

REPORT OF THE ALTERNATE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT, PSAC-QUEBEC

Sisters and Brothers,

I am pleased to provide you with an overview of the activities in which I was involved during my second term as Alternate Regional Executive Vice-President (REVP).

Over the past three years, I worked on issues assigned to me by Magali Picard, our Regional Executive Vice-President. On several occasions, I was asked to replace her at a moment's notice, an expression of confidence accompanied by amazing support. Together with Magali, members of the Quebec Council, national officers and their members, we work at advancing our causes and strengthening our position.

I passionately and eagerly embrace my duties as Alternate REVP and am up for the challenge of defending our members' rights and fighting for social justice.

Along with my duties as Alternate REVP, I also chair the PSAC-Quebec Health and Safety Committee. I am very proud of the excellent work done by this committee. We address various issues, one of which is critical: providing training to locals so that members improve their knowledge of health and safety. The committee is organizing the Regional Occupational Health and Safety Conference which will be held September 8 to 10, 2017.

Various training sessions were offered to locals in all regions. I co-facilitated several sessions with a PSAC union advisor: Violence prevention, Introduction to health and safety under federal or provincial jurisdiction and Health and Safety Days. It allowed me to discuss local issues with participants. The Committee can then tailor some training to the needs of locals.

In order for the Health and Safety Committee to remain aware of local needs, OHS representatives serve on area councils. I want to thank them for their unflagging commitment. We will continue to work on various priority issues including mental health and workplace violence.

I also want to congratulate the PSAC-Quebec Political Action Committee (PAC), in which I have been actively involved from day one. The work done by the PAC and locals, membership mobilization and all the energy invested have contributed to defeating the Conservative government. Political action is something that we must do every day and I am very passionate about it. We must remain on full alert because we never know what governments have in store for us.

Other activities

During my term, I met with numerous locals. Whether at AGMs, bargaining information sessions, area council meetings or any other event, I am always pleased

to talk to members about their concerns. My message never changes: **action** and **mobilization**.

I take this opportunity to provide several updates about what PSAC-Quebec has accomplished in several areas: health and safety, PSAC campaigns and other current issues. My priority is to keep members informed. Over the last three years, we have asked a lot from our members. I participated in many demonstrations. The commitment and mobilization of members are critical to our mission. I extend to them my heartfelt thanks.

I gave many interviews (newspapers, radio, television) to talk about job loss, bargaining, pay fails and other issues affecting members. It is essential to keep a high profile and make our voice heard.

I met with MP Francois-Philippe Champagne to discuss work at the Shawinigan Tax Centre and with MP Alexandra Mendes who had been invited by the Montérégie Regional Women's Committee to discuss bargaining, sick leave and pay issues. I also attended a presentation by Revenue Minister Diane Lebouthillier who was meeting with the Shawinigan Chamber of Commerce. Lobbying of MPs is fundamental to promoting our issues. We must continue to take action at all political levels.

I was twice asked to mentor participants in the Union Development Program (UDP), which gave me an opportunity to tap into my 26 years of union experience.

I attended all meetings of National Officers and the Quebec Council. These meetings are vital for maintaining our solidarity and strengthening our position.

During my mandate, I represented PSAC on the FTQ general council. I also chair the FTQ Occupational Safety and Health Committee, where some 20 affiliated unions are represented.

I was invited by the FTQ to sit on a labour panel to explain the impact of the Conservative government cutbacks on public services and the Canadian population. This meeting was for members and community groups with which we must create strong ties.

I sat on the steering committee for the PSAC National OHS Conference held in Montreal in November 2016.

Once again at the April 2016 Regional Women's Conference, I spoke with participants. One of their main areas of concern is domestic violence. We must do something about it!

With the co-operation of the Women's Director, we set up a workshop on developing critical thinking. It was designed to provide participants with additional tools to carry out their work as union activists. This workshop was delivered to national officers in November 2016.

Again in November, I opened the first Regional Conference for racially visible members. Sadly, racism is still alive and well in this day and age.

During the *Semaine de valorisation du travail étudiant*, I met with several of our members from the university sector to discuss harassment and bullying and to find out about their reality. This is a priority for PSAC-Quebec.

Over the past three years, I took part in the FTQ and CLC conventions. When I attend these events, I have no qualms about going to the microphone to speak on resolutions which impact our membership.

During my term, I was involved in many other equally fascinating activities.

This is an overview of my activities since I was re-elected in June 2014.

In conclusion, I want to assure you that I am totally committed to “A region always in action!” I will continue to defend members’ rights with all the fervour and energy for which I am known.

Respectfully submitted for approval.

Monique Déry