

STTRC'S NEWSLETTER

MAY 6TH 2022

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BACK TO WORK & TELEWORK

Those who wish to come to terms with an agreement allowing telework have begun to fill out a form. And already, questions are emerging. Clearly, Radio-Canada management has decided to exclude certain sectors. There seems to be little openness in the newsrooms. Granted, a lot of production work can only be done in facilities, but the pandemic has at least taught us that a lot more can be done remotely than before. The first rule is simple, it all starts with a request from an employee. The rest is not so simple, we enter the marvelous world of discretionary decisions. A word of advice: document your requests and in the event of a dispute, notify your delegate. Telecommuting is neither a gift nor a privilege. The operational needs and the task should be the criteria for determining the appropriate response to a request.

A word on our latest General Assembly

More than 350 members were able to exchange for almost 2 hours with the members of our negotiation committee during the general assembly on Saturday April 30th. Featured: the extreme slowness of the management party, the absence of mandates from our counterparts and an apparent lack of preparation. The intervention of a mediator from the Federal Mediation Office could perhaps change the situation... to be seen. In the meantime, the members present called for an intensification of pressure tactics.

As announced, a notice of motion to reconsider our salary demands has been tabled. This motion will be debated at an extraordinary meeting on Saturday, May 28, a meeting which will be held, if the Union Council authorizes it, by videoconference.

Finally, the activity reports of the Union Office representatives show that the pandemic has not slowed down the volume of work to be done. An assessment which reports the conclusion of a mediation-arbitration operation which has made it possible to resolve more than 1,100 grievances, the organization of a first summit on health and safety next June, the continuation of the clean-up of the work environment in the Quebec, Moncton and Rimouski stations with new management in these three stations, the regular production of the Infolettre and Info négo newsletters and an approach with senior management signaling openness, rigor and, when necessary, firmness.

A special thank you to our three employees and our two advisors who support the work of the members of the Union Office on a daily basis.

Pension fund: battle motivated by anger

The 4 unions (STTRC, Guilde, AR and APS) are waging a standoff at Radio-Canada concerning the sharing of the surpluses of our pension fund. Radio-Canada claims that an agreement signed in 2009 which provides for a 50/50 sharing of surpluses is no longer valid, which we dispute. There have already been two days of arbitration, other days are planned for September.

It is also important to preserve this agreement because it is the only official document that obliges Radio-Canada to offer a defined benefit pension plan. Even though, Radio-Canada still refuses to recognize our union as being included by right in this agreement.

Furthermore, the \$40 million contribution holiday taken by Radio-Canada between now and the end of the year has raised a unanimous feeling of anger within the 4 unions. We do not accept that the excellent returns generated by our contributions allow Radio-Canada to finance part of its production. But since there is no more internal production, except for news, we have no guarantee that these \$40 million will not end up for the most part in the pockets of private producers.