



S'unir pour bien grandir!



FSSS-CSN HOME CHILDCARE PROVIDER NEGOTIATIONS TALKS WITH THE MINISTRY OF FAMILIES BROKEN OFF

On November 19, the representatives of 2,000 home childcare providers reluctantly decided to leave the bargaining table. They broke off talks just after the start of the 34th bargaining session in slightly more than a year, because our counter-parts from the Ministry of Families just aren't listening: they continue to present the same "offer" of a total of 1% for the first two years of an agreement.

"We have been extremely patient since filing our financial demands on June 13 of this year. We wanted to give the bargaining process every chance to succeed in the hope of reaching a satisfactory settlement on our second group agreement," said Lucie Longchamps, member of the FSSS-CSN home childcare providers (RSG) bargaining committee. "But now we're running into a stone wall of total lack of understanding. We have been going in circles since September 18, the date when the ministry presented its first ridiculous offers. It's clear what the ministry wants: to make us poorer, that's all. And that's out of the question!"

Reasonable demands

Keep in mind that 99% of the non-monetary issues are settled. The stalemate is on the monetary matters, with a government offer that boils down to a ridiculous \$0.28 per child for the first two years of a future group agreement. That's much less than the rate of inflation, which has been 2.4% this year according to *La Presse*.

As for our demands, they are simply ignored. This is the case with pay parity with our comparator, educators in CPEs (early childhood centre child care), echelon 1. This demand corresponds to 5% on an annual basis. CPE educators are entitled to 38 days of paid time off a year, including vacations and statutory holidays, compared to 25 days for home childcare providers. We are also demanding an increase in the supplementary allowances for infants and children with

handicaps. And we want the same percentage increases that employees in the public and parapublic sectors are receiving: 2% on April 1, 2014 and 1% on March 31, 2015.

Turning up the pressure

The next step is therefore to deploy our national action plan, including strike action at the time deemed appropriate. The round of general membership meetings voted 88% in favour of this action plan.

In the next few days, your local mobilization officers will inform you about what comes next. You are invited to take up the various calls for action. It is extremely important that each home childcare provider participate. This is the only way that we will win and successfully oppose the rollbacks that the government wants to impose on us: we have to apply all the pressure that is necessary.

Demonstrations on November 29 in Montréal and Québec City

Two demonstrations against the Couillard government's austerity policies are being organized for November 29. The government announced last week that it intends to put an end to the universal system of educational childcare services, with an end to a single flat rate, the introduction of a sliding scale of rates based on income and more use of private daycare centres. Turn out in large numbers for these demonstrations!