

2024-2025-2026 REPORT

Area Council 08

Bas-St-Laurent/Gaspésie/Îles-de-la-Madeleine/Côte-Nord 2024

In our region, we benefitted from excellent training provided by PSAC-Quebec to keep our activists connected and learning, especially newly elected members of local executives.

Area Council 08 met four times, in February, May, September and October, on Teams and/or in person. I was also able to attend the four meetings of our Regional Women's Committee.

In January we requested a meeting with Kristina Michaud of the Bloc Québécois as part of our project of talking to federal MPs about our dissatisfaction with Canada Life and the ongoing failures of Phoenix.

From May 25 to 31, 2024, I attended the PSAC National Convention.

In June I participated in a Quebec Council meeting in Rimouski, in my lovely corner of Area Council 08.

On September 4 we held a rally in Matane to protest the increase from 2 days to 3 days of mandatory in-person presence at work.

In October, we attended the Quebec Council meeting in Quebec City, including an excellent FTQ training session on mobilization.

2025

Area Council 08 met four times, in February, June, September and November, on Teams and/or in person. Despite the long hours of travel, we're always happy to meet with new members.

From February 3 to 7, we attended a Quebec Council meeting in Brossard. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss with our peers and to vote on resolutions or by-law amendments between conventions.

In May we attended a Quebec Council meeting in St-Hyacinthe that included training and committee meetings where we discussed issues and worked on OHS training and Education sessions for our members. The work of the Finance Committee is also a high priority for our Area Council.

In June I toured the Côte-Nord region with REVP Sébastien Paquette and union advisor Mélanie Desrosiers to meet with members and talk about bargaining, the ongoing Phoenix pay system problems, the two-tiered pension fund, and the current PSAC campaign. In these exchanges, we learned about the issues they're experiencing in their workplaces. My role during the tour was to explain the role of Area Councils and the resources available. I also talked about the importance of mobilization and Union education.

In July I toured the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, again with REVP Sébastien Paquette and union advisor Mélanie Desrosiers, to meet with members in that beautiful region. We spoke with them about workplace issues specific to the region, including the Living Cost Differential, isolated-

post and travel allowances, and access to Union education and trainings. In addition, we had the opportunity to visit the Coast Guard's search-and-rescue vessel. We met with about 50% of PSAC's members during the tour and are planning a number of actions to follow up on what we heard from them.

On November 13, five members from my region and I met with Bloc Québécois MP Alexis Deschênes to discuss the issues being experienced by federal public service workers there. He was very receptive, which reassured us about his support on a number of problems that affect us, such as losing the Living Cost Differential (a hot topic in my region), Phoenix/Dayforce, cutbacks, and, of course, remote work.

I was privileged to attend the FTQ Convention from November 24 to 28.

On November 27, I met with Marilène Gill, MP for the Côte-Nord, along with another member from my region. It too was a very productive meeting, as we shared with her the same concerns we had discussed with Mr. Deschênes, with the addition of the isolated-post bonus.

2026

Since January, I've been attending all trainings and meetings that have to do with workforce adjustments and cutbacks in the public service. These are helping me understand workforce adjustments, who is affected, what jobs are being cut, and the choices offered to surplus employees.

From February 2 to 6, I attended the Quebec Council/national officers meeting in Quebec City. The first meeting of Area Council 08 was held on February 25, with the election of Council members for the coming year and presentation of the financial statements and the 2026 budget. I was re-elected for another year.

In March and April, we will be very busy organizing the convention and doing related committee work.

I'll be at the May convention and will fulfill my role on the various committees I'm honoured to be part of, as we work together to advance our Union.



Sonia Gagné

President, Area Council 08

