

Louis Bégin

President of the *Fédération de l'industrie manufacturière (FIM-CSN)*.



Candidate for the position of 2nd Vice-President of the CSN.

Previous policy-centred positions

- President of the *Fédération de l'industrie manufacturière (FIM-CSN)* for the past three years.
- Vice-President, Health-Safety and Environment of the *Fédération de l'industrie manufacturière (FIM-CSN)*, from 2015 to 2017.
- Health and safety trainer at the FIM-CSN and at the *Conseil central de la Montérégie (CCM-CSN)* (10 years).
- Confederal health and safety trainer (accidents and occupational diseases).
- Secretary of the *Syndicat national des employés du papier de Candiac* for three years.
- Representative in the areas of prevention and defence of injured workers for the *Syndicat national des employés du papier de Candiac* (25 years).

Policy-related responsibilities

- Member of research committees at the *Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST)*.
- Member of the permanent joint working group on woodland caribou.
- Co-Chair of the *Comité sectoriel de main-d'œuvre de la métallurgie du Québec*.
- Member of boards of directors for joint sectoral associations *MultiPrévention* and *ASFETM*.
- Member of the health and safety confederal committee.
- Member of the confederal jurisdictions committee.

International representation

- For the CSN, participate in a European mission on Industry 4.0.
- Member of the Board of Directors of FSC Canada (2 union seats for Canada).
- Attend meetings of the IndustriALL Global Union (international unions).
- Maintain contact on an ongoing basis with French, Belgian, Swiss, British and German trade unions.

Work experience

- Water treatment system operator, reel operator, forklift operator.

The heart of our movement

I am seeking your support for the position of 2nd Vice-President on the Executive Committee of the *Confédération des syndicats nationaux*, at a time when the person who holds this prestigious position will oversee an everyday commitment to take on the many challenges that we will have to confront together, in life and at work.

The COVID-19 pandemic will have revealed many occupational health and safety deficiencies, growing inequality and poor working conditions in the key sectors of our economy.

Like you, I have seen the problems workplaces have had in responding to the issues created by the pandemic: the flagrant lack of protective equipment for at-risk workers and the impact it has had on the lives of thousands of sick and vulnerable people; public health directives that are not always clear; the lack of coordination; and above all, the lack of willingness of CNESST authorities who refused to enter workplaces, abandoning workers to employer incompetence and the risk of contagion. I have seen all of this with my own eyes, as a health and safety activist. Fortunately, despite the problems, we were still present as a union.

I have heard the minister get the ball rolling on occupational health and safety legislative reform after 30 years. The government has waited too long to amend these laws, and the current situation calls for mobilization and speaking out. I intend to put the movement to work the day after the conference and ensure that our voices are heard. We will not go backwards. Our movement must focus on fighting to advance our health and safety at work, everywhere that is necessary.

We also have to look at opportunities for our movement to reach out to employees in all sectors in Quebec by offering them CSN services and tools and making those services and tools more streamlined and accessible, without stripping them of democratic participation. My federation has already begun these explorations, and it is now time for the entire movement to participate. We have to give these people tools to ensure that they are treated with respect and enjoy decent working conditions. Our movement must also focus on this.

Finally, the crisis has revealed just how obsolescent our employment insurance regime is, and how incapable it is of providing workers with adequate protection. We have been saying this, with community groups, for at least 25 years. It seems that Justin Trudeau has a rather more progressive vision for this social program, unlike former liberal and conservative administrations on this issue. The Trudeau government is a minority government, and that works in our favour. We have to take advantage of the current *momentum* to promote our claims for a fair and universal regime that is adapted to the realities of seasonal work and the new realities that workers across Canada are facing. Once again, we will have to be a presence.

I will be there with you.



Louis Bégin