

Newsletter – January to April 2016

Welcome

Dear members,

The newsletter of the NDP – Québec Section is back on track! It is with great pleasure that the team of the Communication Committee has revived this bulletin which aims to inform NDP members of activities and events which have or will take place in the party's various positive action commissions, riding associations and the Québec Section offices. This newsletter is first and foremost for you. By members, for members. We hope that you'll enjoy reading it! Do not hesitate to contact us should you have comments, questions or suggestions for further improvements, or your ideas for texts.

In solidarity!

Claudine Jacques

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A Word from Jérémy Boulanger-Bonnely, Co-Chair of the Quebec Section

Our Federal Convention was held in Edmonton from April 8th-10th. More than 200 Quebec delegates were in attendance and managed to push for the adoption of almost ten resolutions submitted by the Quebec Section. These resolutions, as amended, will be available shortly.

Many Quebec delegates were elected on federal committees. Hans Marotte was elected vice-president of the party, Steve Moran and Alexandrine Latendresse now represent you on the Federal Executive, Mylène Freeman is co-chair of the Women's Federal Council, Laurin Liu is co-chair of the visible minorities' participation committee and Rosane Doré-Lefebvre Lefebvre is a regional Women Commission representative for Quebec on the Federal Council.

Two topics will probably be at the center of party discussions for the next few months : the leadership race and the principles stemming from the LEAP manifesto. We will keep you posted on the activities related to these topics.

Finally, the Quebec Section will hold its convention in September or October, in the Montreal Metropolitan Area. The exact details will be communicated to you in the next few weeks.

Volunteer Appreciation - CONTEST!

We all know extraordinary volunteers that make our associations and commissions work. The Quebec Section wants to value their work by organizing a contest which will lead to the selection of five volunteers until our October Convention.

If you know an extraordinary volunteer, please send us an email at Executif.QC@npd.ca before May 6th 2016, indicating her name, the place of volunteering (e.g. your riding association or commission) and describing in 200 words why her involvement should be recognized. This will be repeated each month until October.

Committee on the relations with First Nations, Inuit and Métis

Recently, a group of members of the Quebec Section has decided to create a committee on the relations with First Nations, Inuit and Métis, which meets monthly. To participate in this committee, please contact us at Executif.QC@npd.ca

A Word from François Giasson, VP Policies and Statutes

Dear members,

The Committee for Policies and Statutes will meet shortly to prepare the Québec Section's Convention in the Fall. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact our VP Policies and Statutes at francoisgiasson@npd.ca for more information.

François Giasson

VP Politiques et statuts | VP Policies and Statutes
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A Word from the LGBTT Commission **Co-chairs: Konstantine Malakos et France G.**

In January 2016, we held our annual general assembly for the LGBTT commission. This event was the occasion to do a retrospective of our activities during the preceding year which was rich in activities and emotion.

One of the objectives of the commission is to reach out to and connect with all other organizations within the party. For all information regarding our Executive : <http://ndp-lgbt-ndp.ca/qc-fr/a-propos/membres-de-lexecutif>.

Despite the disappointing results of the 2015 election, the LGBTT commission was able to contribute to a greater visibility for the party, notably by getting a large number of New Democratic candidates as well as the party leader Thomas Mulcair to participate in Montreal Pride Parade. (Photos available on instagram: www.instagram.com/lgbtt.npd.qc). Members of the commission held several other events, including for the Day of action against homophobia and transphobia. We also participated in events hosted by other organizations. The annual report for 2015 of the LGBTT Commission is available online: <http://ndp-lgbt-ndp.ca/qc-fr/2016/02/01/rapport-annuel-de-la-commission-lgbtt-ndp-2015>.

While Konstantine Malakos was re-elected as co-chair, Claudine Jacques, co-chair between 2013-2015, decided to focus her energies on her duties as VP Communications of the Québec Section. The members of the commission recognize and thank Claudine for the amazing job she did. A new co-chair, France G., was elected by interim.

