

Caroline Senneville
First Vice-President of the CSN



Candidate for Position of First Vice-President of the CSN

- Since 1990** Member of the Syndicat des professeures et professeurs du cégep de Limoilou–CSN
- 1994-1997** Active on local union committees, served as my union’s delegate on Fédération nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ) bodies
- 1997-2001** President of my union
- 1998-2001** Member of the Union Council of the Conseil central de Québec–Chaudière-Appalaches (CCQCA)
- 2000-2001** Member of the Federal Bureau of the FNEEQ
- 2001-2004** Second Vice-President of the FNEEQ
- 2004-2012** General Secretary and Treasurer of the FNEEQ
- Since 2012** President of the FNEEQ
- Since 2017** First Vice-President of the CSN

I have been a member of the CSN’s Status of Women Committee, Violence and Psychological Harassment Committee, Policy Committee and Jurisdictions Committee.

Hello everyone,

My name is Caroline Senneville. I am First Vice-President of the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN) and have been active in the union movement for almost 25 years. After one term as First Vice-President, I am running again in order to continue my involvement on the CSN's Executive Committee.

I am a member of the Syndicat des professeures et professeurs du Cégep de Limoilou, a CSN affiliate since its founding in 1967. At that time, the Cégeps were new and when their teachers unionized, they had to decide with which organization to affiliate. Like most of the Cégep teachers' unions, my union chose to stand in solidarity with workers from all walks of life and join a multi-sectoral labour confederation – a “worker's organization” – rather than a union organization present only in the education sector. It was a political and union philosophy choice that I have supported throughout my years of activism.

At a time when unions are increasingly turning to a corporatist model, I believe it is crucial that we collectively reaffirm our commitment to broad-based solidarity, with all the challenges that entails. I am convinced that this inclusive unionism makes the CSN more open, more unifying and stronger, everywhere in Québec.

During these last three years on the CSN's Executive Committee, I have gained a better understanding of how the CSN fits into the union community and society as a whole. In the course of my years of union involvement, I have seen all of the CSN's departments at work and witnessed their diversity and expertise. They are an invaluable resource for the membership, the affiliated unions, the federations and the regions.

However, the CSN also faces challenges, and I want to continue playing a role in tackling them. The life of the union must remain at the centre of our concerns as a movement. We need to expand our contacts with the members in every arena – on the picket lines, in the activities of the unions, the federations and the central councils. The CSN's raison d'être is its members, which is one of the reasons why the current pandemic is so difficult for us: technology is useful but cannot replace direct contact with members.

We are also up against other tall challenges, particularly in the public sector. The four public sector federations are united in their push for more humane public services as they continue bargaining and mobilizing for the renewal of their collective agreements. Unity in action, with the support of the entire confederation, will be decisive in achieving the gains we need to resolve the longstanding crisis in the public systems where we work. As I write this, bargaining is still ongoing. We are dealing with a government that only wants to discuss its own priorities. But one thing is certain: it is high time that public sector workers enjoy working conditions that befit the services they provide to all Quebecers.

The pandemic has had major impacts on a number of economic sectors and on the workforce overall. Food self-sufficiency, reindustrialization, automation, robotics and workforce training are all issues that, now more than ever, are central to the challenges facing our members and our unions. The CSN must be there, with them, to address these issues with innovative solutions.

I know the CSN will have to meet many challenges in the coming years. With your support, I am ready to do my part as an activist and help defend the values that bind us: solidarity, the creation of a just and equitable society, and better working and living conditions.

Caroline Senneville