## NEGOTIATION EDITION

We won't be distracted! P. 2



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Vol. **36** | No. **2** | February 2023 Special Provincial Council - Negotiations on February 17

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Marc-André Courchesne, Negotiations spokesperson



Laurier Ouellet, Vice-President, and Amélie Séguin, Union Consultant

## PROVINCIAL NEGOTIATIONS THE DELEGATES KICK OFF MOBILIZATION

At this Special Provincial Council - Negotiations, the delegates adopted the Mobilization and Communication Plan for the provincial negotiations. The plan contains a list of actions which may be deployed based on the progress at the bargaining table.

There are four phases of action in the plan and an escalation of pressure tactics, the last phase has stronger actions. The actions will support the Negotiating Committee which is responsible for negotiating the demands of the 80,0000 healthcare professionals at the bargaining table.

The plan will be presented in local general assemblies for adoption in February and March. Attend your assemblies in large numbers, the Negotiating Committee is counting on your support!

#### WORK IS CONTINUING

Since the employer offers were rejected in January, the Negotiating Committee began its work with the employer party. Meetings were held on January 27 and February 9, mainly to agree on a meeting schedule. Although the FIQ proposed 28 dates for meetings in February and March, the employer party only accepted four, February 9, February 24, March 9 and March 30. A follow-up on the meetings will be given to the Provincial Council in March.

#### THE BARGAINING TABLE, THE PLACE TO TALK

The Negotiating Committee reiterated to the employer party their categorical refusal to participate in the Care Team forum, an employer and inter-union forum. The Committee's mandate is to discuss all issues at the FIQ bargaining table in a parity manner. The FIQ draft collective agreement contains 60 demands. They are 60 concrete solutions for improving the healthcare professionals' working and salary conditions. It was with great enthusiasm that the delegates discovered the slogan for the negotiations, "There's a limit". The FIQ intends to send a message to the government that the elasticity of healthcare professionals has been stretched far enough and that it is time to improve their working and salary conditions.

For full details on provincial negotiations: figsante.qc.ca/nego



Stella Larochelle, Negotiating Committee member, and Sara Lapointe, Union Consultant

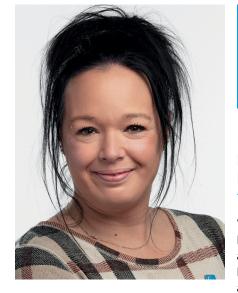


Cindie Soucy, Negotiating Committee member

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## WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

En Action, Vol. 36, No. 2, February 2023 | Published by the Communication Service | Distribution: 80,000 copies | Graphic layout: Coopérative Belvédère communication | Cover photo (banner): Marianne Use, Alliance Interprofessionnelle de Montréal | Photos: Mélanie Olmstead | Reprint of any article or excerpt must indicate "reprint from the *FIQ en Action*" | If you wish to receive only the electronic version of FIQ publications, send a request to info@fiqsante.qc.ca | ISSN: 1913-1739 (Print) | ISSN: 1913-1747 (Online) | fiqsante.qc.ca | info@fiqsante.qc.ca



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### WE WON'T BE DISTRACTED!



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Negotiations have barely begun and François Legault's government is already launching multiple attacks on us. The tabling of Health Minister Christian Dubé's bill on limiting private agencies has turned into a public relations stunt to accuse us of lacking flexibility, openness and of being absent from negotiations.

Well, Mr. Legault, Mr. Dubé and Ms. Lebel need to understand that there are lines they should not cross. Negotiations to renew the collective agreement isn't the FIQ and its president's business, it's that of the 80,000 healthcare professionals it represents.

The government is trying to create a diversion by constantly talking about its discussion forums. Yet, Minister Dubé has been saying for months that we know the problems and the solutions, they just need to be implemented. We completely agree with him and that is why we want to settle this at the bargaining table... and fast! For some unknown reason. the government is trying to stall, while healthcare professionals don't have anymore time to lose! The issues at stake are too important and the government needs to have a more respectful attitude toward those who work in the health network.

At the special provincial council we took stock of the negotiations and adopted a mobilization plan that will be submitted to you in the coming weeks at the local general assemblies. It is important you all participate!

#### A KEY TIME

These negotiations are crucial to the future of the public health network and for the healthcare professionals who work in it. It is clear with the CAQ government's aggressiveness toward us that the fight will be difficult. Many healthcare professionals all across Québec are already more fired up to mobilize than ever before. They are speaking up, daring to denounce things and the government is fully aware of it.

There's a limit to our patience, there's a limit to working in such poor conditions, there's a limit to the contempt that the government can show to those working in the health network. Lip service and empty promises don't work anymore. Healthcare professionals want to see their working and salary conditions improved. They want to restore balance to their professional and personal lives, which is completely legitimate after so many years of making sacrifices.

The message to the government is really very simple: healthcare professionals are determined to get a tentative agreement that gives them what they deserve!

> You can now show your support for the draft collective agreement and the Negotiating Committee on the FIQ website at: figsante.qc.ca/nego



Patricia Mailhot, Syndicat des professionnelles en soins de la Mauricie et du Centre-du-Québec
Stéphanie Goulet, Syndicat des professionnelles en soins des Cantons-de-l'Est
Bianca Morin Tremblay, Syndicat des professionnelles en soins du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean
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