

Report of the President of the Saguenay/Lac-St-Jean/Chibougamau/Chapais Area Council Region 5

It has been another productive three years of union involvement with wonderful fellow members. The day after the 2014 Convention, I continued my involvement in political action training to mobilize PSAC-Quebec members and achieve our objective of defeating the Conservatives. The task was one of sustained joint effort, culminating in a successful result. I would like to thank the members in my region for their outstanding commitment.

We worked with the members of the Intersyndicale on the federal elections and the May Day activities, and jointly tackled social struggles. We will stand with them during the upcoming provincial elections.

I attended three Conventions over the past three years, starting with the PSAC Convention in Québec City in early May 2015. I was a member of the Finance Committee, which was another rewarding experience. The Convention strengthened our desire to take on the Conservatives. Second was the FTQ's Saguenay/Lac-St-Jean regional convention. I was a member of the By-Laws Committee and the Convention, although small, was definitely worthwhile. Lastly, I attended the FTQ Convention in late November 2015 in Montreal. I was a member of the By-Laws Committee and also took part in the deliberations on the Convention floor. Notably, the Convention unanimously adopted the resolution for a \$15 minimum wage. Ensuring a living wage for more workers is a more urgent union priority than ever. At the Convention, I was re-elected to the General Council for another three-year term.

It is part of regional union activists' responsibilities to remain on good terms with our MPs and we often meet with them. We do not have a Minister, so we lobby to make our MPs aware of our struggles and if we experience even the smallest success, our members benefit.

I attended several training sessions and seminars as PSAC-Quebec's representative. We need to take part in activities if we want to make our presence felt. I marched with the members of the Quebec Council at the World Social Forum in Montreal in early August 2016, a wonderful experience.

I chair two of the Quebec Council's standing committees. Through the Political Action Committee, which combines youth and experience, PSAC-Quebec assumed a key position within Quebec's union movement. Our greatest accomplishment involved mobilizing our members and other groups to get rid of the Conservatives. Other struggles are rearing their head and both our own members and other groups can count on us. The Education Committee continued its mission to equip the Quebec region with

the best possible education plan, thereby laying the groundwork for the future of our organization.

Given all the amendments made to the PSAC-Quebec By-Laws at the 2014 Convention, and the need to align our by-laws with those of PSAC, we struck a committee to review and harmonize all the regulations of the various area councils. We have streamlined the councils' operations, which will benefit us in the long run.

Although the Quebec Council is already an asset within our union, we are continuing to improve and to leave our mark. Our Council's energetic activism is fuelled by its outstanding members, especially our REVP, Magali Picard, and our Alternate REVP, Monique Déry.

I will chair the By-Laws Committee again this year. The work of the past few years will facilitate deliberations on the Convention floor.

I have experienced many ups and downs over the past three years, especially health-related. After the PSAC Convention, I had to have heart surgery. After six months of convalescence, I was luckily able to resume my work and union activities. I am more appreciative than ever of my union involvement, but this Convention will be my last, a decision I made with great reluctance last year. Still, I am now at peace with it because I have contributed a great deal over my 24 years as a PSAC union activist. I'm proud of what I have accomplished. I would like to thank all my fellow activists from the bottom of my heart. I would like to thank Magali for her unwavering trust in me. You can call on me. I am sad to be leaving you, but happy that I can start putting myself first.

"I'll Be Seeing You"!

André Roberge
President