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Last meeting of the Task Force on Tradespeople

Disappointing Results

On Thursday, May 2, 2013, the final meeting of the task force on tradespeople was held. The latter capped three previous meetings that had taken place on January 23, March 11 and April 17, which were more exploratory in nature. The purpose of all these meetings was to search for the outlines of a solution, in order to reach a series of joint recommendations, which would be shared by the Government's representatives.

During this series of meetings, the Unions have made two observations :

- There is much too much work that is normally done by tradespeople that is being outsourced in the health care and education systems, which also gives rise to substantial costs;
- Any measures to attract and retain manpower would definitely require an injection of new monies.

Expectations were thus quite high at this most recent meeting of the committee. Already, last Tuesday, about 200 tradespeople got together at Place Émilie-Gamelin in order to put some pressure on management.

The responses at the bargaining table have been very disappointing: management showed up without a mandate. They "carefully noted down" our demands. We're supposed to be getting a comeback from them next May 24.

Let's recall that during the last round of bargaining in 2010, the creation of a parity committee was agreed upon to identify solutions. The problem is not a new one: it's been like this for quite a while now! Showing up at the final meeting without a mandate is totally incomprehen-

sible. The Government must stop continually shovelling things into the future and assume its responsibilities.

A tour of regional demonstrations

The inaction of our bosses just goes to prove the necessity of our getting ourselves mobilized. A regional mobilization tour will be taking place next May 23 to May 29, 2013. This will be an excellent opportunity to have our voices heard in front of the offices of our elected representatives. All the demonstrations will be taking place at lunchtime.

- May 23** **Quebec City**, in front of the National Assembly
- May 24** **Chicoutimi**, in front of the offices of Stéphane Bédard, Treasury Board President
- May 27** **Longueuil**, in front of the offices of Marie Malavoy, Minister of Education
- May 28** **Joliette**, in front of the offices of Véronique Yvon, Minister of Social Services
- May 29** **Sherbrooke**, in front of the offices of Réjean Hébert, Minister of Health and Social Services

We're hoping that a big crowd will show up to make the Government understand once and for all that the tradespeople issue has to be settled. And Now!