

Information on the Government Decree That Is Going to Dictate Your Employment Conditions until 2010!

To all APTS members,

On December 15th, for election-related reasons purposes, the Charest Government passed a special law to unilaterally decree the employment conditions of the 500,000 public sector employees, which includes the 27,000 members of the APTS.

A cold shower until 2010!

The decree orders the renewal of the collective agreements until March 31st, 2010. Salarywise, the 500,000 public sector employees are all subject to the same ridiculous pay raises. The government is using the decree to impose a wage freeze for the first two years (2004-2005), followed by an annual 2% increase, payable on April 1st for the next four years, for an overall increase of 8% over more than six years.

Gains maintained

The special statute provides that agreements framed prior to its adoption will be respected. The APTS, which had negotiated a framework agreement for several non-monetary clauses, therefore retains the gains made last November. What's more, the APTS had improved on the agreement in the days leading up to the decree.

Penalties for lawbreakers

The special law also provides for some hefty fines to prevent illegal strikes. Therefore very few ways remain to express our dissatisfaction. Government employees have just about had it with these anti-union and anti-democratic ways. Indeed, the decree and these ridiculous pay raises are no way for the government to express its gratitude for the work done by the professionals and technicians in the health and social services network. Neither are they what one would call incentives to attract and retain personnel in the network. The APTS fully intends to remind the Charest government of this, and there will be no shortage of opportunities to do so in 2006.

In January, you will receive a special issue of *The APTS in negotiation*, explaining in detail the content of this special statute and its impact on your working conditions.

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