

LE POINT SUR LA NÉGO n°11

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Towards a new phase in the bargaining talks

As reported in the last two issues of Info-négo, we have been in exploratory talks with Treasury Board at the central bargaining table in the past few weeks in an effort to quickly reach a satisfactory agreement, particularly on salaries. The government has been saying it wants to wrap up the negotiations quickly, but so far that desire hasn't been evident at the various bargaining tables.

In exploratory talks, the parties explore a range of possible solutions in order to find common ground and come to an agreement that can be brought to the membership. Since May 2020, we have held a total of nine exploratory sessions at the central table. Unfortunately, the process hasn't yielded results so far.

The bargaining committees of the CSN's public sector federations are therefore gearing up for the next phase of bargaining in the fall. They will begin meeting in mid-August to decide on next steps. The federations' bodies will also meet and the unions will be invited. As you know, there was a cabinet shuffle on June 22 and Sonia Lebel has taken over from Christian Dubé as President of Treasury Board. A new employer spokesperson has also been named at the central table. We have already been in contact with our new negotiating partners.

For now, the government is sticking to the positions described in Info-négo No. 10. Its offer is clearly inadequate in terms of our priorities, such as the need to significantly improve working conditions and conditions of practice, and particularly the need to address the situation of the government's lowest-paid employees. It appears we will have to go back on the attack and step up our mobilization in the fall in order to press our case about the urgency of rebuilding Québec's civil service. Watch this space. Unity and action for victory!