

*President's Message*



**Our Federation Is Growing**

The FQPPU is undergoing a period of growth, with the addition of new members. In February 2019, our colleagues from Université Laval joined the ranks of all other associations and unions of Quebec university professors, after colleagues from Université de Montréal joined us in 2017. I can also confirm that, in early 2020, colleagues from the Royal Military College Saint-Jean will submit an application to the Federal Council to become FQPPU members. The FQPPU now has over 8,000 university professor members! Such solidarity and unity are very good news on their own, but are also timely, as they are occurring during a period in which universities are undergoing various transformations. Some such transformations have been under criticism, as they were initiated by governments and influenced by the managerial drift occurring in higher education institutions, which has been well underway since the 1990s.

I am very honoured to serve our federation as its new president, and my enthusiasm is growing as fast as our membership is! Involvement and determination are needed, however, from all FQPPU members as there is no shortage of challenges for us to face collectively.

*(Continued on the next page)*

**Members of the 2019–2021 Executive Committee**

- Jean Portugais, Université de Montréal, President
- Cathy Vaillancourt, INRS, Vice-President
- Denis Bélisle, Université de Sherbrooke, Secretary-Treasurer
- John Kingma, Université Laval, Councillor
- Daniel Guitton, McGill University, Councillor

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Vol. 5, No. 2—Fall 2019  
 Online version: [fqppu.org](http://fqppu.org)

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**Calendar**

- **Federal Council Meetings**
  - October 17 and 18, 2019
  - February 6 and 7, 2020
  - April 16 and 17, 2020

The [days of reflection](#) in April 2019 provided an opportunity to identify several labour relations issues that will occupy the federation and its members for the next two years: research funding, mental health and safety in the workplace, gender equality, intellectual property, rollout of distance learning, work overload, group insurance and pension plans, etc. The FQPPU will continue to clearly document each of these issues. Moreover, we want to continue offering and developing member services that allow for specific actions that are adapted to the realities of each institution, for example, tailored dossiers to help members prepare to renew their collective agreements.

The FQPPU can also provide its members with documentation and tools in relation to public policies that have been implemented by governments. For example, our community has been undergoing a period of major change since 2018 with regard to relationships between members of the academic community since the proposal and subsequent adoption of [Bill 22](#), aimed at preventing and fighting sexual violence in higher education institutions. Another example of a profound transformation in the current academic context is the cluster of issues known as Equity/Diversity/Inclusion, which are the subject of the [Dimensions charter](#) (see article by Samy Mesli on this subject in this newsletter). While respecting member autonomy, the FQPPU is offering to provide its members with tools and support in relation to such matters of importance.

The political dimension of our relationship with the government will also continue to be part of the FQPPU's activities for the upcoming period. Even though Quebec's CAQ government has not yet put forward any new policies in relation to universities, there is reason to expect a government action plan on this subject, considering that the government's priority for action is education. The FQPPU has already begun working on this matter. At the invitation of Jean-François Roberge, Minister of Education and Higher Education, the FQPPU will participate in a think tank in the upcoming year that will conduct research on the future of Quebec universities.

Our team has our work cut out for us. The Executive Committee and I are pleased to be able to rely on the remarkable work of our permanent staff members, whom I would like to thank kindly for their warm welcome since my recent arrival: Hans Poirier, Maryse Tétrault, and Samy Mesli, our professional researchers, as well as Marie-Claude Thomas, our administrative assistant.

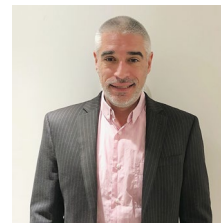
From the start, the FQPPU has been defined first and foremost by its members. To advance our goals and values as Quebec university professors, we will need to

constantly develop our solidarity, continue to be vigilant, maintain our critical role within society, and share useful information among associations and unions that are members of the FQPPU. To do so, our growing federation will need to continue to count on the collaboration and active participation of our members.

In solidarity,  
Jean Portugais

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI): A Priority for Universities

Samy Mesli, Professional Researcher



Particularly active on matters related to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), the federal government announced three important measures in the past few months.

After implementing, in 2017, the EDI Action Plan, which led to the creation of local EDI committees in all universities, the Canada Research Chairs Program (CRCP) announced, on July 31, 2019, new chairholder hiring targets for the 2019–2029 period.

