



### Faced with stalled negotiations, healthcare professionals turn up the pressure

Three weeks after the premier's ultimatum to quickly settle negotiations, the FIQ isn't any closer to reaching a global agreement. The objectives to reach an agreement on salaries and tackle the specific problems healthcare professionals in remote regions face have not been achieved.

At the virtual provincial council on May 25, FIQ and FIQP delegates adopted **a recommendation to hold, at an appropriate time, local general assemblies to consult members on obtaining a strike mandate that could lead to an unlimited general strike.** The message is clear: healthcare professionals are mobilized to assert their rights and ensure their expertise is recognized.

The delegates feel that after 18 months of negotiations, and a difficult year in a pandemic, that it's time to use our full arsenal to demand immediate answers from the government: what does it mean by specific salary offers for healthcare professionals?

Despite the premier's public statements in the last few weeks, the only offer currently on the table is the 5% salary increase over three years, plus 1% that is subject to economic growth and lump sums. And so, it is the FIQ's duty to verify the government's intentions regarding differential offers, which the negotiation team will do as quickly as possible.

In parallel to strike preparations, mobilization and visibility actions continue both locally and provincially, still in collaboration with the APTS.

The next negotiation progress reports will be crucial: negotiations must advance. The very serious shortage of healthcare professionals in the health network makes it extremely vulnerable, endangering patients and healthcare professionals.

The government is not doing enough to resolve this shortage. The population sees it. The end of the parliamentary session in Quebec City is near and it is time to ramp up the pressure in this final stretch before the government shifts into summer mode.

### A month of intense mobilization

Since the last employer offer was rejected on April 6, the FIQ teams mobilized across Quebec with the slogan "Paid a woman's wage," which symbolizes the absurdity of the wage discrimination that the FIQ and APTS members experience. An ad campaign with the same slogan was launched on the radio, TV, billboards, and in digital and traditional media.

At the same time, an intense mobilization period took place both locally and provincially with visibility and surprise actions, communications operations, and demonstrations. The culmination of this new mobilization phase was of course the big provincial demonstration on May 22, 2021, with over 1,000 healthcare professionals, professionals, and technicians from the health and social services network, as well as members from ally organizations and citizens.

And so, in direct alignment with this mobilization phase, on May 25 the FIQ delegates adopted a resolution to turn things up a notch and begin the process to consult members on the strike at an appropriate time.