

The APTS is pleased to announce the sectoral agreement obtained for its 27,000 members

Longueuil, June 18, 2010 – The *Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux* (APTS) has concluded an agreement in principle on sectoral matters with the management bargaining committee for the health and social services sector. This agreement in principle will be presented at the APTS General Council meeting on June 21.

For Dominique Verreault, president of the largest union organization representing professional and technical personnel in health and social services, "this agreement meets the main objectives that we set initially, particularly with regard to attracting and retaining personnel. This agreement will help not only to curb the mass exodus of specialized staff toward private agencies, but also to attract new recruits. In the final analysis, it is the population that really wins out with this agreement, as better working conditions for personnel mean better services in our public health-care system as a whole."

The improvements in measures to attract and retain personnel contained in this agreement in principle include:

- a substantial increase in evening- and night-shift premiums;
- measures specifically designed for professional and technical personnel in remote regions such as Abitibi, Côte-Nord and the Gaspé;
- measures to reduce the use of independent labour and reduce compulsory overtime;
- a premium for professional personnel working in critical care;
- measures to reduce work overload;
- measures to facilitate professional supervision of less experienced personnel;
- an increase in the employer's contribution to the group insurance plan;
- a corrective adjustment in remuneration for biomedical engineering technicians and industrial hygiene technicians, who have been treated unfairly until now.

To be sure, this set of provisions will not solve all the problems in our health-care system. The government has nonetheless undertaken to reach an agreement with the union side on measures that will greatly improve the state of the health and social services sector, particularly in terms of facilitating greater work-family balance, which is a major concern for the APTS.

The issues of pensions, parental rights and salaries still have to be settled at the intersectoral table.

About the APTS

The APTS is a union organization representing 27,000 professional and technical employees in the health and social services sector. Its members include medical technologists, radiology technologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, physical rehabilitation therapists, social workers, psychologists, dietetics technicians and dieticians.

The APTS is a member of the *Secrétariat intersyndical des services publics* (SISP), an interunion coalition representing 265,000 unionized employees in the public and parapublic sectors. The SISP in turn belongs to the Common Front representing 475,000 employees currently in negotiations to renew their collective agreements.

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For information:
Francis Boucher, Communications
Telephone: 514 609-2906 (cell.)