

COLLEGE STUDIES CENTRES AND FNEEQ

FNEEQ includes eight college studies centres:

<i>Centre de Baie-de-Chaleurs</i>	Gaspésie
<i>École nationale des pêches et de l'aquaculture</i>	Gaspésie
<i>Centre de Chibougamau</i>	Saint-Félicien
<i>Centre de Lac Mégantic</i>	Beauce-Appalaches
<i>Centre de Mont-Laurier</i>	Saint-Jérôme
<i>Centre de Mont-Tremblant</i>	Saint-Jérôme
<i>Centre de Montmagny</i>	La Pocatière
<i>Centre québécois de formation en aéronautique</i>	Chicoutimi

FNEEQ actively intervenes on many issues that affect college studies centres.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM AUTHORIZATIONS

In order to encourage student enrolment in college studies centres and to enrich the programs offered there, FNEEQ negotiated the first “provisional program authorization” for the Nursing program at Chibougamau in 2000. This approach was adopted after a rigorous analysis of the situation and difficult negotiations at the provincial level. Afterwards, following the same process (which takes into account, among other factors, the financing of the program) three other provisional program authorizations were agreed to: two at Mont-Laurier (one in Nursing and the other in Youth Correctional Intervention); and a third at Montmagny in Theatre Production.

Given the diversity of situations faced by college studies centres, especially in outlying regions, FNEEQ greatly prefers to negotiate provisional authorization agreements with the employer’s side on a case-by-case basis. Unfortunately, during the last round of negotiations, an appendix was added to the collective agreement that limits the role of union federations in these issues.

The appendix on provisional authorizations requires that, for a program to become permanent, four cohorts (which do not have to be consecutive) must be completed within five years. Following discussions with the employer’s side, the *regroupement cégep* agreed to extend the time limit for a fourth cohort from 5 to 9 years, on the understanding that the program will become permanent once the fifth cohort has completed its studies. Therefore, programs have 9 years to attain 4 cohorts, as compared to the older formula, where everything restarted at zero after five years, or even worse, the program would close.

RECOGNITION OF THE *CENTRE D'ÉTUDES DE LAC MÉGANTIC*

Last year, FNEEQ led a fierce struggle for the official recognition of the *Centre d'études collégiales de Lac Mégantic*, which had an "experimental" status. The employer's side refused to recognize it as a centre despite the fact that it had met the conditions set for its full recognition as a permanent centre of studies. Working together with the local teacher's union from the *Cégep de Beauce-Appalaches*, we led a media campaign in the region and made the required interventions with the Ministry of Education, with the support of all of the unions in the *regroupement cégep*. The letter of agreement confirming the permanent status of the centre was signed in May 2008.

RECOGNITION OF THE STATUS OF TEACHERS AT THE *CENTRE D'ÉTUDES COLLÉGIALES EXPÉRIMENTAL DE MONT-TREMBLANT*

We also led another battle, this time through a grievance, concerning the recognition of the status of the teachers working at the new *Centre d'études collégiales de Mont-Tremblant*. Even though the centre accepted students coming directly from high school, the Ministry used the financing formula as though they were in Continuing Education. The arbitrator sided with us and required that this teaching be recognized as regular teaching.

The importance of offering a variety of programs of high quality in all of the regions of Québec ranks among the major priorities of FNEEQ. This includes the promotion of working conditions that reflect such an offering.