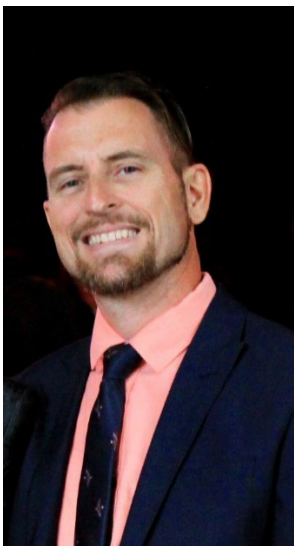


Conférences - biographies



Réginald Bernatchez was born in Gaspé and grew up not far away in the village of Cloridorme. His father and most of his uncles worked at Gaspé Copper Mines in Murdochville. This family background exposed him to miners' efforts to unionize in the early days of the region's labour movement. The mine's closure in 1999 came as a blow to the Gaspé Peninsula. Work was hard to find once he completed his studies at the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles, in Gaspé. He moved to Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, where he started a family with his wife Nadia. They have two children.

Réginald has worked in various sectors including education and telecommunications, as well as in construction as a carpenter. In 2012, he joined the federal public service through Parks Canada, where he worked in asset management, maintaining the historic Gaspé Copper Mines buildings. His union involvement began to take shape in 2016 when he was elected vice-president of his UCTE local. In 2026, he became President of the PSAC-Quebec Montérégie Area Council. Since then, he has continued his union work with his local and PSAC-Quebec.



Pascale St-Antoine, President, FTQ Montérégie Area Council. With a Bachelor's degree in political science and a certificate in industrial relations, Pascale began her union career in 2006 as an organizer with SQEES-298, as part of a U.S. program to train union organizers. Since 2008, she has served as regional representative with the Service Employees International Union, Local 800. There she represents members from a variety of sectors, including the hotel and housekeeping industries, as well as from small businesses in the Estrie and Montérégie regions.

A committed activist, Pascale firmly believes in mobilizing members, strengthening ties between FTQ-affiliated unions, and engaging in political action. The democratization of trade union education is also a central focus of her work.

As President of the FTQ Montérégie Area Council, she uses her skills and passion to actively contribute to the FTQ's influence and the vitality of union action in the greater Montérégie region.

Conférences - biographies



Jérôme Turcq retired from the public service after 31 years as a member of the TC Table. His union involvement spans from 1985 to 2012 as a member of his local Executive, as RVP, VP and EVP of UNDE, and as Executive Vice-President for PSAC-Quebec from 2000 to 2012. He is a life member of PSAC, UNDE, and PSAC-Quebec.



Sharon DeSousa was elected as the national president of the Public Service Alliance of Canada at PSAC's 20th National Triennial Convention in May 2024. She previously served as PSAC's national executive vice-president, a position she held since 2020.

Sharon DeSousa has broken barriers at every stage of her activism – becoming the first racialized woman in PSAC's history to serve as both National President and National Executive Vice-President. Previously, she became the first racialized woman to serve on PSAC's Alliance Executive Committee when she was elected Regional Executive Vice-President for Ontario in 2011.

Sharon's ongoing leadership and relentless pursuit of justice, underscores her commitment to fostering an equitable, inclusive labour movement and bettering conditions for all workers.

Born in Karachi, Pakistan, Sharon came to Canada at the age of five. After earning a bachelor of fine arts from the Ontario College of Art & Design University, Sharon worked as a benefits officer with Service Canada, and served as Vice-President of equity for her local, Canada Employment and Immigration Union Local 00648.

Conférences - biographies



Bianca Olszenka

has over 15 years' experience in the provincial and national financial sectors and in the Desjardins cooperative movement. Since 2021, she has held the position of Director, Union Business Development, at Caisse Desjardins des Travailleuses et Travailleurs unis.

With her multidisciplinary background, she uses her expertise in unionism to help grow the Caisse's membership and assist both individual and corporate members.

Accustomed to the realities and issues specific to unionized members, she structures complex financing arrangements, helps manage risk and works closely with Desjardins teams to offer solutions tailored to member and customer needs.



Sébastien Paquette

Starting on April 22, 2025, Sébastien Paquette will proudly step into the role of Executive Vice-President, PSAC-Quebec. But he is far from a fledgling activist. Between 2017 and 2025, he served as coordinator of the Conseil québécois des syndicats universitaires (CQSU), steering major university sector initiatives. From 2020 to 2025, he also diligently chaired the PSAC-Quebec Finance Committee, while being actively involved in the Montreal Area Council executive for more than five years.