As can be seen in the table below, which is based on CRCP data from June 2019, nearly 34% of Canada Research Chair positions are currently held by women. Approximately 17% of chairholders are members of visible minority groups, while only 1.6% and 2.1% of chairholders identify as persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples, respectively.

	Current Distribution	Targets for 2029
Women	33.7%	50.9%
Members of Visible Minority Groups	15.8%	22%
Persons With Disabilities	1.6%	7.5%
Indigenous Peoples	2.1%	4.9%

Source: Canada Research Chairs, June 2019.

To remedy the under-representation of these four groups, the CRCP has set ambitious targets for the next decade. Its goal for 2029 is for women to make up 50.9% of chairholders, for members of visible minorities to make up 22% of chairholders, for persons with disabilities to

make up 7.5% of chairholders, and for Indigenous Peoples to make up 4.9% of chairholders. As can be seen, these targets will have a lasting influence on the hiring of holders of Canada Research Chairs in the next decade.

In June 2019, the Minister of Science, Kirsty Duncan presented the Canadian Dimensions charter, which aims to promote EDI in universities, colleges, and polytechnic schools. Inspired by the Athena SWAN charter established in the United Kingdom, the Dimensions charter states that “to advance institutional equity, diversity and inclusion, specific, measurable and sustainable actions are needed to counter systemic barriers, explicit and unconscious biases, and inequities” faced by women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, members of visible minority or racialized groups, and members of LGBTQ2+ communities. The text also indicates that “to contribute to reconciliation, research with, by or impacting Indigenous Peoples must align with the research policies and best practices identified through ongoing engagement with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples and their organizations.”

To date, the Dimensions charter has been endorsed by 94 institutions across Canada (universities and colleges), but also professional associations, such as the Canadian Association of Physicists, and research groups, such as Genome Canada and the Observatoire international sur les impacts sociétaux de l’intelligence artificielle et du numérique, an international observatory on the societal impacts of artificial intelligence and digital technologies. In Quebec, 13 universities have already endorsed the charter.

Lastly, the results of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Institutional Capacity-Building Grant Program have been announced. This pilot program, which was open to only small institutions for its first year, aims to provide funding of up to \$400,000—\$200,000 for up to two years—to institutions that wish to implement a strategy to meet demonstrated EDI-related needs on their campus.

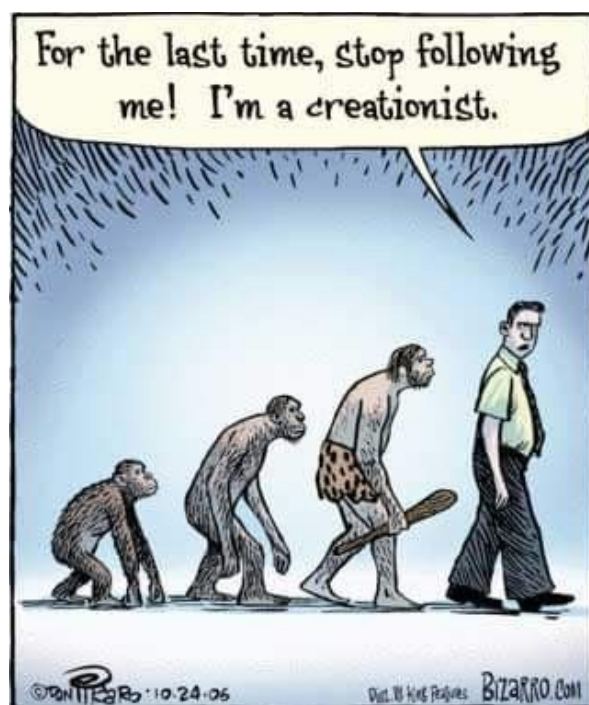
Of the 51 applications received by NSERC, 15 institutions received grants. In Quebec, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR) will benefit from a grant of \$387,000, HEC Montréal will receive \$370,300, and Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT) will obtain \$209,500.

The amounts received can be used to acquire or create training material and resources, to organize EDI-related training or events, or to develop communication plans or strategies. However, these grants will be primarily used to hire EDI specialists, as the three universities demonstrated a need for “equity officers”—to use CRCP terminology. The primary roles of these advisers will be

to supervise the implementation and monitoring of EDI action plans in their institutions, to serve as resources for faculties and professors, and to prepare reports that must be submitted to the CRCP on a yearly basis.

