

In recent months, the CSN has launched a major awareness and mobilization campaign under the theme **Stand Together/ Faire front. It's a call to:**

- **Stand together** against attacks on democracy that seek to weaken all checks on the government's powers, including trade unions
- **Stand together** to preserve and strengthen Québec's social safety net
- **Stand together** on environmental issues and for a just transition

Against this backdrop, we are calling on women of all generations to stand up on March 8, International Women's Rights Day, against the attacks that are undermining the rights of women in particular across all spheres of life. This year's theme, **Generations, stand up!** is a nod to **Québécoises deboutte!** (women of Québec, stand up!), a newsletter published in the early 1970s by the Front de libération des femmes du Québec, an organization that played a seminal role in the history of radical feminism in Québec. The implicit message is that, like the women of past generations, women today have endured too much for too long. **It is time to rise up!**

Throughout its hundred-year history, the CSN has spearheaded many battles, and women have been on the front lines since the beginning. Today, **we are seeing the reversal of hard-won rights**, including labour rights and the rights of women in public and private life. A worldwide right-wing ideological tide is challenging all the progressive movements that have advanced social rights, including union rights for the working class, feminism, the fight against discrimination and environmental protection. The right is claiming things have gone too far and is pushing law and order.

The **Québec government** has aligned itself with this current, passing laws and making decisions that strike at workers' rights and the gains secured through women's struggles.

The **federal government's** budget priorities—such as tax cuts and surging defence spending—are diverting resources from social services and environmental protection.



Throughout history

- Generations of women have fought to dismantle gender stereotypes and achieve emancipation;
- Generations of women have secured better working and living conditions through union struggles;
- Generations of women have fought for the right to choose whether to have children;
- Generations of women continue to denounce the violence they suffer;
- Generations of women have claimed power within institutions.

But not all women have benefited from these advances. Many women still live in poverty, hold precarious jobs and contend with conditions of marginalization and racialization.

How can we draw on past struggles and pool the experiences of multiple generations to **strengthen the struggles of the present day** in the face of mounting threats? I encourage you to tap into the historical spirit of resistance when organizing your March 8 activities this year:

- Raise awareness among members about the setbacks caused by government policies and anti-feminist movements—and their impact on women's lives;
- Foster dialogue about the struggles that lie ahead;
- Support and amplify the voices of women workers fighting for their rights;
- Draw inspiration for our current struggles from the experiences of the feminists who went before us.

STAND UP and stand together!

Nathalie Arquin

Secretary General of the CSN
Officer responsible for the status of women



In Québec, women's groups have been organizing large-scale events on **March 8 for International Women's Day** since 1974. Since the mid-1990s, these actions have been coordinated by the Collectif 8 mars. The Collectif chooses the slogans and designs the materials. In 2017, the Collectif also decided to rename the event "**International Women's Rights Day**" in Québec.

March 8 originated from women's struggles in the United States. After many strikes and protests against low wages, poor working conditions, child labour and the denial of voting rights, female textile workers in New York took to the streets on March 8, 1908. Their fight resonated around the world. In 1910, the Second International Conference of Socialist Women called for the creation of International Women's Day. It was not until 1975 that the United Nations declared International Women's Year. Women's struggles went international, supported by four UN world conferences on women, including the 1995 Beijing Conference which adopted a landmark program for women's empowerment and gender equality.

Check out sisterhood merch from the CSN's Confederal Status of Women Committee on the CSN's online store:



Féministe tant qu'il le faudra!
t-shirt



Based on a design created for the Collectif 8 mars in 2018. Produced by two women, Noémie Darveau (design) and Karolina Lach (typography).



Bandana/scarf

Adorned with vibrant, original patterns that reflect the creativity of women's struggles. A timely reminder that we have to fight to defend our gains.

Buy them and wear them at actions and events to show your solidarity and your outrage at attacks on women's rights.

GENERATIONS STAND UP!



**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S RIGHTS DAY
2026**

