



Strong mobilization that is finally stirring the government to action

After setting up a trailer outside of the Treasury Board, blocking the Quebec and Jacques Cartier Bridges, releasing a hard-hitting list of the worst CHSLD ratios in Quebec, and threatening to call on members to refuse to do mandatory overtime for 48 hours, FIQ and FIQP members and union reps can breathe a sigh of relief. All of this pressure forced the government to change its tune so that discussions at the bargaining table focus on issues that truly affect healthcare professionals, as well as on what will significantly improve their working conditions.

On October 22, Treasury Board president Sonia Lebel sent a clear message in a press conference, stating that her negotiators had received a new mandate: Let's negotiate. She publicly agreed to reduce the work overload, to make full-time positions attractive, and to tackle mandatory overtime. She also said that Quebec is ready to invest the necessary funds.

The FIQ is responding to the Minister's offer and extending a hand in a gesture of good faith by cancelling the 48 hours without MOT on October 24 and 25. If Sonia Lebel sincerely wants to negotiate, we are ready to focus all of our energy at the bargaining table. We expect the same good faith from her. The ball is in her court.

It's difficult to trust a government that let two years go by without making any real changes to the network and that manages the COVID-19 crisis with ministerial orders. As such, this fragile trust needs to quickly be reinforced by strong actions. If the Minister's promises turn out to be empty, she should expect a reaction that reflects the level of our discontent.

The FIQ's gesture also puts an end to employers' legal pursuits before the Administrative Labour Tribunal regarding the refusal to do mandatory overtime. MOT has to stop and the government has to make every effort in these negotiations to ensure the health network no longer runs on the forced labour of women.