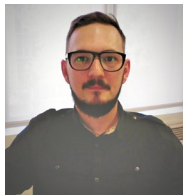
As illustrated by these different measures, issues related to equity, diversity, and inclusion are a priority for universities, and over the next few years, the new targets introduced by the CRCP will contribute to transforming the composition of Quebec’s faculty.

### *The FQPPU Guide for Professors on University Boards of Directors will be available soon!*



## 2019 Worldviews Conference: Higher Education and Media in a Post-Truth World

Hans Poirier, Professional Researcher



In June 2019, the University of Toronto hosted the [Worldviews on Media and Higher Education 2019](#) conference. This event has been organized since 2011 by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations ([OCUFA](#)), the FQPPU's equivalent in Ontario, which represents Ontario university professors. This year's conference was organized in partnership with the main international academic media outlets, [Inside Higher Ed](#) and [University World News](#), and focused on topics such as the dangers to democracy brought on by rising populism and the decline in the credibility of academic institutions and the media in a post-truth world.

What can be done to reassert the value of quality information and facts, whether they rely on thorough journalistic work or a rigorous scientific method? This was the question behind many talks at Worldviews this year. Participants emphasized the importance of once again bringing experts to the forefront and finding ways to better assert the value of the scientific truth to combat the fake news epidemic. Several speakers pointed out that it is easier to show something to be true when it is backed up by strong scientific consensus, as is the case with the benefits of vaccination or with climate change, but that the truth is viewed with mistrust in relation to more polarizing issues, such as the immigration rates to be set by a given society or the advantages and disadvantages of the legalization of cannabis.



University of Toronto. Photo: [Yinan Chen](#) on [Pixabay](#).

The idea of building bridges between researchers and journalists was raised repeatedly as a possible solution. However, some participants brought up the obstacles that this relationship involves: scientists fear being

misquoted by journalists and seeing the complex issues that they work on cut to the bone, while journalists struggle to quickly access the information they need from scientists, and such information is rarely available in a format that is understandable for their audience. However, initiatives are beginning to emerge to address these barriers. For example, [The Conversation](#) is a website on which university professors write articles about their research; the articles are then edited by communications professionals to ensure that they comply with journalistic standards. Similar to the content of a news agency, these articles can then be picked up by various media outlets, which allows them to ensure that they are publishing reliable content.

### Journalists and researchers: Comparable realities?

Participating in the Worldviews conference enabled me to realize that, despite working in different fields, journalists and researchers have a great deal in common, something that recent news seems to corroborate, for example, in the debate surrounding the "[Maillé Affair](#)" or [Quebec journalist Marie-Maude Denis's fight](#) before the courts to maintain the confidentiality of her sources. The two groups play a role that can be described as "democratic," in the sense that they both work to uncover the truth. Parallels can also be made between each group's quest for intellectual independence, which is tested from time to time when private interests, in particular, get involved in research team funding or contest journalist autonomy. Therefore, the recent success of Quebec journalists in obtaining an *Act to protect the confidentiality of journalistic sources*, which was assented to in June 2018, should inspire university faculty to mobilize to seek comparable protection.

Another issue that concerns both mass media and scientific media is the transformation of business models as a result of the advent of digital technologies, which is very often accompanied by the erosion, or even disappearance, of publishing. On social media, for example, it is now companies such as Facebook and Google that, through algorithms, play the role of publishers of the content accessed by their subscribers. In the scientific community, legitimate criticism of the commercial practices of major publishers, such as Elsevier, Springer, and Sage, have pushed many researchers to publish articles in Open Access journals, a practice that is unfortunately associated with publications of varying quality, or even fraudulent publications in the case of certain predatory journals.

### Preserving media and higher education institutions: A fight for democracy

Worldviews has also contributed to bringing to light the fact that preserving the credibility of our media outlets and higher education institutions is a prerequisite for

preserving democracy worthy of its name. The safeguarding of these establishments involves adopting individual behaviours, educating, and defending collective interests.

Individually, we need to be ready to recognize that we are often biased toward information that strengthens our own convictions, whether it is true or not, which contributes to the spread of fake news. It is also important to relearn the worth of respectful debates, in both universities and society, and to take care not to contribute to what some have called “progressive infantilization,” i.e. ostracizing those who do not share our beliefs, which could contribute to hostile reactions that, when repeated, play a part in radicalization. Democratic health inevitably also involves access to education and, thus, sound public policy. At all levels, education strengthens the critical thinking skills of citizens, allowing them to become more vigilant and better equipped to determine the credibility of the sources from which they retrieve their information.

