

APTS meets with Minister Barrette: it's time for action



Montréal, March 19, 2018 – After a rare meeting between Minister Barrette and members of the APTS provincial executive committee, APTS president Carolle Dubé expressed satisfaction at being able to get the union's message across about the distress suffered by professionals and technicians in health and social services. "The minister took the time to listen, and like us, he's in solution mode," said the union president. "It's a good start... but it comes late in the day, when his term of office is coming to an end. At any rate, we're hoping for more than a willing ear. Action is needed ASAP with the upcoming budget."

A cry for help for social services

Although the reorganization of the system has hit all services indiscriminately, social services haven't garnered much attention. Professionals who work in mental health, home support services, prevention, youth centres and other services are [at the end of their rope](#). Six out of ten report being in distress. They are continually being asked to do more with fewer resources, and this situation is undermining their psychological health. The result? The number of them on sick leave has skyrocketed in the last few years." In the face of this disastrous situation, how are the employers reacting? By harassing our members who are on leave of absence, to push them to get back to work as quickly as possible," decried Carolle Dubé. "What's more, the employers aren't replacing the ones who are off work. For the population, this means longer waiting lists. We're calling on the minister to add resources on the ground, particularly in CLSCs, home support services and prevention, to reduce the pressure on frontline personnel."



In addition, our members' professional autonomy is being hammered by increasingly unrealistic demands on the part of their employers. "Social workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, physical rehabilitation therapists and others are caught between the demands of their institution and their professional code of ethics. This has to stop *now!*" the union president asserted. "In our current local negotiations, we are demanding that employers protect professionals who refuse to comply with a directive or direct order from a person in authority, if the directive is in conflict with their professional code of ethics or conduct."

OPTILAB: medical technologists must be involved in the process

As well, the APTS expressed its impatience to Minister Barrette at the sparse information doled out in dribs and drabs on the implementation of the lab reform. "Since the changes in employer last April, our members have been left totally in the dark. This lack of information creates a lot of uncertainty and in some cases, distress," stated Carole Dubé. "It's essential that the employer involve medical technologists in the process, particularly by including them in the various OPTILAB committees set up in the institutions."

The APTS

With 52,000 membres, the APTS is an indispensable public-sector union in health and social services. It represents professionals and technicians working in the fields of diagnostic services, rehabilitation, nutrition, psychosocial intervention, clinical support and prevention, in a range of more than 100 job titles.

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