



NEWS RELEASE
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Talks break down at the CIUSSS West-Central Montreal APTS unionized personnel give their employer a pumpkin award

Longueuil, October 31, 2018: "The government has been squeezing our members hard for the past four years, with the healthcare reform, amalgamations and budget cuts. No one is listening to us – not the health minister, not government officials, not the CIUSSS West-Central Montreal. And the latter is still refusing to negotiate the local provisions of our collective agreement. Our members are exasperated. They want to negotiate and they want to be heard."

Teresa Muccari, APTS provincial representative in Montreal, commented on the symbolic action taken by technicians and professions in her union to denounce the CIUSSS' refusal to negotiate. On Halloween, APTS union members gave their employer a pumpkin award to underscore his failure to listen, and to expose his masquerade.

"Management at the CIUSSS is doing legal pirouettes to justify its refusal to negotiate. But its reasoning doesn't hold water," explained Teresa Muccari. "Nothing in the law prevents the two sides from continuing to negotiate. The legal time frame only indicates when the employer can request mediation. There's a place for negotiations as long as this mediation hasn't begun."

"For us it's clear: the argument about the cut-off date is nothing but a false pretext... a masquerade," declared Laurence Cozza, local APTS vice-president on the union executive at the CIUSSS West-Central Montreal, and member of the bargaining team. "The proof? A number of integrated centres, including ours, had pledged to hold talks after that date. And now all of a sudden they're pulling back and renegeing on their initial commitment to negotiate. The employer's real reason lies elsewhere..."

"Did they act in concert or receive a directive from above? These are the real questions we should be asking them," stated Teresa Muccari. "If that's the case," she added, "they adopted a centralizing and unilateral approach that totally runs counter to the local character of the current negotiations and the collaborative attitude sought by the new health and social services minister."

The APTS reiterates that there is a place for negotiations until mediation begins, and is asking the employer to resume talks. "Every day that management refuses is another day of bargaining lost," concluded Teresa Muccari. "We're a long way off from the 'change of tone' that Minister McCann was hoping for."

The APTS

The [APTS](#) represents 55,000 members who play an indispensable role in ensuring that our health and social service institutions run smoothly. Our members offer a wide range of services to the population as a whole: diagnostic services, rehabilitation, nutrition, psychosocial intervention, clinical support and prevention services. There are 1,700 APTS members at the [CIUSSS Centre-West-Central Montreal](#).

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