



## **APTS Reaction to the Decision of the *Commission de l'équité salariale***

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**Longueuil, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006** - The APTS is disappointed at the *Commission de l'équité salariale*'s decision to endorse the Quebec government in its move to spread over six years and seven instalments the planned payment of the salary adjustments under the pay equity plans.

The extended deadline for paying out the salary adjustments to the women and men working in the predominantly female job classes where discriminatory wage gaps have been identified, is prejudicial to the men and women who work, or have worked, or have retired from these jobs. The Commission itself acknowledges that this extension could penalize retirees. On this score, the APTS welcomes the recommendation of the Commission to look for solutions to diminish the impact of spreading out the adjustments.

The announcement casts a dark shadow on the settlement, which is the outcome of a battle waged by the labour movement and, more especially, the women's unions for more than 20 years. The equity issue should have been settled on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2001. It comes as a surprise, therefore, that the *Commission de l'équité salariale* should endorse the government, which clearly has opted for other budget choices in this pre-election phase. APTS President Dominique Verreault is carefully studying the decision, but has already asked the government not to go to appeal.

The APTS is a professional union. During the last change of allegiance period, its membership increased by 60%, to a total of 25,000 members located in 113 establishments throughout Quebec. It represents over a hundred different job titles in the public health and social services sector.

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