



For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

Abolishing support personnel positions in CÉGEPs

The FPSES-CSQ is extremely concerned about the consequences for its members

Montreal, June 18, 2015. – “Behind the Couillard government’s austerity measures, there are real people with families who have become victims, including several support staff personnel in our CÉGEPs. When a government grants more importance to numbers than to the wellbeing of its citizens, something isn’t right.”

Anne Dionne, president of the Fédération du personnel de soutien de l’enseignement supérieur (FPSES-CSQ), affiliated with the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ), says eliminating these CÉGEP positions, particularly support staff jobs, is completely irresponsible.

“We’ve counted 50 or so members who are losing their jobs in the 13 CÉGEPs we represent. They include individuals of all ages, younger workers as well as workers with up to 30 years’ seniority. It makes absolutely no sense, in addition to the fact that it will increase the workload of those keeping their jobs. It’s not because we eliminate a position that the need for it disappears,” decries Anne Dionne.

Poverty by way of retirement

The president of the FPSES-CSQ states that older workers are encouraged to take their retirement, when unfortunately many are not ready or do not have the financial means to do so.

“Individuals are far from being able to enjoy a comfortable retirement. Quite the contrary, in fact. Support workers who lose their job after 28 years of seniority and are under the age of 60 will receive a pension of \$13,000 per year. This is the fate promised by government austerity. We are light years away from the retirement reserved for the CEO of Hydro Québec in a position occupied for a far shorter period of time,” comments Anne Dionne.

Adverse effects for students

Anne Dionne deplores all the more that, in addition to the impact of government cutbacks on its members, there will be adverse effects in CÉGEPs.

“We can eliminate only so many positions and believe that nothing will change. This is magical thinking and it doesn’t work. In fact, services for students are in serious peril. We can no longer guarantee that students with disabilities will receive the help they need. Whether at the library, financial aid, administrative services, laboratories, or printing services, all of these areas will lack the personnel needed to meet the demand.”

A government that deepens the inequalities

And if that wasn’t enough, significant clawback demands are being imposed on national negotiations.

“The government is demanding clauses that affect job security, employment insurance, movement of personnel, the pension plan, etc. They are doing everything to weaken and impoverish us. It’s as if the Couillard government has mandated itself to deepen social inequalities and is aiming to get it done as soon as possible,” says Anne Dionne.

Pessimism and concern for the future

In closing, the president of the FPSES-CSQ expresses deep concerns for the coming months.

“Everything is happening as if the Québec government had decided to carry out a mission of full social destruction, and unfortunately, our members are the first to feel its impact. It’s easy to promote a zero deficit at all costs by voluntarily ignoring the faces of those affected by these measures, victims whose jobs have been eliminated but who must continue to meet their financial obligations, individuals who lose all hope thanks to their own government. And many are CÉGEP support workers,” concludes Anne Dionne.

Profile of the FPSES-CSQ

La FPSES represents nearly 5000 members working in 13 establishments in the college sector, 3 in the university sector, and 4 educational services organizations.

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Information

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