

Info-nego #6

## Every public sector union is at the bargaining table, ready to consider government offers

### To remember

We are ready to receive offers from the government at the bargaining table

### To do

Stay informed about the issues in the bargaining talks in the coming months

### To read

The Front commun [press release](#) on the government's statements

Over the past few days, you may have heard the dishonest and misleading statements made by health minister Christian Dubé and premier François Legault to the effect that we are not available for contract talks. Let's be clear: we are present, and highly available, at the bargaining table.

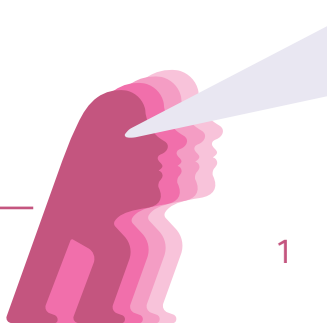
### We are available to consider government offers

More than once, we've asked the government to bring its offers to the most appropriate venue, i.e., the bargaining table. We're happy to learn that the government has new solutions to put forward, and we're eager to know more about them.

Offers should be brought to the right place, at the right time. When the government chooses to summon a restricted number of people to discussion forums, and when forum participants as well as forum topics, procedures, date, time and location are unilaterally chosen, this looks like something else – a public relations strategy designed to portray unions as closed organizations mired in obsolete practices.

There is nothing closed-minded about our approach. To reach the right solutions for our public systems, we want the bargaining process to take place according to the rules laid out in the Labour Code, which ensure that exchanges at the bargaining table are based on balanced representation for each party.

We are determined not to weaken our ability to represent workers by agreeing to sideline members of our bargaining team. That's what the government is trying to bring about by ruling that only one person from each union can attend the forums. That means that some of your representatives will not be invited to participate. And yet, they're the people you chose to negotiate your working conditions.



In short, we believe that setting up a parallel bargaining process is both risky and unproductive. And it also clearly demonstrates that the bargaining process will not be effective as long as the government keeps on imposing its ideas. This is not what we need at a time when it's essential to agree rapidly on the solutions we want to implement in our public systems.

## Negotiations must be conducted at the bargaining table, not in public

Once again, we urge the government to present its proposals at the bargaining tables established according to the basic rules of collective bargaining in Québec. Every bargaining table associated with a public sector union has agreed on a schedule of meetings; every bargaining team is available, curious, and eager to know the content of government offers. We've just reiterated this invitation to the government.

Unions are the organizations that speak on behalf of public sector workers and bring their solutions to the bargaining tables. Given the crisis in our public systems, we urgently need a major shift in direction to improve working conditions for all workers.

The clock is ticking. If the government really wants to make things change, it needs to stop finger-pointing and come to the bargaining tables. We're expecting to hear its proposals in the very near future.



### Bargaining updates

To stay abreast of developments in the bargaining talks, use this QR code to visit the FSSS-CSN public sector bargaining website.

All information and materials related to the FSSS sectoral negotiations will be available on the site throughout the bargaining round.

