



Fédération  
des travailleurs  
et travailleuses  
du Québec

Montréal, May 28<sup>th</sup> 2012

Ken Georgetti, President  
CLC

Dear colleague:

As previously discussed, I have been informed that labour leaders in English Canada intended to come and support the social conflict currently prevailing in Quebec. We appreciate this surge of solidarity but we are astonished, to say the least, that these people have not communicated with the FTQ to get a better understanding of the situation and find out how they could be of assistance.

While I don't want to be excessively procedural, it would nonetheless be interesting to recall that, some years ago, the FTQ and CLC signed a protocol stating, among other things, that the union activities and strategies in Quebec are to take place exclusively under the responsibility of the FTQ. Thus far, this agreement has always been respected on both sides. It is important to us that there be only one union voice in Quebec.

Now to the form. The situation in Quebec is currently very volatile. Although we have been asking for compliance to Law 12 to avoid having to pay significant fines that would place a burden on the resources of unions and undermine our ability to act, the FTQ challenged the law with many other student, union and community organizations and demanded its annulment. As well, more radical wings are calling for social strike and we do not believe that this is THE strategy to be promoted for the moment. We have to understand that, despite their apparent strength, the student associations are exhausted and worried about what comes next. We think that, at the moment, the best approach is to facilitate a settlement instead of fueling the fires.

It is in fact possible that the Government and student associations meet early in the week for a round of bargaining; we believe that it is necessary to foster the best atmosphere for this operation to be successful.

In conclusion, if our colleagues in other provinces wish to learn more and really participate in this battle, I invite them to contact me. We would indeed suggest areas of action. Obviously, if students in other provinces were paying less for their school tuitions, this would put less pressure on ours.

In solidarity,

President,

Michel Arsenault