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## Press Release

### Public sector negotiations

## Strike mandate for the Dawson Support Staff Union

71.5% of the 137 members present at the September 16<sup>th</sup> Special General Assembly voted in favour of a six day strike mandate.

Westmount, September 16th, 2015. – Members of the Dawson Support Staff Union (DSSU), affiliated with the Fédération du personnel de soutien de l'enseignement supérieur (FPSES) and the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ), voted in favour of a six day strike mandate to be held with the Common Front on a rotating and regional or provincial basis, taking into account the evolution of the negotiations.

The members of the union consider the offers submitted by the employer to be scandalous and contemptuous of public sector employees. Union representatives have been in negotiations with the Treasury Board for over eight months without any significant advances. Thus members have decided to increase pressure in an attempt to change the balance of power.

We must remember that the public sector Collective Agreements have been expired since March 31<sup>st</sup>. The principle demand of the Common front consists of reaching salary equity with other workers in Québec, be it a 13.5% increase over three years. Whereas, the government is proposing a two year salary freeze and a 1% increase for each of the following three years.

Let us also remember that for the last several years our buying power has decreased as our tasks have increased. Additionally, budgetary compressions in various sectors have reduced services to the population.

#### **Profile of the DSSU**

The Dawson Support Staff Union (DSSU), members of la Fédération du personnel de soutien de l'enseignement supérieur (FPSES-CSQ), represents 24 different employment classifications at Dawson College.

#### **Profile of the CSQ**

The CSQ represents over 200 000 members, 130 000 of which are in the sector of education. It is the most prominent syndical organization in the field of education and child care in Quebec. The CSQ is also involved in the health, social service, child care, municipal, recreation, cultural, community and communication sectors.