THE CSQ, A RICH AND INSPIRING HISTORY
In the 1930s, Laure Gaudreault is horrified by the salaries and working conditions of teachers. The church’s control over the population and public affairs makes unionism very difficult. But thanks to her audacity, insight, and determination, in 1936, she founds the first union of rural teachers in Charlevoix, Québec.

Ten years later, the pioneer of the teachers union movement co-founds – and serves as its longtime vice-president – the Corporation générale des instituteurs et institutrices catholiques de la province de Québec (CIC).

In 1974, the Corporation becomes the Centrale de l'enseignement du Québec (CEQ), and then in 2000, the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ).

Staunchly committed to the defence and improvement of the working and living conditions of its members, our organization has faced every battle for a better society. Its actions, its struggles, and its clear positions on issues have contributed - and continue to contribute - to shaping and influencing the development of Québec society.
1924 The Professional Syndicates Act is assented to, authorizing the formation of associations of workers to negotiate collective agreements with employers.

1936 Female teachers, encouraged by the actions of Laure Gaudreault, found the Association catholique des institutrices rurales.

1940 The first collective agreements are signed between school boards and teacher unions.

1946 Thirteen associations produce the Corporation générale des instituteurs et institutrices catholiques de la province de Québec (CIC).

1959 The CIC petitions the Sauvé government for legislation granting automatic membership to primary and secondary teachers in the public sector, as well as source deductions for contributions.

1961 The Association des instituteurs et institutrices catholiques retraités du Québec join.

1964 The new labour code provides for the right to strike in the public and parapublic sectors, with the exception of civil servants and teachers.

1965 With pressure from the CIC, teachers and civil servants obtain the right to strike.

1967 Approved by an act, the CIC changes name to become the CEQ – the Corporation des enseignants du Québec.

The government adopts Bill 25, which ends the first teacher’s strike. It is the first special legislation to end a strike in the public sector.
1968 The Association des professeurs de cégep join.
An association of personnel who provide services to students join (mainly guidance counsellors and school psychologists).

1971 Support workers join.

1972 Professional staff in cégeps and university professors join.

1973 University support workers join.

1974 Cégep support workers join.
The CEQ becomes the Centrale de l'enseignement du Québec.

1975 Professional staff in universities and the recreation sector join.

1976 An illegal strike leads to significant gains for the public and parapublic sector in Québec.

1979 Another illegal strike leads to the first paid 17-week maternity leave.

1980 The Parti Québécois decrees working conditions and imposes salary compressions up to 20% for three months.

1983 Bill 111, an exceptionally austere bill for teachers, is passed. Notably, it introduces dismissal with a simple warning, abolishes the Rand formula, the loss of three years' seniority and two days' salary per strike day.

1985 The Bill for essential services is passed.

1987 Nurses join.
1988 Lorraine Pagé is elected leader of the CEQ and becomes the first woman to serve as president of a central labour body in Québec.

The 1990s Childcare centre (CPE) and Home Childcare Providers (HCP) join.

2000 The CEQ becomes the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ).

2003 The liberal government sets up a series of anti-union measures, including:

- changes to section 45 of the Labour Code to facilitate sub-contracting of public services;
- Bill 30, changing the structure of union organizations in the health and social services sectors, is passed;
- Bill 8, prohibiting the unionization childcare workers, is passed.

2004 A time of public sector negotiations.

2005 The liberal government decrees working conditions.

2006 The Québec Parental Insurance Plan takes effect: 52 weeks of leave for the birth or adoption of a child.

2008 A ruling declares Bill 8, which prohibits childcare workers from unionizing, unconstitutional. Following this ruling, nearly 14,000 childcare workers unionize and join the CSQ.

2010 The largest common front in Québec’s union history (500,000 workers) reaches a negotiated settlement.

Home childcare providers affiliated with the CSQ sign their first collective agreement.

2012 Louise Chabot becomes the first nurse elected president of the CSQ.

2015 Public sector negotiations. Strike days are voted on by the 400,000 members of the common front. A negotiated settlement is reached.

2018 The CSQ’s 42nd Congress focuses on collective action.
FROM THE CIC TO THE CSQ: EXTRAORDINARY LEADERS

1946-1951  
Léo Guindon

1951-1965  
Léopold Garant

1965-1970  
G.-Raymond Laliberté

1970-1978  
Yvon Charbonneau

1978-1982  
Robert Gaulin

1982-1988  
Yvon Charbonneau

1988-1999  
Lorraine Pagé

1999-2003  
Monique Richard

2003-2012  
Réjean Parent

2012-2018  
Louise Chabot

2018 to today  
Sonia Ethier