

Contract talks for public sector collective agreements

It's been a year. Can we stop the playacting?

Longueuil, October 30, 2020 — Today across Québec, members of the APTS (*Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux*) will be marking the first anniversary of the day they tabled their demands for the renewal of their collective agreement. The APTS is denouncing the charade performed by the Legault government over the past months, which has ensured that contract talks are paralyzed.

"It's been a year since we tabled our demands, and even though we took a major step in setting priorities among them, we're still exactly where we started," says APTS president Andrée Poirier. "It's time for Treasury Board president Sonia Lebel to stop the playacting and send clear instructions to her representatives so that we can have real contract talks involving sustained effort. That way, we could finally start looking for solutions that would help us attract and retain personnel in the health and social services system, and put an end to the work overload we're currently experiencing."

During their lunch break on the day before Halloween, technicians and professionals will be demonstrating in front of the offices of CISSS, CIUSSS and university hospital CEOs to emphasize the urgency of improving working conditions for health and social services employees. In Montréal, APTS members will put on disguises and gather in front of the Treasury Board Secrétariat in the afternoon to denounce the toxic climate the Legault government is maintaining at the bargaining table – a climate that is jeopardizing the survival of the health and social services system.

"Work overload has now become unbearable for professionals and technicians because of the austerity of the last years and the devastating impact of Dr. Barrette's reform," says Andrée Poirier. "Our members are literally working themselves sick. The pandemic is the last straw. We need a major shift in direction to establish working conditions that will attract employees and encourage them to stay. This is a key issue – the survival of health care and social services provided by the public system is at stake."

The APTS

The APTS ([Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux](#)) represents a total of 56,000 members who play a key role in ensuring that health and social services institutions run smoothly. Our members provide a wide range of services for the population as a whole, including diagnostic, rehabilitation, nutrition, psychosocial intervention, clinical support, and prevention services.

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