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A week of regional demonstrations by public sector tradespeople

## We all stood up and spoke as one: "Our trades must be recognized"

ast May 23 to 29, nearly one thousand tradespeople demonstrated in cities across the Province: Quebec City, Saguenay, Longueuil, Joliette and Sherbrooke to increase the pressure on the joint task force mandated to deal with the manpower shortage in our education and health and social service establishments.

During this series of demonstrations organized jointly by the CSN, FTQ, CSQ and SFPQ, we visited the offices of various MLAs who hold positions in different Government Departments that affect tradespeople. At each of these demonstrations, union representatives met with the political staffers of these MLAs to explain our demands to them.

After these demonstrations, the union representatives will continue their discussions with the Treasury Board. The goal is quite simple: to settle the growing salary gap between public sector and private sector workers.

## **Last meeting with the Treasury Board**

Our union representatives met with their Treasury Board counterparts last June 6, to finalize their discussions. We are now in a position to work on drafting a final report, which will be submitted to the Government next September. Our vis-à-vis have finally accepted to endorse some of our demands, notably to spend the monies now devoted to subcontracting internally, or else to improve work organization. However, the Treasury Board representatives have refused to endorse joint recommendations with regard to the remuneration of tradespeople. The final report will contain these demands, but will be advocated only by the union representatives.

Our battle for the full and complete recognition of public sector tradespeople is therefore not over. A new series of actions will be organized over the next few days. We will obviously be keeping you up-to-date on the game plan that will be played out.

