

# Newsletter



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## Public-sector negotiations: Agreement ratified

A majority of the members of the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ) have approved the intersectoral agreement reached last December through public-sector negotiations with the Québec government.

At the last General Negotiations Council meeting of February 23 in Montréal, delegates were presented with the voting results. In all, over 80% of CSQ members voted in favour of the agreement during consultations held in January and February.

### A difficult context

“This support shows that members assessed the outcome of these negotiations within the difficult context in which they took place. A context of austerity imposed by an ideology-driven government that, from the outset, showed no openness to our demands. We had to build our bargaining power by calling on the exceptional mobilization of our members and by convincing the population of the justice of our demands,” recalled the President of the CSQ, Louise Chabot.

### Gains won and safeguarded

“At all the bargaining tables, we successfully obstructed the countless, unreasonable concessions demanded by the government and we preserved significant gains made in previous rounds of negotiations. We also secured gains by forcing the Chair of the Conseil du trésor to depart from the rigid financial framework that he clung to right up until the end. That was no small feat,” noted Louise Chabot.

### Work continues on drafting the agreement

Now that the agreement has been ratified, the negotiations team is working on drafting the texts of the collective agreements to ensure that they accurately reflect the spirit of the agreement and the discussions that led to its conclusion.

Earlier this week, in connection with the salary provisions, Common Front spokespersons stated: “We are well aware that several groups of employees have public-sector trailer clauses in their collective agreements. We would never have agreed to discuss parameters that would penalize the employees that our union organizations represent. Having concluded an agreement in principle, the Conseil du trésor cannot reopen negotiations by adding components that were never a topic of discussion. Obviously, we will only sign our agreements when the texts reflect the agreement that we reached.”

### Outstanding work and extraordinary solidarity

The president, Louise Chabot, concluded by thanking the negotiations teams for the outstanding work they accomplished in recent months, as well as all the members and unions of the CSQ for the solidarity they showed throughout the negotiations.



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ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS**

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