

Jacques Létourneau
President of the CSN



Candidate for the position of president of the CSN

Birthplace: Thetford Mines
Birth date: January 30, 1963

Education

CEGEP diploma in humanities and social sciences from the Cégep de Thetford, formerly known as Collège de la région de l'amiante (1981–1983)

B.A. in History from the Université de Sherbrooke (1983–1986)

Activist experience in the Quebec student movement

President of the Association générale des étudiants et étudiantes du Collège de la région de l'amiante (1981–1983)

Vice-president of the Association fédérative des étudiants et étudiantes de l'Université de Sherbrooke (1983–1984)

Coordinator in the Estrie region for the Association nationale des étudiants et étudiantes du Québec, ANEEQ (1984–1986)

Member of ANEEQ's executive committee (1987–1988)

General Secretary the ANEEQ (1988–1989)

Activist experience in the labour movement

President of the Syndicat des travailleuses et des travailleurs de l'hôpital Charles-Lemoyne (1991–1993)

Member of the Political action committee of the Fédération des affaires sociales (CSN) (1991–1993)

General Secretary of the Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain (1993–2004)

Member of CSN's Committee on Jurisdictions and member of CSN's working group on healthcare and social services (1994–2004)

CSN Executive Committee assistant, responsible for international relations (2004–2010)

CSN executive committee assistant, assigned to content preparation for the 63rd CSN Congress

First vice-president of the CSN (2011-2012)

CSN president since 2012

Dear delegates to the 65th Congress,

Over the last three years, the working and middle classes have been hit hard by a series of austerity measures rolled out by governments in Quebec and Ottawa. The relevance of unionism as a collective force of change for workers continues to be challenged and there are many who want to weaken it. Corporatist and wheeler-dealer unions are on the rise, while the voting period in healthcare and social services imposed by Philippe Couillard's Liberals has hurt our union.

Since its inception, the CSN has weathered many storms and sometimes lost a battle. However, it always tackles adversity head-on and carries on to fight another day thanks to the dedication and solidarity of its activists. The source of all our action remains the principles to which we adhere, an understanding of the challenges we face, transparent and open debates that lead to rallying and mobilization to be even stronger against those who try to halt our progression and perhaps roll back our gains.

The CSN has always played a leading role in the workplace and in society. It is my strong conviction that the unified and combative unionism we practice at the CSN is the best way to improve the working and living conditions of workers, as well as the population as a whole. Our history eloquently bears witness to this.

At every stage of my activist involvement with the CSN, I have always thoroughly believed that transformation in our workplaces and in society can only succeed through collective action built on genuine solidarity. This is truer than ever today as Quebec's social state is being seriously called into question and work undergoes radical changes.

This is a major challenge and our responsibility as activists is just as significant. We need to be up to the task and keep moving forward to breathe new life into the movement. This is what drives me to ask for your support in order to represent you for the next three years as president of the CSN.

Solidarity,

Jacques Létourneau