



SCRC'S NEWSLETTER

JUNE 17TH 2020

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BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT AND RACISM: WHAT TO DO?

Recent events against racism, both in the United States and here, show once again that systemic racism is present even in organizations like ours. We must lucidly engage in this fight for equality. Doing nothing just perpetuates this problem. And we are well aware that our union organization does not sufficiently reflect the diversity of our members. We have an Equity / Diversity / Inclusion committee, but it deals with issues of inclusion and equity at Radio-Canada. But what about the SCRC? Several elected officials are considering how best to approach this problem, but we would also like to hear from our members and delegates about systemic racism. Do you have any suggestions, comments or even criticisms on this subject? Do not hesitate to write to us: scrc@scrc.qc.ca



Crédit: Alexey Ruban/Unsplash

Derailment avoided for radio technicians

Usually when you take an exam, the value given to each question and the passing grade are known. Colleague radio technicians, affected by the layoffs, were given priority to undergo the selection process to qualify for new positions. The theoretical exam was prepared by a senior technician who proposed a passing grade of 60%. But a week after taking the exam, candidates learned that the pass mark was 70%. In doing so, 5 were excluded. Alerted on May 21 by the section delegate, the union explained to the employer the impact of this situation. Message received, on the 27th, the management recognized the confusion surrounding the scoring and the pass mark, and lowered the bar allowing access to the practical exam to 60%. Candidates have already been advised that the passing mark for the practical exam will be 70%. Some observations: you have to be vigilant and act quickly with all the facts in hand. Another conclusion: there are still managers who understand, we take note and thank them.

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NO LONGER ON-AIR: NO RESPONSE

On March 17, at the very beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the CBC Montreal team received devastating news: managers had organized a surprise meeting to inform them that senior management had decided to immediately withdraw the bulletins from local television news. Little explanation was provided other than that it was a crisis and that the network infrastructure was no longer able to handle the power that passed through the Toronto broadcast center. It was a demoralizing announcement for a team that put all their heart into providing essential information. In the days that followed, the network hastened to provide regional coverage on the CBC News Network. Local teams were invited to produce content in a constantly evolving format. It was an exhausting and frustrating ordeal for the members, who had to deal with the pandemic, and, for some, doing their tasks through teleworking. CBC management still maintained that the public would be "better served" as well. The equally frustrated local management seemed helpless. After much criticism from columnists and politicians, CBC management finally agreed to gradually hand over the 6:00 pm newscasts, 10 days after they were withdrawn. The 11 p.m. news returned on April 14. It is unknown if the weekend bulletins will be back. During a meeting, management minimized the impact of the situation and provided little assurance that it would not happen again. The union will continue to work with local managers to ensure the sustainability of local information and a healthy work organization.

Premiums end soon

As we are now a large union, there is less and less inter-unit work. Intra-unit work does not give entitlement to any bonus, except when it implies advancement to a higher function. Colleagues from Moncton have just found out at their expense. They took away the bonus they received when they were editing. They are not the only ones who will be hit. Among other things, there will be journalists from Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières and Saguenay stations who still receive a bonus for the editing they do; they are also in the crosshairs. Management has the right, but is it fair?

A FIRST ASSESSMENT OF THE SECTION TOURS IN VIDEO

Coronavirus obliges, the SCRC had to conduct a tour of the sections via Internet. Members of each section were invited to chat with President Pierre Tousignant by videoconference. Okay, we haven't smashed ratings. But more than 150 SCRC members participated in one of the videoconference meetings that took place in the past month. Each of these meetings made it possible to fill a few pages of notes. We will have highlighted the good moves and the snags in the organization of our work in this period of pandemic. You have launched several avenues of reflection on the future of telework at Radio-Canada. Thanks to you for agreeing to add an extra 90 minutes to your screen time, often after a long day of teleworking. All this will be followed, shortly, by a consultation with all the members, to allow us to clearly identify the problems and issues that you are experiencing!