#### **The cost of high-quality science and information**

I will conclude with a final analogy. During a panel at Worldviews during which several speakers from the media world were invited to address the redefinition of traditional media and new models that are currently emerging, the CEO and Editor-in-Chief of [The Logic](#), an independent online media outlet that specializes in news related to the economy, presented its business model. *The Logic* employs reporters to whom it provides the time needed to carry out rigorous work, meaning that they may spend several weeks investigating a matter that leads to only one article. The revenues of this media outlet, which generates profits and pays its journalists more than the Canadian average, solely come from a handful of subscribers who agree to pay more for high-quality information, as the site’s policy is not to accept any advertising so as to remain independent.

While this model could be deemed “elitist” since the cost of this high-quality information is prohibitive for many readers, it is interesting to note that the scoops published by *The Logic* are often picked up by “mass” media, such as CBC, the *Toronto Star*, and the *National Post*, which recognize that they do not have the time to carry out such in-depth investigative work, thus contributing to making this information more accessible. Against the backdrop of a “media crisis,” I found it refreshing to note that it is still possible to innovate without sacrificing working conditions and information quality.

There are several similarities between the journalistic model put forth by *The Logic* and the way in which scientific work is organized. To advance knowledge, researchers must rely on recurring funding and have a reasonable amount of time to carry out in-depth

research. Major discoveries in a field are sometimes only accessible to a handful of researchers in said field through specific scientific publications. However, when the results have the potential to have a significant impact beyond the scholarly community, they are often picked up by larger dissemination channels, and the information circulates, to the benefit of all.

However, while this model has proven itself, public funding for science is often called into question by governments, based on ideology or to make way for other political priorities. During a [recent presentation in Ottawa](#), David Naylor, Chair of the Advisory Panel that prepared Canada’s Fundamental Science Review report, rightly pointed out that funding for science, fundamental science in particular, is not a political priority because it is abstract for a large number of voters. To make it a priority, pro-science lobbies that include associations and unions of university professors must, in his opinion, focus on communication in order to increase awareness about how science impacts the daily life of all. By telling “success stories” and appealing to emotions, he feels that it will be easier to obtain more research funding and to pursue this collective scholarly work, which is vital in this era of rising populism and disregard for the facts.

## **Federal Elections 2019**



Photo: [Element5 Digital](#) on [Unsplash](#).

### **Questions for the political parties**

In view of the federal elections taking place on October 21, 2019, the FQPPU asked the main political parties in the running, i.e. the Bloc Québécois, the Conservative Party of Canada, the Liberal Party of Canada, Canada’s New Democratic Party, and the Green Party of Canada to detail their commitments in relation to higher education, research, and science, so as to help its members and citizens make an informed choice when voting.

The answers to these questions, which were sent to us by the political parties, can be found on the [FQPPU website](#) (available in French only).

# FQPPU Founding President Passes Away

Maryse Tétreault, Professional Researcher



In May 2019, the FQPPU learned of the passing of **Michel-M. Campbell**, honorary professor in the Faculty of Theology at Université de Montréal and **Founding President of the FQPPU**, a position he held from 1991 to 1993 after having headed the Fédération des associations des professeurs d'université du Québec (FAPUQ) for three years. His passing has led us to revisit the founding of the FQPPU, which in less than two years will celebrate its 30-year anniversary.

## Situating the creation of the FQPPU

The 1980s and 1990s, unlike previous decades, were a time of a great deal of union disbanding in both academia and the Quebec labour movement in general. Before this low point, the boom of the union movement led to the founding of FAPUQ in 1967, which at the time stemmed from the need of professors to join forces in the face of growing government bureaucratization and the first instances of government interference in university management. The creation of this common front was also driven by the process of democratization of higher education in Quebec in the wake of the Quiet Revolution, a period that resulted in an increase in the number of university students and, consequently, in the number of professors.

