

Negotiations: Regular and Assiduous Work with the Ministry

The FFARIQ is holding numerous working meetings with the Ministry to improve your working conditions, both in terms of standards and finances. To date, we have held 26 meetings to represent the interests of Quebec foster families who have chosen the FFARIQ (50% of the regions).

Informing you and hearing your opinion

It's important for us to keep you informed throughout the process, and to obtain **your** approval of the conditions we negotiate on your behalf. To this end, we have held two extraordinary general meetings this year to take stock of the situation. More will be held whenever necessary.

Standards negotiation: almost over

- To this date, no union has succeeded in negotiating a mandatory minimum duration for fostering a child. Despite the existence of a letter of intent that RECOMMENDS a minimum duration and automatic renewal to institutions, the institution still has full discretion to do as it sees fit. We are therefore actively working to improve the minimum duration and number of renewals, and to make these aspects of the specific agreement MANDATORY.
- **Transport safety** is also an important element in our negotiations. For example, it is unacceptable for a foster family to have to pick up a child in crisis from school without having a means of ensuring their safety and that of the child during the journey. Can the foster family refuse transportation or ask the institution to provide an alternative means of picking up the child from school? We work with the Ministry to create protection mechanisms.
- **Child displacement** remains an important issue for foster families, who sometimes find themselves unable to provide services to their children because one of them is experiencing severe difficulties or exhibiting violent behavior. A significant improvement in the institutions' support for resources is needed to prevent displacements, but in the absence of improvement, requested displacements must happen more quickly and, in the case of emergencies, without delay.



Negotiating the financial package

Negotiations on the **financial aspects** of the agreement took place twice, on April 15 and 18. In addition to your requests for general improvements, we are working to significantly improve and update certain financial aspects, such as the amounts allocated to reasonable operating expenses. In this context, the FFARIQ has called in an actuary to support and justify your demands at the negotiating table.

Our foster families still have room for more children

Finally, although the law does not allow for the negotiation of **ministerial criteria or their enhancement by institutions**, we discuss their impact on the shortage of foster families we hear about in the media. For example, the raising by institutions of physical criteria linked to the living environment, over and above municipal laws or regulations, limits the possibility of a resource receiving more children, while many of you raise your hand to be part of the solution

[\(https://fb.watch/rGIG9pP-i9/\)](https://fb.watch/rGIG9pP-i9/)

We believe it is possible to reach an agreement in the near future. You will then be consulted at an EGM. Stay tuned for our next communications.

YOUR NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

 Here
for you and
your children