

## **Caroline Senneville**

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



<b>Since 1990</b>	Member of the Syndicat des enseignants et des enseignantes du cégep de Limoilou-CSN
<b>1994-1997</b>	Active on various local union committees, including participating as a my union's delegate at decision-making meetings of the Fédération nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ)
<b>1997-2001</b>	President of my union
<b>1998-2001</b>	Member of the union council of the CCQCA (Conseil central de Québec–Chaudière-Appalaches)
<b>2000-2001</b>	Member of the Federal Bureau of the FNEEQ
<b>2001-2004</b>	2nd vice-president of the FNEEQ
<b>2004-2012</b>	General secretary and treasurer of the FNEEQ
<b>Since 2012</b>	President of the FNEEQ

I have been a member of the CSN Status of Women National Committee and the CSN's committee against violence and psychological harassment.

I am currently a member of the CSN's Policy Committee and Jurisdictions Committee.

Greetings to all,

My name is Caroline Senneville. I am president of the Fédération nationale des enseignants et des enseignantes du Québec (FNEEQ), and I have been active in the labour movement for more than 20 years. I am running for the position of first vice-president of the Executive Committee of the CSN because I want to continue this activism at the confederal level.

I am a member of the Syndicat des enseignants et des enseignantes du cégep de Limoilou, which has been affiliated with the CSN ever since its founding in 1967. That was the era when the CEGEPs were created, and when the teachers as they unionized had to decide with whom to affiliate. At the time, my union, like unions in the majority of CEGEPs, chose to join in solidarity with workers from all walks of life, preferring to choose a multisectoral central organization – a workers' organization, as they put it – instead of affiliating with a union organization that was only present in the world of education. This was a political and union choice that I supported throughout my years of activism.

At a time when a corporatist strain of unions is increasingly present, I think it is crucial to reassert collectively our commitment to working for the broadest possible solidarity, with all the challenges that this involves. I am firmly convinced that this inclusive unionism makes the CSN more open, more unifying and stronger throughout Québec. For with the central councils, the CSN has a voice that is heard and felt all across Québec, enabling us to deploy our solidarity in each region.

I have worked on the executive of the FNEEQ for 16 years now. Although this federation has represented the majority of CEGEP teachers ever since it was founded, they only account for half of its unions. The other half comes from the university or private sectors. This has helped give me a good understanding of the realities of unions in the private sector, especially since I was responsible for this sector in my federation for more than 10 years.

In recent years, as president of my federation, I have also had the opportunity to share our common concerns with all the CSN's federations in various forums. I have therefore had the opportunity of developing a greater understanding of CSN unions' realities in a wide variety of sectors of work. I learned how much stronger we can be when we pool our ideas, solutions and strong points to better serve us all collectively. Throughout my years of union involvement, I have seen all the CSN's services at work, and witnessed their diversity and expertise. They are an invaluable resource for all parts of the CSN – the members, affiliated unions, federations and regions.

I am also a feminist activist, as can be seen in my many years of work on the CSN Status of Women National Committee and the Fédération des femmes du Québec. Of course, the progress made by women, especially here in Québec, deserves to be recognized. But there is still so much to be done, here and elsewhere around the world. Union struggles for pay equity, accessible quality childcare services and a minimum wage of \$15 an hour should, for example, continue with the power and strength of the entire CSN.

I know that the CSN will face many challenges in the coming years to continue to play such an important role in Québec society. With your support, I am ready to make my activist contribution. I am ready to defend the values that bring us together: solidarity, the creation of a just and equitable society and better working and living conditions.

Caroline Senneville