality of university education throughout Quebec. To be continued...

As for sector negotiations, talks are still underway for McGill University course lecturers. This is for a first collective agreement, with an employer known for inflexibility. But upper management changes could turn the tides... *Télé-Université* tutors and course lecturers at *Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue*, for their part, are also in the process of negotiating the renewal of their contract.

Now for some good news: an agreement in principle has been reached at *Université Laval*, *Université de Montréal's* existing contract has been extended—with a salary increase, and a new agreement has been signed at Chicoutimi.

Also worthy of mention is the adoption of the 2009-2013 negotiation cycle stock-taking report and the signing of a



solidarity agreement for the new cycle about to begin.

Over the coming year, the university sector will carry out preliminary work in view of the upcoming forum on the role of course lecturers in universities, which will be taking place in 2014. Such themes as recognition, professional autonomy, job stabilization, and the contribution of course lecturers to research, creation and service to the community will be submitted for reflection and discussion.

Be sure not to miss the 13th annual *Journée nationale des chargées et chargés de cours* on November 22!

¹ See www.chargesdecours.com and Facebook: *les chargées et chargés de cours dans nos universités québécoises*

Fneequeries

FNEEQ members in action...

The CSN's 13 central councils, which represent all of the unions in a given geographical area on the regional level, held their convention this year. Many FNEEQ members sit on these councils and actively contribute to the dynamism of regional union life.

Worthy of mention is the election of Engelbert Cottenoir, course lecturer at UQAC, as President of the central council in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, of Catherine Ladouceur, teacher at *CEGEP de Sherbrooke*, as Secretary General in Estrie, of Paul Lavergne, teacher at *Collège Shawinigan*, as President in Cœur-du-Québec, of Ginette Pelletier, course lecturer at UQAR, as Vice-President in Bas-Saint-Laurent, and of Dominique Daigneault, teacher at *CEGEP du Vieux Montréal*, as President in Metropolitan Montréal.

AQPC symposium

During its annual symposium held in June 2013, the *Association québécoise de pédagogie collégiale* awarded honorary mentions to CEGEP teachers who have distinguished themselves by virtue of their commitment to teaching and contribution to college education in Quebec. Recipients are chosen annually by their peers in each institution in recognition of their outstanding commitment. For the list of this year's honourees, see the AQPC Website (www.aqpc.qc.ca).



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