

Start of CNESST inquiries and talks with the Treasury Board

In March, CSN public sector federations met with representatives from the *Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail* (CNESST). The Commission wanted to outline how it will proceed with inquiries into our complaints from 2010 regarding the process to maintain pay equity. After four years of unproductive talks about our complaints in an attempt to reach an agreement with the Treasury Board, CNESST must now rule on the validity of our complaints. This investigative and decision-making process, provided for under the law, is now underway.

The Treasury Board also summoned us to resume talks on April 18. Although the CNESST decision-making process has been launched, it is still possible to try to reach a satisfactory agreement with the government. We reiterated our position once again during this meeting: Treasury Board has to respond to the last proposal filed by union organizations some 18 months ago. Our federation is always prepared to entertain a settlement offer from the government, a proposal that will be acceptable for the members we represent and that will end the wage discrimination experienced by women who may have been affected since implementation of the pay equity program.

However, this bid to restart talks initiated by the Treasury Board should not, and we have been clear about this, impede work already undertaken by CNESST on all the complaints we have filed about the process to maintain pay equity, a process unilaterally enacted by the government in 2010. Our working teams are busy finalizing representations that we will make before CNESST with regard to this.