The new executive discussed and planned various activities to increase our visibility but also to reflect and research how we can better serve and reflect our communities. The Executive has recently been made aware of the very specific medical and legal issues faced by the intersex community. These issues will be highlighted through a panel event open to the public.

One of the roles of the LGBTTT commission is to reach out to and educate sympathetic members of the party who are not LGBTTT regarding the various issues pertaining to our community. This engagement permits us to remind people of the necessity we have to continue to battle so that the members of our richly diverse community can one day have access to full equality, not just in terms of rights but also in terms of opportunities!

For more information about the Commission, please visit our website: <http://www.ndp-lgbt-ndp.ca/qc> or by email at npdqclgbtt@gmail.com.

Questions in English can be addressed to Konstantine Malakos
Konstantine.malakos@gmail.com 514.722.0470

A Word from the Young New Democrats of Quebec Co-Chair: Étienne Gratton

During the last few months, the Young New Democrats of Quebec have focused on the mobilisation for the Federal Council to ensure a strong participation of young Quebeckers in Edmonton. We are also very pleased that a number of resolutions adopted by our youth wing were prioritized highly ahead of the debates! We will hold very shortly a meeting for all Quebec delegates (young and less so) so they can meet and discuss current issues.

We are also setting the stage for the post-Convention : many activities are already on the agenda. We will organize a plenary session on First Nations issues, in collaboration with the new Committee on First Nations relations of the Quebec Section. We also plan to activate the Club-Campuses network to prepare them for the return to school in September.

A Word from our Riding Offices

Office of Matthew Dubé, MP for Chambly –
Borduas

Who does what in Matthew Dubé's riding office?
Here is a brief description of the roles and responsibilities of the three members of his team.

Nesrine Saci : Nesrine is in charge of constituent caseworks and various types of communications with federal organisations.



Nesrine, Sébastien, Francine

Sébastien Girard : Sébastien works with graphic softwares and plans with other members of the team relations with the community.

Francine Guay : Francine is responsible for media relations, the MP's agenda and representation during activities.

Together, they make a energetic, polyvalent and dynamic team!

Training on Excel: March 20th, 2016

On Sunday, March 20, a training on Excel for Presidents of riding associations was given by Carolyne Choquette (President of the Marc-Aurèle-Fortin riding association). More than 15 people gathered in the Québec Section offices, in Montreal, to benefit from it. The feedback was extremely positive, and this event will certainly be repeated shortly. Thank you Carolyne!



A Word from the Women's Commission Communications Officer: Madglara Dazulma

The core mandate of the Women's Commission is to encourage the participation of women in politics and bring a feminist analysis to the political debates.

The Women's Commission of the NDP Québec Section elected during its Annual General Assembly on Jan. 23 a new Executive : Valérie Couturier, Regional organizer; Jeany Lachance, Co-chair; Samira Laouni, Researcher; Djaouida Sellah, Co-chair; Cherry Marshall, Responsible for Policies and

Statutes; Madglara Dazulma, Responsible for communications and Julie Lapointe, Responsible for administration.

On March 13 was held a lunch meeting to celebrate the International Day for Women's Rights, on the theme : "Call to action to all women in order to be heard!" This luncheon was a great success and allowed the Commission to reaffirm that the words of women reflect daily realities and that it is important that women be heard and taken seriously.

The Women's Commission will focus on several goals: work towards the advancement of women in politics to achieve parity; participate in political training for women; promote women's interest within the New Democratic Party; adopt a feminist perspective regarding the party's political orientations and operations; support women candidates, create and maintain ties with community, political and cultural groups; help women access all available positions within the party.

The Commission can be reached via email at femmes-qc@npc.ca or via its [Facebook page](#).



De gauche à droite : Valérie Couturier, Jeany Lachance, Samira Laouni, Djaouida Sellah, Cherry Marshall, Madglara Dazulma, Julie Lapointe

A Word from the Environment Committee

The Environment Committee of the Québec section is a working committee that allows NDP members residing in Québec and interested by environmental issues to participate in pro-environment activities, engage in debates within the Québec Section regarding environmental issues and work together to promote a greener vision of our collective future. The Committee presented a document to the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal within the public consultation project to reduce greenhouse gases emissions by 20% in the Montreal area.

