



**Le Nouveau Parti  
démocratique du Canada**  
SECTION QUÉBEC

# Infolettre - Juillet 2016

## Welcome

Dear members,

We happy to share with you the second edition of our newsletter! Spring has been a busy time in many new-democrat ridings, and the summer is sure to be just as bustling. As we announced in the first newsletter, each month we'll acknowledge a volunteer's contribution to the party. This month, we are pleased to feature Étienne Bertrand, President of the NDP Berthier-Maskinongé riding association. We'd also like to mention two departures : those of Charles Bussièrès and Jérémy Boulanger-Bonnely. Charles has been working for the NDP for the past 10 years, and his involvement with the party began even longer ago that that. Jérémy will soon begin an internship at the Supreme Court of Canada. We'd like to give them a hearty thanks for all they have done over the years, and will no doubt continue to bring, to the neo-democrat movement. We wish them both the best of luck and much success for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead!

Do not hesitate to contact us should you have comments, questions or suggestions for further improvements to the newsletter, and your ideas for content.

## Claudine Jacques

VP Communications – Section Québec  
Nouveau Parti démocratique du Canada | Canada's New Democrats

(TEL) [+1.866.525.2555 x 2889](tel:+1.866.525.2555) | [Executif.QC@npd.ca](mailto:Executif.QC@npd.ca)

## Table of content

A Word from Jérémy Boulanger-Bonnely, Co-Chair of the Quebec Section .....	2
A Word from François Giasson, VP Policies and Statutes.....	2
Volunteer profile – Étienne Bertrand .....	3
A Word from the LGBTTT Commission .....	3
A Word from the Committee on the relations with First Nations, Inuit and Métis	4
A Word from the Environment Committee .....	5
A Word from the Riding Associations .....	5
Outremont : Michel Gagnon, Communications director .....	5
Papineau : Judith Shapiro, VP Communications .....	6
Dorval-Lachine-Lasalle : Joseph Ngambi, President .....	6
Abitibi – Baie-James – Nunavik -- Eeyou .....	7

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

Things are moving very quickly these days at the Quebec Section! Not only have we confirmed that our next Convention will be held on October 29-30 at the Sheraton Centre in Montreal (you will have the details shortly), we have also visited many regions of our beautiful province to discuss various topics with our members. From June 11-22, we have been in Rimouski, Quebec City, Trois-Rivières, Drummondville, Sherbrooke, Montreal and Gatineau to get a better sense of local needs and our members' opinion about the leadership race and the renewal of our policies. We are completing our report, which will be published shortly.

In addition, we have recently contacted our recently expired members by email to encourage them to renew their membership. We have also implemented our Volunteer Appreciation program, which will allow us to recognize the tremendous work of several volunteers over the next few months!

In the next weeks, we'll be present at Pride Montreal, the World Social Forum and many other events. Our organizers will also hold a training school at the end of August. Feel free to contact us at [Executif.QC@ndp.ca](mailto:Executif.QC@ndp.ca) or at 1.866.525.2555 x 2889 should you have any questions!

## **A Word from François Giasson, VP Policies and Statutes**

Dear members,

The Committee for Policies and Statutes has begun its work in preparation for the Québec Section's Convention in the fall.

If you are interested in participating in the committee, please contact our VP Policies and Statutes at [francoisgiasson@ndp.ca](mailto:francoisgiasson@ndp.ca) for more information.

### **François Giasson**

VP Politiques et statuts | VP Policies and Statutes  
Nouveau Parti démocratique du Canada | Canada's New Democrats

---

(TEL) [+1.866.525.2555 x 2889](tel:+18665252555) | [Executif.QC@ndp.ca](mailto:Executif.QC@ndp.ca)

## Volunteer profile – Étienne Bertrand

« I consider Ruth-Ellen a member of my family. This is why volunteering for her is so much fun! »

- Etienne Bertrand, president of the NDP Berthier-Maskinongé riding association

Étienne became involved in the NDP in 2014, after meeting his MP, Ruth-Ellen Brosseau, in an information session about Trans-Canada. Whether painting the campaign office, participating in conventions, knocking on doors or coordinating activities for the members of this large riding, Étienne is always present. A very special thanks to Étienne for his involvement!

These volunteer profiles are a new initiative of the Quebec Section officers. To submit the profile of a volunteer, click here: <http://goo.gl/forms/OpVuRzUEGi>.



*Ruth-Ellen Brosseau and Étienne Bertrand, president of the Berthier-Maskinongé NDP riding association*

## A Word from the LGBTTT Commission

On May 15, members of the LGBTTT Commission of the NDP – Québec Section were present at a kiosk for the Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia in Trois-Rivières. This was an occasion for networking with various regional associations from Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec. We then joined about 200 people for a march in the streets of Trois-Rivières.

We'd like to thank Robert Aubin, federal MP of Trois-Rivières, for his presence, as well as Hind Farouk, the President of the Trois-Rivières NDP riding association. We would also like to thank the Trois-Rivières NDP riding association for their help and logistical support throughout the day, as well as the many volunteers who made the presence of a neo-democrat contingent during the march possible.

## Pascal Germain

VP organisation, LGBTTT Commission

## **A Word from the Committee on the relations with First Nations, Inuit and Métis**

Since the beginning of 2016, an NDP Quebec Section committee on our relationship with First Nations, Inuit and Metis is shaping up and is now fully operational. Three meetings have already taken place: February 26th, March 12th and April 23rd. The next meeting will be held in August. The first meeting was held over the phone, while the others were in person. The list of people interested includes twelve names, and four of these people were present at most of these meetings.

