



Important notice for building service employees

September 2018

THE CPEEP IS TAKING PART IN THE 2018 ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN!

Over the last few weeks, the *Parity Committee for the building services* (CPEEP) has taken the initiative to question different candidates from the main political parties in the upcoming Quebec general election, which is currently underway until October 1st.

The role of the CPEEP is to enforce the regulations stated in the Decree and to ensure that the wages and working conditions of employees are not a factor that lead to unfair competition among companies. The CPEEP has been able to demonstrate over several years how it is possible for Union parties and employers to implement and protect working conditions that are fair for all workers in the building service industry.

Taking part in the electoral campaign is a way for the CPEEP to enquire about the political orientation of the parties in regards to the future of both the Parity Committees and the *Act respecting collective agreement decrees*.

Last spring, Bill 189 was introduced in the National Assembly. In essence, Bill 189 foresees the abolition of all Parity Committees and plans to confer the responsibility of overseeing collective agreement decrees on the *Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail* (CNESST). This reform would have harmful effects on employees mainly because the CNESST does not have the know-how of the CPEEP to carry out investigations, inspections or process complaints related to our industry. To be more specific, the CPEEP has developed tools and has the knowledge in regards to the underground economy, which is an ongoing problem that affects the building service industry in particular.

This reform becomes even more alarming considering that the CNESST only steps in once a complaint has been submitted. In comparison, the CPEEP conducts rigorous, proactive inspections that are adapted to the industry and lead more rapidly to the identification of contractors who do not comply with the law – a process, with no additional costs to the province of Québec. Furthermore, it is important to point out that employees have a much faster access to a CPEEP representative, in comparison to the governmental services, where the response time is much longer.

This Bill has not been adopted. However, we know very little about the intentions of the candidates who will eventually be elected on October 1st. We want to raise awareness and inform them about the impact of such a reform. That is why, given the opportunity to meet the candidates, ask them about their views on this matter.

To conclude, please know that we stand strong to avoid any decline in your working conditions.

Christiane Bigras
General Director