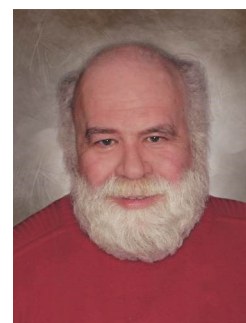
While the 1960s and 1970s contributed to laying the groundwork for unionism for professors, the decades that followed were characterized by ongoing difficulties in relation to significantly mobilizing professors; unions preferred to protect what they already had, given the poor state of the economy. These decades were marked by two economic recessions that forced the government to implement austerity measures in the public and parapublic sectors and, indirectly, in the university sector. The government reduced university subsidies. Fewer professors were hired. Salaries were frozen or outright reduced. Working conditions deteriorated and workloads increased for professors. Union actions took place at the local level, and their scope was limited when faced with the government. This was particularly apparent during the crisis affecting the public and parapublic sectors in the 1980s. Aside from a few denunciations, a number of people were distressed by professors' apparent lack of interest in solidarity beyond their workplaces. Despite the need to join forces, several unions and associations even questioned their affiliation to FAPUQ; others decided to

join the ranks of a new organization that quickly became the rival of FAPUQ: the Intersyndicale des professeurs des universités québécoises (IPUQ).

The events showed how vulnerable the university union movement was. However, several unions and associations wanted to improve their resilience, as well as their bargaining power, particularly due to the severity of the government measures that were threatening the very future of universities. Several union officers believed that significant change—and widespread mobilization—were needed to re-establish the balance of power with the government. Calls to create a new, more consensus-based federation and internal disputes in the two labour organizations (FAPUQ and IPUQ) expedited matters. On May 16, 1991, the two existing labour groups merged, and the FQPPU was officially founded. FAPUQ President, Michel-M. Campbell became the President of the new organization and remained so until 1993.

## The FQPPU's beginnings

The beginnings of the FQPPU—and of its new president—were thrown into disorder by the shooting that took place at Concordia University—the Fabrikant Affair—an event that reminded us that [our translation] “universities do not exist in a vacuum,” as Michel Campbell wrote in a November 1992 issue of *Université*.



The FQPPU's first years were also marked by Bill 198 (adopted in 1993), which was aimed at reaching a zero deficit and at reducing the number of public service employees by 12% before April 1998. This approach on the part of the Quebec government cut the jobs of approximately 1000 professors in a few years, froze salaries, and reduced university operating grants. At the FQPPU, this announcement led colleagues to carry out a comprehensive survey that shed light on professorial work: what professors do and what they are. Bill 198 did not bring about the only changes. For example, the introduction of administration accountability rules, including the annual submission of reports on all university activities led to a new relationship between the Government and universities. In 1993, Michel Campbell passed the torch to his Vice-President, Professor Roch Denis.

This brief recap allows us to better understand the FQPPU's beginnings, but also puts into perspective the bumps it encountered along the way that helped shape it, while once again reminding us of the importance of union solidarity within Quebec's academic community.

# A Federation at the Service of Professors and of University in Quebec

Hans Poirier, Professional Researcher

Working as a professional researcher with the FQPPU since 2012, I have had the opportunity, on numerous occasions, to speak with its members, collaborators, and partners during meetings of its bodies, other meetings, and one-time events, as well as to work alongside those who have served on its executive committee. I have found that while many know about part of the FQPPU's work, particularly through its positions or topics that it has contributed to documenting, such as university funding, many aspects of its work are not well known. I am therefore taking the opportunity, in this newsletter, to provide an overview of what our team does and the values that underlie our actions. These activities can be broken down into three major streams: defending principles and values; documentation and member services; and networking, collaboration, and mobilization in relation to global issues.

## A concertation body that represents professors

Since it was founded in 1991, the FQPPU has served as the voice of Quebec university professors with Quebec and Canadian decision-makers, as well as university administrations and a multitude of other stakeholders. These representations are sometimes aimed at promoting the professional, economic, and social interests of its members, but they are also based on the principles and values defined in the FQPPU by-laws: defending university autonomy and professors' academic and political freedom; advocating for public service universities dedicated to the production and dissemination of knowledge through teaching, research, and service; gender equality; higher education accessibility; collegial administration of universities; and the protection of freedom of association and the inalienable right to collective bargaining.

Beyond representations at the level of elected officials, defending the mission of universities and professors is achieved through participating in parliamentary committees, taking part in media interviews, tabling briefs prepared for various consultations, and publishing open letters and press releases. In recent years, the FQPPU has been involved in matters such as taking a clear position on the creation of a Council of Universities with accompanying framework legislation, advocating for increased funding for universities and for more balanced research funding, calling for the protection of the confidentiality of sources and research data, mobilizing

against the Université de Montréal charter reform initiative, denouncing UQTR and Université de Montréal Faculty of Veterinary Medicine lockouts, and calling for solidarity for the Concordia professor, Homa Hoodfar, when she was being detained in Iran.

