

# The FTQ welcomes the introduction of the pay equity bill

**Montreal, March 12, 2009.** The Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ) welcomes the bill modifying the Pay Equity Act introduced today in the National Assembly by Minister of Labour David Whissell.

The FTQ has been involved in every effort to secure passage of this Act, which obliges all employers with 10 or more employees to provide for pay equity within their company, and believes that this bill proposes amendments that are entirely consistent with the demands the labour federation made during the recent parliamentary commission.

*“Since the very beginning of the process, the FTQ has been actively involved in the work on pay equity. We submitted a brief in winter 2008 requesting that the Pay Equity Act be strengthened and that its mandatory provisions be maintained. We think that the amendments announced today are a step in the right direction,”*

FTQ Secretary General René Roy

The FTQ is particularly pleased about the establishment of a joint advisory committee and about the fact that the government intends to force employers that have yet to initiate the pay equity process to take action. According to Louise Mercier, the FTQ vice-president representing women, “These changes will have concrete consequences. We welcome the firmness of the government with regard to these recalcitrant employers. The amendments to the Act will make it possible to more effectively maintain pay equity within companies.”

The FTQ will remain vigilant.

The FTQ intends to play an active role at the next parliamentary commission and will take this opportunity to draw attention to a number of elements that still need to be improved to ensure that the provisions the Act are mandatory.

A third of FTQ members are women.

The FTQ, the largest labour federation in Quebec, represents over a half-million members, over a third of whom are women, meaning that it represents more female unionized workers than any other federation in the province. These women are employed in all types of workplaces, in the public, para-public and private sectors.