



RÉSEAU jeunes



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When the wealth of the 1[%] is others' misfortune

AT THE HEART OF UNION ACTION: THE ISSUE OF SHARING THE WEALTH

Whether we want to admit it or not, the issue of sharing the wealth is at the heart of union action. In fact, the basics of the labour movement include the need to force the employers to share, just a bit, the profits gained from the sweat and the know-how of the workers.



If, for the unionized members, union action and the fight for better salaries are the proven means for sharing the wealth, it is the State that has imposed this in post-war societies as the preferred tool for doing it. Thus, using a progressive taxation system, in which citizens are called upon to contribute to the collective treasury based on their income, the State is in a position to redistribute the wealth through public services and social programmes.

It is this logic – which is the basis of social cohesion – that the Charest government has been attacking for the last nine years. By measures such as the \$200 health tax per person or the tuition hike, they are completely changing the Québec concept of social solidarity. What is a fair share? That everyone contribute the same amount, regardless of their income, or that everyone contribute based on their means?

Those are the crucial issues that the Occupy Movement of the fall of 2011 and the mindset associated with the Québec spring have reopened and that are contributing to the debate in society. This is why the FIQ Youth Committee thought it was their duty to submit these important issues to the young participants at the Network, in order to deepen their reflection and to help them better grasp the issues raised every day in the news. In light of the comments made and the general evaluation of those two rewarding days, we must, once again, declare: mission accomplished! ■

Marie-Claude Ouellet, Political Officer for the Youth Network



Right photo: Marie-Eve Racine, CSSS Lac-Saint-Jean-Est

The next generation...

SPEAKERS, TELL ME WHAT IS HAPPENING?



Eve-Lyne Couturier, Researcher at the IRIS

EVE-LYNE COUTURIER

As the curtain rose, Eve-Lyne Couturier, researcher at the *Institut de recherche et d'informations socio-économiques* (IRIS), gave an overall picture of the evolution of the inequalities in the world, Canada and Québec. With a Master's in political science, Ms Couturier was able to very eloquently and visually use the statistics and tables demonstrating the disturbing increase of inequalities and the gradual disappearance of the middle class.



Marie-Anne Paradis-Pelletier and Robin Couture, from the *Collectif pour un Québec sans pauvreté*

COLLECTIF POUR UN QUÉBEC SANS PAUVRETÉ

After having a bite to eat, the young members had the opportunity to participate in a three-hour workshop concocted by the *Collectif pour un Québec sans pauvreté*, a long time ally of the FIQ. Through different situation scenarios and interactive activities, the participants were made aware of the inherent difficulties of living in poverty. This workshop certainly led to collective awareness and highlighted that the real "abusers" of the system wear suits and ties.



Mélanie Bourque, Professor of Social Work at UQO

MÉLANIE BOURQUE

To close the first day of the Network, Mélanie Bourque, Professor of Social Work at the *Université du Québec en Outaouais* (UQO), shared her vision on social health inequalities. In doing this, the young participants could make the links with the socioeconomic inequalities and access to health, in particular through detailed graphic charts illustrating the prevalence of the different health problems according to Montréal neighbourhoods and available income. ■

FAR FROM URBAN CENTRES

For this 6th meeting of the Network, the Youth Committee chose to leave behind the urban centres and private hotels to turn to nature and a non profit organization (NPO). The participants were warmly welcomed at the *Centre de Villégiature Jouvence*, in Mount Orford National Park and stayed in very pleasant rustic cabins.





THE END OF POVERTY? A SHOCK FILM BY PHILIPPE DIAZ

Similar to the November meeting, the young members started the second day of the Network with a “coffee break” and watched a documentary. This time, it was the shock film, “*La fin de la pauvreté ?*” that they watched, in which the origins of inequalities over the course of history are examined, notably between the rich countries of the North and the poor countries of the South. ■



Martin Robert, CLASSE activist and author of a study on the commercialization of education

MARTIN ROBERT... A CLASSÉ STUDENT ACTIVIST

To conclude the Network, the Youth Committee invited an active member from the student movement in order to deal with the consequences of the tuition hike and the increase of socioeconomic inequalities. In this respect, Martin Robert, an activist in the *Coalition large de l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante* (CLASSE) and author of a study on the commercialization of education, succeeded in splendidly meeting this challenge through a most interesting and rewarding presentation. ■

Combining the enjoyable and the useful

As is its trademark, the Youth Committee used creativity and, once again, demonstrated that it is possible to have fun while still raising awareness. Thus, short humorous political sketches were concocted by way of introduction for each one of the presentations. Furthermore, this 6th Network was the theatre for the 2nd edition of the *Jeuniales en herbe*. Lastly, an activists rally was also organized: a nice bridge between the end of the work on the first day and the the young members' reception hour.



The winning team of the 2nd edition of the *Jeuniales en herbe*

From left to right: Isabelle Boyer, Marilyn Tremblay, Brigitte Lacroix, Fanny Després and Vicky Houle

