

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Notice to members of the APTS with regards to the federal election to be held on October 14th

The policy statement adopted during our annual congress in May 2008 stipulates that « the APTS shall maintain its independence from the state and political parties». Therefore, the APTS is not aligning itself with any of the parties. However, we feel that it is essential to raise the awareness of our members in the midst of this federal election campaign, so that they may make strategic and discerning choices.

Our policy statement also outlines the values – solidarity, democracy, equality, social justice, liberty and cooperation - which must guide us in the protection and promotion of the rights which are so dear to us. We feel that, in many instances over the last few years, the policies of the federal government have been in direct opposition to our values and policies.

Here are a few examples :

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| Infringements on the rights of workers | ⇒ rejection of an anti-scab law in federal jurisdiction sectors
⇒ rejection of a project aimed at correcting disparities in the access to employment insurance |
| Setbacks in the status of women | ⇒ refusal to adopt a proactive law pertaining to pay equity
⇒ vote in favour of Bill C-484 which could limit abortion rights
⇒ abolition of the federal daycare program
⇒ funding cuts to Status of Women Canada |
| Threat to public services | ⇒ lowering of taxation therefore a reduction in budgets which will result in numerous program cuts |

Furthermore, the Conservative Party chooses repression as opposed to prevention, which is the approach favoured by the APTS and its members.

Many labour unions, as well as other progressive organizations, recommend opposition to conservative policies and strategic voting. We are calling on our members to answer this appeal to social solidarity.

For these reasons, we ask that you familiarize yourself with each party's program so that you may vote according to your values.

We intend on publicly expressing our opposition to conservative policies by participating in an important walk, alongside a coalition of social and cultural groups and other labour organizations. We are calling on members of the APTS, for whom it is possible, to join us, on Sunday October 5th in Montreal (please see poster).

For more information, please consult the following:

- ⇒ Les élections fédérales 2008 / Petit guide pour se familiariser avec la politique fédérale et ses enjeux, MEPACQ, 27 août 2008, www.mepacq.qc.ca/electionsmepacq.pdf
- ⇒ Précédent électoral / La Fédération des femmes du Québec appelle les Québécoises et les Québécois à battre les Conservateurs, communiqué, 23 septembre 2008, www.ffq.qc.ca