PRESS RELEASE

THE ENTIRE BNF WILL BE ON STRIKE FROM 23 MAY TO DEFEND THE PUBLIC SERVICE, FOR THE CREATION OF THE NECESSARY POSTS AND AGAINST ULTRA-PRECARIOUSNESS!

The CGT-FSU-SUD Inter-Union of BnF, the elected representatives of readers and users on the BnF’s Board of Directors, the AluBnF, the ALUBnF and the mobilized public reaffirm their total opposition to the drastic reduction to half a day of the direct communication of documents held in the shops to users of the Research Library, as well as to the measures that accompany it: increase of the entrance fee for readers, reorganization of the schedules and degradation of the working conditions of the staff, policy of recruiting ultra-precarious contractuals to work in public service...

The BnF’s management has chosen to force its way through by implementing this reform on 2 May, which is based solely on budgetary and accounting considerations (as the management itself now recognizes), as the BnF suffers from a massive lack of posts to carry out both its essential missions and the new projects underway. In fact, in 10 years, the BnF has lost more than 400 posts, including 270 in storage, and these losses have continued in recent years with 122 category C posts lost between 2017 and 2021, despite a relative stability in overall staffing levels, clearly demonstrating the marked choice of the BnF’s management to continue to eliminate posts that are necessary for public service. The reduction in services to the public is therefore the direct consequence of a deleterious hiring policy that the CGT-FSU-SUD trade union has been denouncing for years. Moreover, the hasty implementation of this reorganization, imposed without consultation and against the unanimous opinion of the trade unions, the elected representatives of the readers-users, of the AluBnF and more than 18,000 readers, users and friends of the BnF, is already proving to be concretely untenable, provoking an increasingly serious disorganization of the services to the readers and a worrying deterioration of the working conditions of the staff.

Moreover, the reopening of the Richelieu site in September with new opening hours that in fact bring almost nothing to readers, but which require more staff, has led to a transfer of posts from the Tolbiac site to the Richelieu site (because no specific posts have been created), which has worsened the situation on the Tolbiac site.

All this was, unfortunately, predictable. The trade unions and readers have been alerting management to these problems for months, and to the dangers that this reform poses for all the staff and users of the BnF, but also for its national and international image, which has been severely damaged by this reform and by management's refusal to engage in dialogue.
Consequently, the CGT-FSU-SUD Culture Inter-union of the staff, with the full support of the elected representatives of the readers-users, of the AluBnF and of the mobilized readers, is calling for a reconductible strike of the staff from this Monday 23 May, which aims to obtain

- the immediate withdrawal of the current reform and the return to the conditions of direct communication in force before March 2020

- the suspension of additional internal worksites to allow the BnF to carry out its essential missions to the public

- the immediate implementation of all necessary measures to fill the positions that BnF needs, in particular for permanent storekeepers, with the immediate publication of vacant positions, followed by the rapid organisation of a consequent direct recruitment

- the immediate abandonment of the recruitment of contractual staff for permanent needs on one-year fixed-term contracts with no rights, and a return to the recruitment of permanent staff.

- an increase in the BnF's personnel and financial resources to be able to carry out all of its missions in good conditions.

- the revision of the operation planned for the Richelieu site and the recruitment of the permanent staff necessary for it to take place under good conditions.

- the opening of wider consultations on the BnF’s priorities