## Providing documentation to better equip its members

One of the FQPPU's strengths is its ability to document issues of interest for all of its members. Despite having only a small team of professional researchers and collaborators, the FQPPU has remained credible with decision-makers and relevant with its members due to the quality of the research it carries out, which allows it to base its positions on reliable, numerical data.

For example, in recent years, the FQPPU's projects have included a cross-sectional analysis of collective agreements and the publication of research documents on university and research funding, working conditions for professors, copyright, distance education, psychological harassment, mobbing, administrative overload, and bonuses. The abilities of member associations and unions are strengthened due to the more specific vision of their respective universities that results, providing them with significant leverage when it comes time to negotiate working conditions.

This research is supported by the creation of permanent and ad hoc committees that inform the FQPPU by means of their reflection and analysis; it is also supported by occasional legal advice, which allows for shedding light on certain issues from a legal perspective. For several years, the FQPPU has also been preparing bargaining kits that include, in particular, comparative financial information, as well as information about professor and student populations, which allow unions to better prepare for their rounds of bargaining. Lastly, several times per year, the FQPPU organizes training sessions that are often given by legal experts on subjects related to labour relations or issues of common interest.



### Networking, collaboration, and mobilization

While, locally, the goal of association and union life is to defend the principles, values, and interests of members, at the national and international levels, the FQPPU continues this work by associating with other organizations driven by similar objectives.

In this capacity, it collaborates on a regular basis with other Quebec organizations in the fields of higher education and research, whether they are labour, student, or institutional organizations (such as the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation [superior council of education], the Fonds de recherche du Québec [Quebec's research funding agencies], and ACFAS [Association francophone pour le savoir; francophone association for knowledge]). In recent years, the FQPPU has participated in the Table des partenaires universitaires [table of university partners], the États généraux sur l'enseignement supérieur [summit meetings on higher education] collective, held in Québec and Montréal in 2017 and 2018, the Collective that organized the World Social Forum held in Montréal in 2016, and the Organizing Committee for the Global Education Conference, held in Montréal in 2014, as well as distinguished itself through its substantial contributions to discussions that took place during the Sommet sur l'enseignement supérieur [summit on higher education] organized by the Quebec government in 2013.

With respect to its relationships with organizations outside of Quebec, the FQPPU carries out its role internationally, in particular, as a member of Education International and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. It also occasionally collaborates with European unions in the fields of higher education and research, including the SNCS-FSU, the SNESUP-FSU, and the FMTS.

At the national level, the FQPPU is a member of the Public Education Network (PEN-REP) and the Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR) and collaborates with the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) on various national matters. It also maintains ties to organizations in other provinces that represent university professors, such as the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). Lastly, it participates in a working group on copyright, to which organizations that represent students, administrators, librarians, and professors contribute.

These networking efforts with its Canadian counterparts are justified, on one hand, by the fact that a significant portion of research funding received by Quebec researchers comes from Ottawa, and it is therefore necessary that the FQPPU mobilize on this front to defend

member interests. On the other hand, like the asymmetrical relations between the Quebec and Canadian governments, the FQPPU's participation in these networks devoted to the promotion of education and research in Canada can be explained by the desire to stand united with our Canadian counterparts on important issues while highlighting the uniqueness of Quebec and respecting its areas of jurisdiction.

## A New Quebec-Made Fake-News Detector



Photo: [Sasin Tipchai](#) on [Pixabay](#).

A wonderful project has been developed by the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) and the Bureau de la coopération universitaire (BCI), in collaboration with Agence Science-Press: the [Détecteur de rumeurs](#) [rumour detector] is one of the few Quebec fact-detection initiatives.

The office of the Chief Scientist describes the project as follows: "At a time when anyone can produce information and publish it on social media for the world to see, it is important to have recourse to websites where fake science news and rumours are debunked through a rigorous scientific process."

## The Canadian Government's Mixed Record on Tax Fairness

In response to the election campaign, the FQPPU joined other organizations that are members of the [Échec aux paradis fiscaux](#) [tax haven elimination] collective to demand more transparency and highlight the Canadian government's mixed record on tax fairness.

An [open letter](#) (available in French only) written by Samuel-Élie Lesage, Coordinator of the Échec aux paradis fiscaux collective, and signed by many organizations, including the FQPPU, appeared in *Le Devoir* on October 8, 2019.

