

Report of the Montérégie Area Council (Corémont) Region 6 2014-2017

We have accomplished a great deal in Montérégie since my election on November 10, 2014.

Activities on the 19th of every month

Many locals took part in the mobilization activities on the 19th of every month. We shared the photographs and videos on www.facebook.com/groups/coremont, our own Facebook page, and on PSAC-Quebec's.

The purpose of this campaign was to reach out to our members and make them aware of the repercussions of Conservative policies, the Conservatives' union-busting legislation (Bills C-377 and C-525) and the danger of doing nothing. PSAC used a variety of outreach methods, including the signing of pledge cards, pamphlets about the activities on the 19th of every month, telephone town halls and information like "10 things the union has done for you" and "10 reasons to defend collective bargaining rights."

Many of our locals, both big and small, came up with different ways to engage their members on the 19th of every month. I would like to thank both the Executives and the members of the locals who worked so hard to make this lengthy but productive campaign a success.

During the mobilization on July 20, 2015, UNDE Local 10511 was outstanding, and was visited by Hans Marotte, the NDP candidate for Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

2015

February 19: We organized a meeting between members of the bargaining tables and our Montérégie members. Turnout was excellent.

May 27-28: The Quebec Council met and clarified a situation we have been experiencing in Montérégie. Here is an extract from the Minutes of the meeting:

6. Participation of members in area councils based on workplace and residence (an item raised by Lyne):

Robyn Benson stated that you cannot represent members in a region in which you do not work. In other words, members must be attached to an area council, not a workplace. They can be observers in another area council, but they do not have voting rights.

September 21: I attended a large mobilization event for UNDE Local 10511 in front of the Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu Military Base, as did NDP candidate Hans Marotte and PIPSC members. Hot dogs, chips and soft drinks were distributed to members.

September 30: A group of 18 people, including unionized employees and some retired members, produced the French "Harperman" video.

November 4-8: The last phase of the French Union School program (PDS franco 2015) took place at Château Montebello. Union School was a wonderful 10-month program that helped me to develop my knowledge and understanding of the union and discover my emerging strengths. I recommend it to anyone interested in developing their potential as a PSAC union activist.

2016

In late December, we sent out an email seeking information on locals' training needs. Seven locals responded. We drew up a schedule of priority training sessions and sent it to education officers Pascal Lauzon and Carlin Doutre, as well as to Jovanka Ivic for OHS training.

At the Area Council meetings, we reminded members to send us their training requirements in a timely manner, so that Montérégie's requirements could be more accurately reflected. We discussed both French and English training needs.

The three Presidents of the Montreal, 3L and Montérégie Area Councils then had a discussion with the education officers, which included proposed dates and locations for the training sessions.

February 10: Annick Lamoureux and I met with Serge Dupont, the Unifor Education Officer, and gathered a great deal of information on its family program. We are currently drafting a family program for PSAC.

February 19: Daniel Dubé, Acting Union Advisor for PSAC-Quebec in Montreal, and I had a lobbying meeting with Jean Rioux, MP for Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. The MP was attentive and our meeting was productive, covering all of our talking points.

April 20: The locals met with Toufic El-Daher and some 60 members of the Montérégie Area Council Executive at the Gouverneurs Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu hotel for an update on the negotiations.

April 24 – May 27: I was fortunate enough to attend the five-week Collège FTQ-Fonds course. It was an extraordinary experience in which I discovered my strengths as a union activist and honed my emerging leadership skills. We had to present an action plan during the course. Mine, "*Solidarité, une connexion à la fois*" (Forging solidarity link by link), focuses on the Montérégie Area Council. My ambition is to enhance the area council, increase participation by locals and improve communications. The graduation ceremony for the Collège FTQ-Fonds course took place on May 26, and was attended by Monique Déry.

May 5: I was a member of the organizing committee for the 2017 National Equity Conferences for members with disabilities.

June 8: Meeting of the Montérégie Area Council in Brossard. We invited the President of the FTQ Richelieu area council to present an overview of the portfolios handled by the FTQ. The FTQ invited us to attend its upcoming meetings, to see if we can work together on mobilization.

September 20 and 21: I attended the meeting of the PSAC National Human Rights Committee, in Ottawa.

September 22: I attended the meeting of the PSAC Members with Disabilities Action Committee, as the representative for Quebec. We began the revision of the Duty to Accommodate Guide.

October 20-23: I attended the second Rise Up! CLC Human Rights Conference organized by the Canadian Labour Congress in Ottawa. We held a PSAC caucus on October 21 at the end of the day. Sister Benson gave us an update on the upcoming negotiations and noted that Danny Glover had accepted her invitation to speak at PSAC's 2017 National Equity Conferences, which take place in Toronto from March 24-28.

December 8: At our dinner meeting before the holidays, we were joined by Sister Déry, who gave us an update on the upcoming negotiations, OHS and the impact of the Phoenix pay problems on affected members. She also reminded us about the PSAC-Quebec Regional Convention, which takes place from April 21-23, 2017.

At the meeting, we held elections for all Area Council positions. I was re-elected by acclamation, as was Stéphane Sirois, our Treasurer. Some officers changed portfolios and we also welcomed some new officers.

We told the members present that we were interested in knowing their concerns and receiving their comments and questions, to help us set up an Action Plan for 2017 and assign portfolios to Executive members.

2017

January 31 to February 2: I was in meetings with the Finance and Credentials committees, reviewing the resolutions that have been submitted.

February: We will work with the Executive of the Area Council to set up a schedule of meetings for 2017, so we can work out our action plan.

I am also serving on a number of committees:

- the FTQ employment insurance committee
- the FTQ workplace integration for people with disabilities committee
- I am the Quebec representative for people with disabilities on the National Human Rights Committee
- I am working with ESDC as Co-Chair of Service Canada's Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee (OHSAC) for the Quebec region. I am also an Alternate on ESDC's National Policy Health and Safety Committee, and since late 2016, I have been on the Executive of ESDC's employees with disabilities network, representing the Quebec region.

In addition, I ensure that information is forwarded by email and social media to all the locals in our region. I am always working on our mailing list, because it is important to have up-to-date contact information for the locals, to keep them informed about current issues, campaigns and other matters of interest.

I attend all Quebec Council meetings and the meetings of the Finance Committee, which I chair.

We are strong and united!

Have a great Convention, everyone.

Lyne Cartier

Lyne Cartier
President
Montérégie Area Council