

Estrie–Bois-Francs Area Council Report Region 1

Over the past three years, participation by the components and directly chartered locals in our region has been excellent, and we now have seven members on the Executive, including one person representing the women's regional committee and the regional equity group committee.

Many locals took part in the mobilization events on the 19th of every month, even when it was cold outside. I also visited the MPs in our region, and NDP MP Pierre-Luc Dusseault joined us for the mobilization event at Statistics Canada on the coldest day we experienced.

I worked with Normand Pelletier to facilitate such courses as Introduction for Local Officers, Talking Union Basics, Grievance Handling and Basic Occupational Health and Safety training.

Every year, I also attend the FTQ affiliates' day in Sherbrooke. It is a pleasure to work with Ricky Lewis, an FTQ employee who is always there when we need him. On May 1, I take part in the FTQ events. In 2016, the theme of the May Day March was "One step forward, two steps back!" For the 100 or so of us present, it was quite a challenge marching backwards!

I also attended the Women's Marches in Lac-Mégantic and Trois-Rivières and the Women's Conference in Bromont.

I took part in the UTE bargaining info evening in Sherbrooke, which was attended by 70 members. It was a rather stormy session. Toufic attended the meeting to provide a summary of the other bargaining tables' negotiations and answer questions. I also took part in the mobilization event organized by the Professional Institute, at 50 Place de la Cité in Sherbrooke. MP Dusseault, Toufic and Mr. Brodeur spoke at the event.

Phoenix pay system: Many in my region are still having pay problems. It is appalling that our employer cannot pay its workers properly. Mental health is a big topic in the federal government. Our co-workers are experiencing stress and anxiety for which our employer is largely responsible.

The requirement to hold elections every year is becoming onerous. I believe that the area councils need stability and the elections should take place every three years, as they do for our national officers. A resolution to amend the length of terms of office for the area councils is being put forward, and I hope you will support it.

This will be my last PSAC-Quebec Convention because I will be retiring by May 2018, after 27 years of activism within our unions (PSAC/CEIU/FTQ).

Thank you for reading my report and have a great Convention!

In solidarity,

Yolande Dostie