



## Negotiations and Strike Votes

Over the summer months and into September, QPAT representatives met management representatives. However, no real progress was made in any area. Management's new deposit in September, which they viewed as a way to restart negotiations, was essentially their old demands repackaged. In short, there was nothing new on the table and no actual movement.

Since that government deposit, strike votes were held at the end of September in all of QPAT's local unions. Every QPAT local union gave a strong mandate for strikes. In fact, the overall response within QPAT was 83% in favour of the strike days with over 4,000 votes cast. Strike votes across the public sector unions have been very high also; it is clear that teachers and others are ready to take this action.

The strike votes have had an impact. Most of them came after the government's updated deposit. In recent days since the votes were taken, the government has instructed its negotiators at the various tables in different sectors to intensify the meeting schedule for negotiating.

In an effort to restart the process and in conjunction with the strong strike mandates, QPAT, along with our partners in the FSE, deposited a more focused list of sectorial demands<sup>1</sup> centred on the issues of workload, special needs students, class sizes, and adult education. The need for more, not less investment in education was also made clear by us to the management side. We will use the strike mandate and our updated deposit to advance our position at the intensified meetings.

To achieve progress, it remains important that QPAT members remain mobilized and that we continue with our action plan.

### Action Plan Update

#### 1. Strike Days

As mentioned above, QPAT, and the other public sector unions, voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action. The Common Front has determined the following timetable for the strike days:

- one day of strike during the week of October 26, 2015 (rotating)
- two consecutive strike days at some point between November 9 and 17, 2015 (rotating)
- three province-wide strike days on December 1, 2 and 3, 2015

Since these strike days are coordinated with the different unions in the Common Front across the province by region, it is likely that different QPAT locals would be on strike on different days during the rotating strike periods. You will receive further information about the precise strike days from your local union.

#### 2. Other Actions

On October 3, 2015, QPAT members participated in a 100,000-person demonstration in downtown Montreal. The size of the crowd attests to the importance of negotiations for all members of the public sector work force.

As teachers, we have continued with our action plan this fall. We have:

- limited our work to the 32 hour framework;
- refused to take the governmental attendance on September 30;
- continued operation monochrome;
- refused to collect money for administration;
- extended recesses.

In addition to continuing with the above actions, we will also be delaying the transmission of the first communication (progress report) to parents by submitting our comments on October 22, 2015.

You will be kept informed as other actions come into play over the course of the fall.

<sup>1</sup> Sectorial demands only deal with issues that are specific to teachers. They do not refer to matters such as salary or pensions; these are intersectorial issues.