

# PLATFORM of the COALITION « J'AI JAMAIS VOTÉ POUR ÇA! »

The Coalition «J'ai jamais voté pour ça! » brings together Montreal community groups, pro-democracy organizations, and private and public sector unions working together to resist all efforts of the Charest government to **Re-engineer** the role, structures, and public services of the state, which will result in increased social and economic inequalities.

## Resisting the Re-engineering of State by the Charest Government

The Coalition believes the Charest government is without the mandate and the legitimacy to begin to systematically dismantle public services that have been built over the last 40 years to the benefit of all citizens. When Mr. Charest was elected on April 14, 2003 he did not obtain the mandate from Quebecers to « bulldoze » public services that were built on espoused social values only to replace them with neo-Liberal policies that were not disclosed or elaborated in his election campaign. The rising levels of resistance to his Re-engineering plan is a clear sign that the Government does not have the popular support to carry out such a radical shift in the role of the State. No, Mr. Charest, « **We never voted for THAT! »**

The Coalition aims to raise the voice of collective disapproval and expose what's at stake : weakening the role of the state to the benefit of corporations, a reduction in democratic spaces, threatened social programs, user fees to pay for income tax reductions, worsening working conditions, and the privatization of cherished public services.

The members of the Coalition:

- Oppose the weakening of the role of the State
- Oppose the reduction of income taxes and the resulting proliferation of user fees and instead favours a tax system that encourages equal distribution of wealth
- Insist that it is the responsibility of the Quebec Government to redistribute wealth by protecting public services and social programs that Quebecers have collectively built
- Oppose the exploitation of community groups as a cheap labour pool for the provision of current public services
- Oppose cheap labour subcontracting and demand jobs with decent salaries and working conditions
- Demand respect for the right of association
- Oppose the commercialization of healthcare and education and demand respect for the collective right to healthcare, education and housing
- Oppose the privatization of public services and demand universally accessible, free, and adequately funded public services
- Demand that democracy be respected and the right to democratic expression be encouraged more than once every four years

## Building a Citizens' Resistance Movement

The Coalition encourages its members and all those interested to participate in this vast protest movement in response to the neo-Liberal policies of the Charest government. We want to declare loud and clear « **J'ai jamais voté pour ça! (I never voted for THAT!)** ».

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