Sébastien's background is in science. He holds a bachelor's degree in physics from the Université de Montréal and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from École Polytechnique de Montréal, specializing in numerical modelling. This academic background has honed his intellect. Precision, rigour and objectivity are central to his approach.

An activist at heart, he became involved in his directly chartered local in 2013, just months after it was established. Initially active in labour relations for his unit, he took on the coordinator role in March 2015, a position he held until 2025. Over the past decade, he has helped build a strong and influential local of 1,500 members in three bargaining units, and has taken part in six rounds of collective bargaining.

A staunch ally of the struggles for equity, diversity and inclusion, Sébastien makes no secret of his deep commitment to social justice. He fervently champions a fairer distribution of wealth, convinced that this is the key to a more just and inclusive future for all. In his view, a strong society is built on quality public services, delivered by a respected, well-funded public service that is valued by its leaders.

Conférences - biographies



Magali Picard was elected President at the 33rd FTQ Convention in January 2023 and re-elected for a second term in November 2025. She previously served as Vice-President of the FTQ and its Solidarity Fund, National Executive Vice-President of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) and President of PSAC's Quebec Council.

She's a proud member of the Wendat Nation and an Indigenous and women's rights activist. Throughout her career, she has fought for greater social justice for workers so that all can live in dignity.

Magali began her union career in 1999 as President of the Union of Veterans' Affairs Employees (UVAE) Local 10042, a PSAC component. Her skills and enthusiasm were soon noticed, and she quickly climbed the ranks of the FTQ-affiliated PSAC.

She currently serves as First Vice-Chair of the Board and is a member of the Executive of the FTQ Solidarity Fund. She sits on the Canadian Council and the Executive Committee of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) as well as the General Council of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). Magali is a member of the Comité consultatif du travail et de la main-d'œuvre (CCTM) and the Board of Directors of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST). In addition, she sits on the Board of the Chaïnon Foundation.



Andréanne Samson

Coordinator, LR Network Development, FTQ Solidarity Fund.

Trained as a criminologist, Andréanne spent over ten years as a parole officer with the Correctional Service of Canada. She soon got involved in her local and actively engaged with her co-workers.

A committed union member, she has held several key positions in the Union of Safety and Justice Employees (USJE), the most recent being Regional Vice-President. She has also served on the PSAC-Quebec Council and on the FTQ Executive as Vice-President representing women.

On the community front, she is involved with Le Paradis, chairing its board since 2024. Today, she holds the position of Local Representative (LR) Network Development Coordinator at the FTQ Solidarity Fund, where she contributes to the network's visibility and mobilization throughout Quebec.

Conférences - biographies



Yvon Barrière has been Executive Director of the FTQ since May 2025, after many years in leadership positions within the Canadian labour movement.

He was re-elected PSAC-Quebec Executive Vice-President at the 11th Regional Convention in June 2023, a position he had held since 2018. Previously, he was Regional Vice-President of the Union of Safety and Justice Employees.

Before becoming a full-time union employee, Yvon worked as a correctional programs officer and then as a parole officer from 2002 to 2014.

Yvon stood out for his ability to listen, his empathy and the quality of his work with prisoners.

In the course of his career, he co-chaired work on the national official languages portfolio, including the protection of French. He was also responsible for the unionization portfolio and sat at several bargaining tables. At the regional level, he served on the FTQ Executive as Vice-President and on the Board of Directors of the FTQ Solidarity Fund.

A committed family man, he has three children and two grandchildren. Over the years, he has also been actively involved in various sports and community organizations.



Alex Silas a été élu vice-président exécutif national de l'Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada lors du 20e congrès national triennal de l'AFPC tenu en mai 2024. Il occupait depuis 2021 le poste de vice-président exécutif régional (VPER) pour la région de la capitale nationale (RCN). Un fier Acadien originaire de Moncton, Alex s'est installé à Ottawa en 2003 pour poursuivre des études en techniques des services policiers à la Cité collégiale.

He first became a member of PSAC in 2010 when he was hired at the Bank of Canada as a Security Officer, and became a shop steward, then vice-president, for Directly Chartered Local 71250. He has served on various regional committees such as the Young Workers' Committee, the Ottawa Area Council, and the Directly Chartered Local Committee, and was elected as a Member-At-Large in 2018 on the PSAC-NCR Regional Council.

Alex is the first member of a directly chartered local to serve as National Executive Vice-President, and became the youngest member of PSAC's National Board of Directors in PSAC's history.