

## **Jean Lacharité**

**Second vice-president of the CSN**

### **Candidate for the position of second vice-president of the CSN**

#### **Past political responsibilities**

Second vice-president of the CSN since 2011

President of the Conseil central des syndicats nationaux de l'Estrie (CSN) (2004–2011)

General Secretary of the Conseil central de l'Estrie (CSN) (1997–2004)

Member of the executive committee of the Syndicat du personnel enseignant du Cégep de Sherbrooke (1980–2004)

Raiding of my CEQ union to have it affiliate with the CSN in 1991

General Secretary of the FEC (CEQ) (1982–1984)

#### **Present political responsibilities**

Healthcare and social services policy

CSN's working group on healthcare and social services

Occupational health and safety

Confederal committee on occupational health and safety

Member of the board of directors of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail

Substitute member of the executive committee of the CNESST

Member of the governance committee, investment committee, capital accumulation committee of the CNESST

Member of the board of directors of the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST)

Organizing of CSN unions

CSN's Committee on Jurisdictions (in conjunction with the general secretary of the CSN)

Employment insurance

Alliance Syndicats et Tiers-Monde

Member of the board of directors of the Centre international de solidarité ouvrière (CISO)

Leucan-CSN

#### **CSN trainer**

Co-author of CSN's guide to the management of residual materials

Co-author of basic CSN training documents on globalization

CSN instructor on globalization and the environment (2001–2004)

#### **International representation**

At the Trade Union Confederation of Americas Congress (TUCA) in Brazil (2016)

At the CFDT Congress in France (2014)

Part of the inter-union mission to Palestine (2014)

At the TUCA for the reconstruction of Haiti, in Dominican Republic (2010)

On the executive committee of TUCA in Brazil (2006–2009)

At TUCA for the Central American inter-union meeting in Nicaragua (2008)

At the FTAA counter-summit in Argentina (2005)

At the Americas Social Forum in Quito in Ecuador (2004)

For FNEEQ–CSN, at the National Union of Workers in Education, Science and Sports congress in Cuba (2002)

Observer for CTV union elections in Venezuela (2001)

Observer for presidential elections in El Salvador (1994)

#### **Work experience**

Teacher in the Economics Department at the Cégep de Sherbrooke since 1978

Co-founder of internship studies in social sciences in Nicaragua for the Cégep de Sherbrooke (1989)

Responsible for and accompanied interns to Nicaragua (1989–1995)

Economic analysis for Ambulances de l'Estrie aimed at saving the emergency call centre (1997)

Instructor on globalization at Carrefour de Solidarité internationale de Sherbrooke since 2001

Professional with the RAMQ's research department (1975–1976)

**Education:** B.A. (1975) and M.A. in Economics (1978) from the Université de Sherbrooke



## **Getting ready to act!**

I am very proud to ask for your support for a third mandate as second vice-president of the executive committee of the Confédération des syndicats nationaux. The CSN – and all progressive organizations – face major challenges, and I think that my past activist experience within the CSN and as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president, as well as my convictions, professional skills, as well as my readiness, can once again serve the movement and the interests of our members.

### **Challenges facing us**

We need a combative labour movement to oppose right-wing ideas driven by predatory employers who are trying persistently to erode our union and social rights, even calling for the privatization of the healthcare and social services network.

We are under attack on all fronts. Access to health care and social services, education, child care and social programs is getting harder and scarcer, and employment in the private sector is shrinking steadily. The right to organize is openly challenged. The same goes for our working conditions, where it is becoming difficult to make gains, especially in new areas like family-work balance. Simply hanging on to the gains made by unions in the past is presented as a victory! In trying to weaken us in our workplaces, as well as insidiously assailing the principles of equity and justice that we defend, the supporters of this right, better organized than ever, are attacking the democratic foundations of our society; they want to have a free rein to achieve their goals. This can be seen, for example, in the numerous attacks by the Couillard Government and its unprecedented austerity measures.

### **Taking the offensive**

One of the ways of distributing wealth and strengthening our union action is to offer all the services that are needed by people who want to improve their fate by organizing in unions. Workers in the private sector, who are largely unorganized, often divided into small work units or working in atypical conditions, need to find a place and proper services within the CSN. These women and men want better conditions too. The Confederation must explore innovative forms of organizing to welcome these workers and serve them well.

In the healthcare and social services network, the voting period forced on us by the Couillard government proved to be particularly difficult for the CSN. A candid review must be carried out with the ultimate goal of taking corrective action to resolve problems in order to be fully ready and able to rebound as a union. We have an obligation to produce results for the future of the CSN and I will commit all of my energy to participating in this movement.

### **Having the courage of our convictions throughout our struggles**

I have always made it a duty to be active at the grassroots, side by side with people who strive day in and day out to earn a living for themselves and their families while being treated with respect. I wish to continue my involvement by supporting our members in all sectors, both private and public. It is important for me to be with them, to support their demands and struggles, to search for solutions and to find ways of implementing them.

But as their representatives, we must also be in the forefront and provide the leadership they expect from us. The courage and determination of those who struggle command our total commitment. This is the kind of union activism I intend to continue practicing.

Thank you for your support,

*Jean Lacharité*