The Committee will also be present at the annual march for Earth Day, at the Place des Festivals (Montreal). Come march with us!

We participate in various activities throughout the year. The Committee is active on Facebook, under the name [NPD Environnement \(Québec\)](#). Would you like to get involved and be informed of the Committee's activities? Get in touch with us : eric.lafontaine.npd@gmail.com.

A Word from the Seniors Committee

The Seniors Committee of the Québec Section is a working committee that allows NDP members residing in Québec and interested in issues pertaining to senior citizens to participate in activities, engage in debates and work together to promote seniors' socioeconomic conditions. We participate in various activities throughout the year. The Committee is active on Facebook, under the name [Comité des Aînés, NPD Section Québec](#).

Would you like to get involved and be informed of the Committee's activities? Get in touch with us: eric.lafontaine.npd@gmail.com.

A Word from the Riding Associations

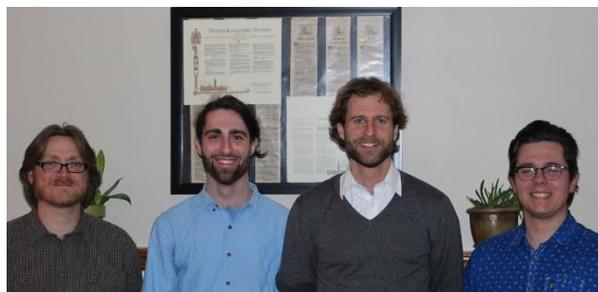
Brome-Missisquoi - Simon Gnocchini-Messier, EDA President

Thank you

To celebrate their many years of involvement with the riding association, we would like to offer our most sincere thanks and to congratulate Marcel Lapierre and Graham Weeks, outgoing President and Vice-President of the association.

New members of the Executive

An Extraordinary Assembly of the NDP riding association of Brome-Missisquoi was held on Jan. 29 to fill vacancies within the Executive. Simon Gnocchini-Messier was elected President and Axel Mathieu Vice-President of the association. They join the other members of the Executive (Grégory Godbout, Marc-Olivier Letendre, Michèle Vigeoz and Christian Page).



De gauche à droite – Axel Mathieu, Gregory Godbout, Simon Gnocchini-Messier, Marc-Olivier Letendre.

General Annual Assembly

A General Annual Assembly will be held at the end of the Summer 2016 to elect the new Executive of the riding association for the next year.

Golf tournament

We wish to organize a golf tournament between various riding associations in the region as well as anyone interested in participating. If you are interested, please get in touch by email with the event organizer, Mr. Axel Mathieu (apmathieu.npd@gmail.com).

Richmond – Arthabaska : Eric Lafontaine, EDA President

As in 61 other ridings in Quebec, the results of the 2015 October elections were disappointing in the Richmond-Arthabaska riding, despite a record number of volunteers helping with our campaign. We went from being represented by an independent (formally a member of the Bloc), to a Conservative MP.

However, it's worth noting that the Conservatives won in the riding with only 31% of the vote, with about 18,000 votes, while our candidate had about 14,000 votes. These results are encouraging. Our riding has not become a bastion of right-wing sympathies—69% of voters did not chose the Conservatives.

The new year began with our Annual General Assembly, during which the Executive Committee was expanded from 7 to a healthy 9 members. We adopted resolutions for the Edmonton Convention, and discussed a plan of action for the coming years. It was also proposed that we develop a Youth Committee.

We have a lot of work ahead of us before the next federal election. We intend to keep building up our membership at the grassroots level. We also wish to reaffirm our social democratic, values both locally and nationally. We will look for opportunities to press for social change, and maintain our presence in the local media and finally, we hope to develop a unique progressive voice locally.