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Period for changes in union allegiance

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No.3

INFO-RAIDING – NEWSLETTER FOR RI-RTFs

JANUARY 19, 2015

Intimidation during this raiding period

The CSN sets the record straight

The CSN has over 325,000 members, 130,000 of whom are in the health and social services, and has always denounced all forms of intimidation. Nothing must interfere with or limit the right of foster families to choose the organization that will represent them in an informed and independent manner. This is why the CSN put out a press release denouncing the actions of the Fédération des familles d'accueil et des ressources intermédiaires du Québec (FFARIQ) on January 9, 2015.

THE FFARIQ'S UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICES

On January 8th, the CSN had to call Rivière-du-Loup police during an information session for foster families in the region. Representatives from the FFARIQ invited themselves against the wishes of the event's organizers and those of the families in attendance. It has since acknowledged the incident in an interview with the newspaper *L'Avantage* following our January 9th press release.

On the pretext that the CSN was addressing "their" foster families, the FFARIQ refused to leave calmly after being asked several times, even taking an aggressive tone with CSN representatives. The result was that the foster families in attendance felt intimidated and were even frightened by this approach. The CSN's legal team is studying what kind of measures can be taken to respond to this kind of behaviour.

SHIFTING THE BLAME

On January 13, the FFARIQ decided to counter-attack all the central unions, accusing the CSN in particular of intimidation without any evidence whatsoever.

In a press release written by communications firm Hill+Knowlton, an affiliate of the multinational WPP Group, it announced its intention to file a complaint with the Commission des relations du travail. The CSN's lawyers have been asked to study the matter. But it wouldn't be the first time the FFARIQ began frivolous and unnecessary legal proceedings.

THE FFARIQ PANICS

On October 24, 2014, the federation began proceedings against three militants from the Cœur-du-Québec region and the CSN for, among other things, having organized information sessions for local foster families. The CSN's lawyers were quickly able to discourage the complaint from moving forward, and two days before the December 1st hearing, the FFARIQ gave up the matter because it lacked sufficient grounds.

It's interesting to note that they named two of their ex-members in the complaint. These ex-members had seen their contracts with their Centres de jeunesse terminated without justification in both 2012 and 2013, and in both cases,

the FFARIQ had refused to intervene, saying that "...the costs associated with this kind of legal proceedings would be too great a financial burden for UES-800 and the FFARIQ."

WHAT ARE THE FFARIQ'S REAL PRIORITIES?

The FFARIQ seems to be multiplying the number of costly legal proceedings it's involved in these days. It really is in a precarious situation, having lost a lot of support in this raiding period. In at least four of the eleven regions where the FFARIQ is present, it has faced many setbacks due to members of its regional committees leaving to join the CSN.

JOIN THE CSN, GET SOME RESPECT

Providing very few services, lacking any real service points outside major cities, refusing to provide legal defense to foster families when their contracts are terminated without cause, a propensity for spending union dues on communications and unnecessary legal proceedings... this is what's increasingly come to define the FFARIQ, an organization that represents less than 2500 members in Quebec. Foster families deserve more consideration, and more respect.

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