

The TRPOCB and the CTROC's initiatives on the rendering of accounts to the *PSOC-mission globale*. News for local, regional, and national groups and coalitions –09-16-2020

We know that you have many questions regarding the rendering of accounts to the *PSOC-mission globale* since the MSSS (Ministère de la santé et les services sociaux [Health and social services ministry]) announcement on August 31, 2020.

In addition to requiring the majority of groups and coalitions to provide their rendering of accounts before December 31, 2020, the MSSS added in a second message that an interim financial statement must also be provided.

*“As mentioned yesterday during the telephone conference and following the issuance of the letter regarding the rendering of accounts of community organizations (N/Ref.: 20-PF-00365-01), we are communicating details concerning the interim financial statement **which is requested in addition to the annual financial statement.**”*

Daniel Garneau, Assistant Director General,
Assistant Director General of general social services,
community activities, and disability programs
(09-01-2020)

Since September 1, we have been informing you of the Coalition des Tables regionales d'organismes communautaires (CTROC) and the Table des regroupements provinciaux d'organismes communautaires et bénévoles (TRPOCB or Table)'s opposition to these decisions.

Note that these decisions overturn without consultation, the agreement reached with the MSSS on May 11, despite the health emergency remaining in place and the pandemic continuing to have a significant negative effect on the operations of the groups and coalitions.

Today, we would like to inform you of the situation with regard to the joint actions we are currently taking and to announce the future steps we plan to take.

Since August 31, the TRPOCB and the CTROC have been sharing their analyses and working together to plan what actions to take in this matter.

The groups have made particular effort to consult one another before and after each meeting with the Minister as well as between meetings with their respective organizations.

Political initiatives under way

Two meetings took place with Minister Lionel Carmant: on September 3rd with the TRPOCB and on September 9th with the CTROC. Meetings with the Minister's political advisor were also added. On all of these occasions, the Minister was asked to return to the agreement from May, largely because of the issues caused by the requirement to hold an annual general meeting by December.

- The CTROC and TRPOCB demonstrated that not all groups will be able to hold an AGM, either live or virtually; although certain groups can do so, this does not mean that the rule can apply to everyone.
- The CTROC and TRPOCB pointed out that an interim financial statement is an internal document to be used by a group's members and is not to be transmitted in the rendering of accounts to the PSOC.¹

Following their respective meetings, the TRPOCB and the CTROC have emphasized the Minister's openness to their requests. On September 11, the groups sent a joint letter formalizing their request for a review of the August 31 decision and to be promptly informed of the outcome.

An initial response came from the Minister's political advisor. In this document, they acknowledged that the interim financial document was a “member document” and that “the Ministry cannot demand receipt of a copy.” The TRPOCB and the CTROC wish for the MSSS to quickly communicate this correction to the groups and coalitions.

However, the advisor's message maintains the obligation to hold the AGM before December 31 and to hand over the rendering of account by this date...

¹ The TRPOCB has produced a document on this subject:
<http://bit.ly/Bilan-financier-intérimaire>

As you can imagine, the CTROC and the TRPOCB will continue to pursue their demands.

The pandemic is not over

Each day, we hear the concerns of the Prime Minister and the Health Minister over the rise in the number of infected people and the increase in the number of regions affected by COVID-19. While they call on the public to take further action in protecting themselves, the MSSS is not considering the 2nd wave and its effects in regard to the rendering of accounts to the PSOC.

With the 2nd wave of contagion expected this fall, the hard line on the rendering of accounts to the PSOC would unnecessarily put the health of members of the groups and organization at risk, along with the health of their communities.

The most recent data indicates that of the 65,554 confirmed cases in Quebec since March, 2,940 have been added since September 1. In the last 5 days, 262 cases were added daily, the same number as the first days of June. Fortunately, deaths and hospitalizations are much lower than in the spring, however, the increase in the number of sick people, and therefore the number of those in isolation, has a significant impact on the lives of the members and teams of our groups, as well as the groups' operations.

Furthermore, in the event of a 2nd wave, measures could be tightened, preventing planned activities for reasons beyond the control of the groups and organizations' BOD. For example: an increase of illnesses among members, teams and their communities, cancellation of venue reservations, or reduced capacity of venues, fears that prevents members from travelling, members and team burnout and discouragement caused by an increase of virtual meetings or an inability to access them, etc. Even MSSS officials are warning that their operations are at risk of once again being disrupted in the event of a second wave...

Moreover, this does not take into account the effects of changes in the COVID-19 alert levels in each region-moving from green to red...

What's next?

The TRPOCB and CTROC will continue their efforts to have Minister Carmant reverse the decision announced on August 31.

We believe that the transmission of the activity and financial reports from the last completed fiscal year (2019-2020), adopted by the Board of Directors rather than presented at the AGM, would allow organizations to meet legal obligations (as the Companies Act stipulates that the adoption of these two documents is the responsibility of the BODs). We believe that this would allow the government to ensure that public funds are properly managed, while we continue to adapt to the on-going health situation.

By not requiring the AGMs to be held by December 31, the government would show understanding towards a program that has provided vital assistance to communities in these difficult times.

Depending on the advancement of our initiatives, we will propose actions adapted to the groups' situation and to their need for solidarity. We will provide more details to you by the end of September.

In the interim, the CTROC and the TRPOCB recommend that you produce your 2019-2020 financial and business reports and have them adopted by your board of directors. In addition, the organizations suggest waiting to determine a general assembly date if for whatever reason, you do not have a choice in the matter.

The joint actions of the TRPOCB and the CTROC illustrate the seriousness of the situation and the importance of reaching a solution. It should be noted that our efforts are aimed at preserving the autonomy of the groups, including the autonomy to determine internal democratic practices and rules that are adapted to the realities of their members in this time of crisis. This is a very important issue that greatly outweighs the question of scheduling and administrative regulations.

Thank you for your cooperation,

In solidarity,

La Coalition des Tables régionales d'organismes communautaires

La Table des regroupements provinciaux d'organismes communautaires et bénévoles