# The Fight Against Climate Change Starts With Education

Jean Portugais, President



From left to right: Marcelle Bourque, Daniel Guitton, Hans Poirier, Marie-Claude Thomas, Jean Portugais, Maryse Tétreault, Léonie Olazo Tétreault, and Samy Mesli. Photo: Olga Ranzenhofer.

The climate marches held on September 27 constituted an extraordinary moment of mobilization around the world, including here in Quebec. In Montréal, nearly half a million people marched from the Sir Georges-Étienne Cartier monument at the foot of Mont Royal to Bonaventure park. The FQPPU team, as well as many Montréal university professors, took to the streets to protest with the students—initiators of the largest gathering in the history of the city.

The FQPPU had already been very active this summer in the fight against climate change during the 8th World Congress held in July 2019 in Bangkok (note that the IE Congress is held every four years). In collaboration with French colleagues from the Syndicat national des chercheurs scientifiques (SNCS; national union of scientific researchers) and the Syndicat national de l'enseignement supérieur (SNESUP-FSU; national higher education union), the FQPPU worked to have the Congress adopt a resolution on the critical role education plays in environmental matters and in the future of humanity ([resolution available in French only](#)). This resolution affirms, in particular, important principles related to the subject of climate change:

Teachers, scientists, and their labour organizations must interact with labour organizations of workers and those of citizens from all countries to support movements in favour of fighting global climate change and imposing on governments education and research policies to guarantee that people can live on a sustainable planet in terms of drinking water, food, health, energy, urbanization, the economy, and jobs.

Moreover, another resolution during the 8th IE Congress highlighted the importance of fighting against climate change, particularly because

[...] [t]his phenomenon also affects education, one of the first sectors to be abandoned when disaster strikes, and it also has serious gender implications, with girls and women disproportionately affected by crises and emergencies.

Building on the conclusions of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), this other resolution insists that

[...] when it comes to affirming the essential role that education must play in the necessary individual and collective changes, we must moderate our behaviour and consumption patterns in order to save our planet. An equal, inclusive and high-quality education enables people to comprehend and respond to environmental issues, as well as to adapt to negative consequences and reduce their vulnerability.

As university professors, we are deeply concerned by this connection between education and climate change. We acknowledge that human activities are the main cause of climate change and are convinced of the importance of collective action through our union organizations and associations, as well as within our universities, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Photo: [Welfact](#) on [Unsplash](#).

We know that the climate crisis is an educational, scientific, environmental, social, and political issue. We recognize our responsibilities with regard to educating and guiding young people, as well as to developing academic research. We will continue to promote established scientific facts. With the help of the governments, we wish to continue to develop knowledge and education to enable quick, appropriate action in the fight against climate change.

## The Outgoing APEP President Has Passed Away

The FQPPU wishes to acknowledge Christian Mascle's contribution to our federation's life. Mr. Mascle passed away on July 13, 2019.



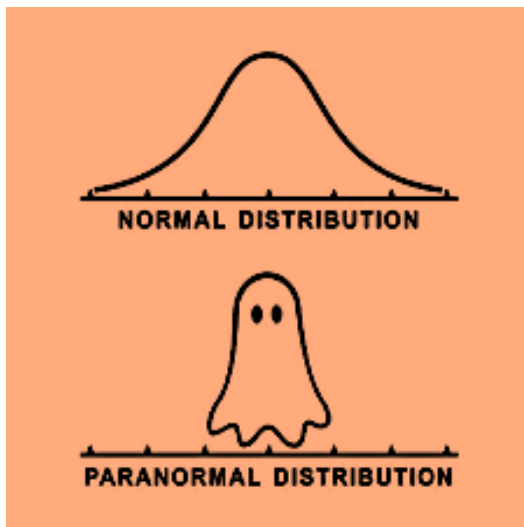
He was the President of the Association des professeurs de l'École Polytechnique (APEP) from 2010 to 2014 and from 2016 to 2018, as well as the outgoing president from 2014 to 2016, and during the 2018–2019 academic year.

Throughout his mandates, he was a strong advocate for the professorial cause and acted as a guardian of the values and spirit of his association's collective agreement. He also led Polytechnique faculty to take part in the only strike in APEP history in March 2013—a work stoppage that resulted in a bargaining settlement in favour of the association.

His colleagues remember his values and thoroughness, but most of all his remarkable character.

The FQPPU extends its most sincere condolences to Mr. Mascle's colleagues, friends, and family.

## "Frightening" Results



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