

# BLOC-NOTES

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FEBRUARY 15,  
2011

**fneeq**  CSN

for cegep teachers

## MARCH 12: I'LL BE THERE!

The budget presented by Finance Minister Raymond Bachand last year caused quite an uproar. Instead of looking for ways to minimize the impact of the economic crisis on the least well off and on the middle class, the government instead chose to adopt regressive policies, in particular by announcing health care user fees, a measure that happily has since been abandoned due to public pressure.

However, the health care tax, applied equally to everyone without regard to income, remains, along with the proposed increase in university tuition fees, and other regressive measures.

The *Alliance sociale*, an initiative bringing together union forces organized by the CSN, and the Coalition Against User Fees and the Privatization of Public Services have launched a broad movement of pressure from community/social groups and unions to ensure that the next provincial budget is more equitable, that it withdraws the health care tax and the increase in tuition fees, and that it is based on a more progressive tax system.

The FNEEQ Federal Council has supported this social mobilization effort with enthusiasm. It's an alternative to political defeatism!

### The Campaign Is Organizing

In addition to inviting all FNEEQ unions to set ambitious objectives for participation in the big demonstration on March 12 which will mark the high point of this campaign, the Federal Council also encouraged its unions to organize awareness-raising activities on the subject of government finances. And, across Québec, they have begun!

Lunch-time debates and discussions of all sorts have taken place involving different unions and working together with community groups in the Saguenay, in the Montérégie and in central Québec. Many meetings of this type have also taken place in Québec and Montréal. In Abitibi, an impressive campaign including advertising on radio and television has been put in place; go to [www.reseauv.com](http://www.reseauv.com) – it's worth it!

### A Demonstration that Sends a Message

Each FNEEQ union has already sent its local Member of the National Assembly a letter informing him or her of its expectations regarding the next budget. Public pressure can make the difference and we must be out in large numbers to show this on March 12 in Montréal.

We invite all FNEEQ members to take note from their local union Executive of the planned awareness-raising activities and of the arrangements made for participation in the demonstration.

### An Equitable Budget: It's a Matter of Choice!

**QUEBEC-WIDE DEMONSTRATION**  
SATURDAY MARCH 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 AT 12 PM • PLACE DU CANADA IN MONTREAL



✓ ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SERVICES  
✓ REDISTRIBUTION OF THE WEALTH  
✓ GOOD JOBS



~~HEALTH TAX~~  
~~INCREASES IN TUITION FEES~~  
~~USER FEES AND PRIVATISATION~~