

# AVEC nous

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pour défendre nos services publics

THIS FALL, WE'RE ON THE MARCH!

## REJECT AUSTERITY

*This fall, there will be many, many of us in all sectors of work mobilizing against austerity policies. What do we mean by austerity? According to Wikipédia, it's an economic policy that advocates heavier taxation of individuals (including fees for public services) and less public spending, with the goal of reducing the deficit.*



Austerity policies were implemented in many countries, especially in Europe, after the 2008-2009 crisis. Everywhere they have been tried, they have failed, undermining economic recovery and thus aggravating those countries' economic problems. Yet this is the path the Couillard government has chosen to try to balance the budget by next year. But there is no justification for jeopardizing the sustainability of public services in an effort to achieve this objective so quickly. The Québec government could and should make it a more long-term goal,

as other public administrations - notably Ontario's - are doing. And tax policy must be reviewed to make it more progressive, meaning that the contributions of citizens and companies to public services and social programs would be shared more fairly. Right now, government policy is a matter more of ideology than of economic necessity.

Since it was elected, Philippe Couillard's Liberal government has opted to rush headlong in this direction. Budget cuts are already under way and more are announced for next year. Positions are cut

and services to the population revised or reduced. Our already excessive workloads get steadily heavier. The situation is intolerable.

### WHAT LEGITIMACY?

This government may have won a majority of seats, but the program that it is currently implementing is borrowed from the Coalition Avenir Québec, the party that finished third in the last election. Not only did Philippe Couillard not mention any of this during the election campaign, on a number of occasions he reproached CAQ leader François Legault

with wanting to throw the health care system into chaos by cutting thousands of positions and abolishing the regional agencies... precisely what the Liberal government is now doing! Since it was elected, it has attacked the rights of workers and pensioners by reneging on signed agreements between unions and municipalities (Bill 3).

As well, the government is attacking the integrity of the public health and social services system (Bill 10), a move rejected by unions but also by a wide range of groups involved in the system.

# REFUSONS L'AUSTÉRITÉ

**MONTRÉAL ET QUÉBEC  
MANIFESTATION  
29 NOVEMBRE 2014  
DÉPART À 13H**

Médecins québécois pour un régime public (MGRP - Québec doctors for a public system), for example, see in it a dangerously authoritarian trend, because the minister gives himself full power over everything, including the authority to reverse local decisions and appoint his friends to boards of directors in what will henceforth be paid positions (currently, directors are volunteers elected by the community). Without a doubt, there will be more attacks. Targets could well include childcare services and family policy. In education, the universities are already under pressure, and CEGEPs and elementary and high schools network fear an onslaught too. This climate will colour our upcoming negotiations... Will the government want to negotiate in good faith?

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

We can't sit back and simply watch the government tear apart our public services. The CSN and various other union and social organizations are uniting around an action plan to fight back. The FSSS-CSN fully supports it and will also mobilize its union on sectoral issues. We have no choice but to face this battle head-on, making it the priority. We have to stop the demolition job! For this reason, the October 17 special Federal Council of all FSSS-CSN unions adopted a broad mobilization plan to fight Bill 10 and austerity policies. This plan includes actions led by the CSN, in coalition with other union and social organizations, as well as the mobilization activities planned by the Common Front in support of our negotiations.

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER 31, 2014

- Demonstration against austerity In Montréal, organized by the Coalition opposée à la tarification et à la privatisation des services publics. Starting at 11:00 a.m., from the corner of McGill College and Sherbrooke (McGill metro station) [www.nonaux-hausses.org](http://www.nonaux-hausses.org)
- **Rimouski**: Rally at 10:30 a.m. at Eglise Ste Agnès
- **Sherbrooke**: Starting from Parc Rodolphe Vallée at 11:30 a.m.
- **Baie-Comeau**: Roadblock to distribute leaflets to the general public
- November 7, 2014, **Sept-Îles**: Roadblock to distribute leaflets to the general public
- November 18, 2014, **Havre Saint-Pierre**: Roadblock to distribute leaflets to the general public

**Contact your local union to find out more about other activities organized by the CSN central council in your region..**

### OCTOBER 30, 2014

- The Common Front files our **bargaining** demands
- Regional mobilization in Québec City in front of the National Assembly, from 11:30 a.m. on
- Local mobilization by unions. Start of a blitz to collect signatures on the pledge cards

### NOVEMBER 3 TO DECEMBER 15, 2014

The Common Front on tour to build political support for collective **bargaining**. Public meetings in all regions. Dates for when the tour stops in each region will be announced soon.

### NOVEMBER 9, 2014

Family rally to save Québec's **family policy**: • Montréal (10:00 a.m., Place des Festivals) • Québec • Trois-Rivières • Sherbrooke • Rimouski • Chicoutimi • Gatineau • Sept-Îles • Rouyn-Noranda. Transportation organized by the central councils (sign up with your union)

### NOVEMBER 29, 2014

- Simultaneous demonstrations in Montréal and Québec City: **Reject austerity!**
  - Starting at 1:00 p.m. (details to be confirmed)
- Transportation organized by the central councils (sign up with your union)