

Report of the President of the Mauricie Area Council

Region 9

2014-17

Over the past three years I have participated in meetings and conference calls of the Quebec Council and have submitted the required reports. I also worked with Sister Yolande Dostie to developing a policy on lifetime members.

The Mauricie Area Council holds frequent meetings and they are always inspiring thanks to the strong participation of its locals.

I also went to see Shawinigan mayor Michel Angers, then-Liberal candidate François-Philippe Champagne and our local MPs about the Health Canada issue, the centralization of the pay system and the revitalization of the Shawinigan Tax Centre, among other issues. I participated in a number of demonstrations as well.

Our region was very active in the 19th of every month mobilizations and members are disappointed to see how the negotiations have been dragging despite the change of government.

In addition, we are still experiencing problems with our pay that are completely unacceptable. These problems compound the continually increasing mental health issues our members face as a result of the stress and anxiety caused by the Harper government's cuts and attacks.

As an adjunct to the Quebec Council meeting in the summer of 2016, I took part in a solidarity march held in conjunction with the World Social Forum. The meeting gave us an opportunity to meet the workers on strike at the Old Port of Montréal, whose unwavering courage amazed me.

I attended the information session on the agreement between the UTE and the employer for members at the Shawinigan Tax Centre and the Trois-Rivières Tax Services Office. The membership turned out in very large numbers, and the information session led by André Bélanger was peaceful and respectful despite the variety of opinions. Magali Picard was present and, as always, she gave very clear answers to the questions asked by members.

The Mauricie Area Council engaged in community action with the Trois-Rivières Tax Services Office by preparing food baskets for families in need so that they could have a nicer holiday.

In March 2016 I worked with Normand Pelletier on the preparation of a report for the area councils enhancement committee. The parts that we worked on were the area

council's mandate, the role of a union representative and the area council's responsibilities.

In April 2016 I attended the women's conference in Bromont, which featured a number of interesting and inspirational speakers. During the conference Lysa Olsen agreed to serve as chair of the women's committee for the Mauricie region, which meant that the committee was able to start up again.

On May 4 and 5, 2016, I participated in the area councils by-laws committee meeting held to standardize the by-laws of the eight area councils. I subsequently met with the Mauricie Area Council executive to present these by-laws.

I was invited to participate in the lunchtime meeting of the Shawinigan chamber of conference on August 24, 2016. Diane Le Bouthillier, Minister of National Revenue, proved to be a likeable person who is in touch with the people. Various initiatives have been undertaken to improve relations between clients and the CRA and also to simplify the tax burden on businesses. That said, there has not yet been an official announcement regarding the revitalization of the Shawinigan-Sud Tax Centre as we might have expected.

New on the scene at the Mauricie Area Council: Johny Maillot recently agreed to take on the position of Equity Group Representative for the Mauricie region.

At the Mauricie Area Council meeting in November 2016, Toufic El-Daher, who sits on the bargaining team for the PA and TC tables, gave us an update on negotiations.

We held elections at the meeting, in accordance with the by-laws. The results are as follows:

- President: Sylvie Masse (re-elected)
- Vice-President: Michèle Lafond (re-elected)
- Treasurer: Sylvie Héon (elected)
- Secretary: Johny Maillot (elected)
- Political Action Officer: Johny Maillot (elected)
- Education Officer: Sylvie Héon (re-elected)
- Occupational Health and Safety Officer: André Bélanger (re-elected)

I participated in the FTQ convention as a delegate from November 27 to December 2, 2016. I attended the status of women evening and the various lunchtime caucuses and conferences. I appreciated the scope of the discussions, regarding the \$15 minimum wage campaign in particular, and I was pleasantly surprised to see the changes taking place around that issue.

I took part in the December 6 vigil organized by the women's committees, which was held at UQTR in Trois-Rivières. This time of reflection was important in ensuring that the women who died on that sad occasion will never be forgotten.

This convention will be the last one for me as I take my retirement after more than 37 years of service and more than 10 years as an activist. I will now be turning to new challenges as I continue to work towards improving the quality of life in our society.

Sylvie Masse
President
Mauricie Area Council