

Press release

For immediate release

Negotiations for public sector collective agreements

François Legault needs to show he's taking health and social services to heart

Montréal, February 11, 2021 – Denouncing the frozen state of negotiations for the renewal of public sector collective agreements, the APTS (*Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux*) illustrated its members' exasperation by depositing hearts of ice in front of Premier Legault's office in downtown Montréal.

"The health care system is falling apart," says APTS president Andrée Poirier. "We're dealing with staff shortages in youth protection, labs, medical imaging and mental health services, to mention just a few of the sectors where work overload has reached alarming levels. If we're going to keep on providing services for Quebecers, the government will have to take our public system to heart."

According to the APTS, there are plenty of solutions – what's lacking is political will. For over a year at the bargaining table, there has been no willingness to discuss solutions put forward by the union side. As a consequence, the APTS has been forced to ask for mediation to try and unfreeze negotiations that are frozen solid like the hearts given to the premier today.

What professionals and technicians are proposing is clear. We need to restore the value of jobs in the health and social services system by recognizing the true importance of employees' work, by giving them the autonomy they need to do their jobs, and by doing everything in our power to end the overload that is causing a record number of APTS members to stop work. And throughout this very difficult year, the government's refusal to give COVID premiums to professionals and technicians has been the last straw.

"For us, having a heart means giving the system the air it needs to breathe," says Poirier. "That means taking strong measures to attract and retain workers. We could then keep on taking our work to heart and giving Quebecers the quality services they have a right to expect. People employed in the system have their heart in the right place – but they won't be able to keep going for very long. Will Premier Legault show us that he takes health and social services to heart?"

The APTS

The APTS ([Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux](#)) represents a total of 60,000 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.

– 30 –

Contact: Maxime Clément
Communications and media relations officer
Cell: 514-792-0481