At the first meeting, following an exchange on possible objectives for the committee, the following goals were developed and agreed upon:

- Develop, determine and promote, within the Quebec Section policy guidelines for Aboriginals, with a non-patronising, non-colonialist approach, in full respect of the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Promote Aboriginals' participation in our party;
- Promote the NDP's views among Aboriginal communities;
- Show our members the importance of Aboriginals' issues and culture; and,
- Help the Quebec Section implement policies and procedures that will stimulate and enrich Aboriginals' participation in our party.

During the other meetings, a media review provided the starting point for the participants' discussions, as well as a comparison of the Liberals achievements and their promises for the Aboriginals, and an overview of cultural activities aimed at a better knowledge and understanding of their reality. In this context, the movie *Avant les rues*, from Chloé LeRiche, the third edition of the Biennale d'art contemporain autochtone, presented by the Art Mûr gallery, and the Montreal First Peoples Festival, to be held from August 3 to 10, 2016 in Montreal's Quartier des spectacles, were mentioned.

June 21st marked the National Aboriginal Day's 20th anniversary. It is important to note that the federal government's National Aboriginal Day website mentioned no event celebrating this day in Quebec, contrary to what can be found for the other provinces and territories. Clearly, Quebecers have a lot of work to do when it comes to Aboriginal issues, even though they are proud of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, as well as the Agreement Respecting a New Relationship Between the Cree Nation and the Government of Quebec (*La Paix des Braves*)!

**Jean-Marie van der Maren**

Co-President

## A Word from the Environment Committee

Last Saturday, June 18, the Environment Committee held a brainstorming session in order to identify concrete means to put the environment at the forefront of our daily lives and reach the population on a local level, while respecting federal areas of jurisdiction.

The events planned for this summer are :

[Écosphère Montréal: August 13th, 2016](#)

[Écosphère Magog: September 24th, 2016](#)

## Catherine Gauvin

Co-President

## A Word from the Riding Associations

Outremont : Michel Gagnon, Communications director

Outremont strongly supports the NDP position on electoral reform.

The Outremont riding association took advantage of the May 16th National Day of Action to ask citizens' opinion on electoral reform and gain support for the NDP position on this issue. We visited residents near the Université de Montréal as well as people passing through two metro stations. Two things stood out clearly:

- Everyone we met – without exception – supported an electoral reform as recommended for quite some time by the NDP. They happily signed our petition.
- Everyone thought that the Parliamentary committee on electoral reform must represent Canadians of all political stripes. Therefore they supported the NDP stand on the composition of the Committee. Since then, the government finally agreed to it.



*The dynamic volunteer crew for the Day of Action in Outremont!*

Papineau : Judith Shapiro, VP Communications

1) Members and friends of the NDP riding of Papineau gathered on May 11 for a 5@7 in Parc Extension to discuss the aftermaths of the April Convention and the actions to pursue. It was a great occasion to discuss the LEAP manifesto, the TPP, and to ask questions about the upcoming leadership race.

2) To take action, we have helped the organisation of a demonstration against the TPP during the visit of the Minister of International Trade, Chrystia Freeland, in Montreal on June 6, 2016. NDP supporters were present, along with MPs Alexandre Boulerice and Thomas Mulcair.



*Tom and Alexandre during the protest against the TPP*

Dorval-Lachine-Lasalle : Joseph Ngambi, President

The Annual General Assembly of the Dorval – Lachine – Lasalle Riding Association was held on June 19th 2016 at 7 PM. The main highlight was the election of a new executive.

Joseph Ngambi has succeeded Dick Harris as president. He will be surrounded by Charles Deshaies (VP Communications), Isaac Armstrong (VP Socio-Political), Hunter Fisher (Youth Representative), Susan Czarnocki (Seniors Representative), Margaret Godbeer (Treasurer) and Rachelle Cournoyer (Secretary).

The VP Recruiting, Women Representative, LGBT Representative and Cultural Communities Representative are still vacant.

Dick Harris, who did not represent himself for his succession, was warmly applauded. The whole team thanked him wholeheartedly for his loyal service at the head of the riding association and his unfailing dedication.

## Abitibi – Baie-James – Nunavik -- Eeyou

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is adamant that Canada must adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples if it wishes to adequately supervise the reconciliation of the peoples in the country. On April 21st, 2016, the NDP critic for Aboriginal Intergovernmental Affairs and the Canadian Agency of Northern Economic Development, Romeo Saganash (Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou) filed Bill C-262 for a second time, to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Bill proposes concrete apolitical and cooperative measures that represent a unique opportunity for Canada to take a big step towards establishing a real nation-to-nation relationship with aboriginal peoples.



*Our MP Romeo Saganash during his Call to Action tour.*

Bill C-262 provides a legislative framework for the implementation of the UN Declaration which will have a catalytic effect for the repeal of the Indian Act. "I sincerely believe that this Bill is important for the future generations of our country. This is why I am asking for your support today," said Romeo Saganash in his "Call To Action" tour. This tour is a series of public educational events held across the country (on invitation, in which one may participate by calling 613-992-3030). [A petition is also available online on the website of MP Romeo Saganash.](#)

# Have a great summer!