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2020 NEGOTIATIONS APTS-FIQ ALLIANCE: IT'S BEGUN!

At the Palais des congrès de Montréal, the FIQ, FIQP and APTS (Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux) delegates assembled at their respective meetings and adopted their joint proposals for the upcoming provincial negotiations regarding the intersectoral matters, which deal with salaries, retirement, parental rights and regional disparities.

The proposals were formulated based on the preliminary member consultations held by both organizations, as well as collaborative efforts. 23 of the proposals will be submitted for member consultation by both organizations from September 12 to October 2, 2019. FIQ and FIQP members will be able to state their position on the proposals at their local general assemblies.

The 9 other proposals, not submitted for member consultation, will be included in the demands in the intersectoral negotiation project

derived from the consultations, and submitted to the Conseil du trésor. More specifically, the proposals broach questions about the application of the collective agreement's provincial provisions that deal with existing rights and benefits. They contain elements that need to be corrected, standardized or modernized.

For the FIQ, the decision to form an alliance with the APTS happened naturally since both labour organizations work in health and social services. Together they represent 131,000 members, the vast majority of

which are women, who will demand their fair share from the government and Conseil du trésor, i.e., for funding to improve their salary and working conditions.

The joint intersectoral negotiation project will be adopted by both organizations' delegations in October.

You can read the proposals on the APTS-FIQ intersectoral matters on the FIQ and FIQP websites. ■



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WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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131,000 REASONS TO STAND TOGETHER!

We had 131,000 reasons to stand together, now let's give the government 131,000 good reasons to listen to us. Let's stand in solidarity as we fight so that our alliance is so strong that the government has no choice but to see it our way!

This special provincial council was both an important moment and a highly mobilizing meeting for our alliance with the APTS. Holding simultaneous meetings at the same venue allowed us to make our first real grand gesture to seal the collaboration between our two organizations for the upcoming provincial negotiations.

It's already been almost one year since the APTS and FIQ decided to form an alliance for the next round of negotiations. Linked by mutual concerns, the FIQ and FIQP's 76,000 healthcare professionals and the APTS's 55,000 professionals and technicians will unite their voices to bargain with the Quebec government.

This alliance gives us unprecedented bargaining power and positions us as a leading spokesperson to address any questions about workers in the health network and social services. The 131,000 members that form this alliance are frontline workers who provide public care and services,

something the government should recognize.

For too long now, the network's workers have been struggling with the disastrous consequences of successive budget cuts combined with a multitude of poor political and administrative decisions. It's gone on long enough. With these negotiations, we better see the pendulum swing back our way with a real investment in human resources.

We will show our collective determination and drive our message home: the APTS-FIQ alliance's 131,000 members are the lifeblood of the health network and

social services and they want true recognition for the essential role they play. The government can no longer deny the obvious.

Our fight to obtain better working conditions is also part of our struggle to offer safe, quality and accessible care and services to the population. ■



WE'RE DONE WORKING OURSELVES SICK!

The meeting opened with a warm welcome from the FIQ and FIQP delegates for APTS President Carolle Dubé. She joined FIQ President Nancy Bédard on stage to unveil the slogan for the upcoming negotiations.

The slogan *We're done working ourselves sick!* resonates with both the members' and the public's concerns, explained Ms. Bédard and Ms. Dubé. They feel that by improving working and staff practice conditions, you also improve the quality of and access to public care and services.

The presidents pointed out that the upcoming negotiations will be decisive not only for the FIQ and APTS members, but for the network, which has been overburdened in recent years. It is absolutely essential that members be able to benefit from a significant salary catch-up, increase their purchasing power and participate more in Quebec's economic vitality.

At the end of the two organizations' meetings, the APTS delegates joined the FIQ delegates to applaud both organizations' negotiation committees and chant the new slogan.

