

# QPAT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2018-2020

## Election Information

### ELECTION OF **SECRETARY** FOR 2018-2020

The call for nominations closed on Wednesday, March 21, 2018

**Two** nominations were received for the position of **Secretary**:



Brian Benoit, LTU

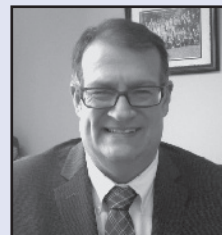


Brian Smeltzer, WQTA

The following candidates were acclaimed:



Sébastien Joly, QPAT  
President



Steven Le Sueur, RTU  
General Chairperson



Nick Ross, CVTA  
Treasurer



Stephanie McLellan, LTU  
Member-at-large



Peter Sutherland, MTA  
Member-at-large



Heidi Yetman, PTU  
Member-at-large

Information on the candidates can be found in this election newsletter.

**The vote will be held in schools and centres on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.**

Information on voting procedures will be sent to the union delegate.



Brian Benoit, PhD

**NOMINATED BY:**

- Dimitra Thomakos, MTA
- Julie Collins, LTU
- Tammie Agostino, LTU
- Stephanie Larouche, LTU
- Steve Narine, LTU
- Samantha Sobol, LTU
- Alexandra Chinis, LTU
- Nathalie Guay, LTU
- Sara Saltel, LTU
- Émilie Trudeau, LTU
- Bessy (Vasiliki) Tsakris, LTU
- Antonella Continelli, LTU
- Diana D’Addario, LTU
- James Lefebvre, LTU
- Illana Lukshinski, LTU

**Teacher First**

I have taught at the elementary and secondary levels in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier and English Montreal School Boards. I have been an active member of several committees. I am the type of teacher that gives up his time to defend teachers’ concerns as chairperson of the teacher council and the school-level special needs committee, as well as represent teachers’ concerns on my school’s governing board. My place is in the classroom first.

**Mentoring**

I give back by teaching and mentoring student teachers from McGill and Bishop’s Universities.

**Union Experience**

I have participated on numerous local union committees, provincial QPAT committees, and at the Canadian Teachers’ Federation.

**Giving back**

I managed a non-profit that provided affordable housing to families in need for a decade in Montreal’s Hochelaga Maisonneuve. In addition I led a humanitarian health-education mission in sub-Saharan Africa which provided medical as well as educational assistance to people in need.

**My platform is clear: to represent your needs on the union’s executive.**

I am honoured to accept the nomination for Secretary on the Executive of QPAT. I am currently the Treasurer on the Executive of the Laurier Teachers’ Union Board of Directors.

Union renewal is one of my main concerns and I will continue to work towards providing teachers with a voice that demands to be heard as much as respected.

Once elected to the QPAT Executive, I will be an advocate for all teachers’ rights as well as ensure that the relevant and important questions are asked and answered, especially when it comes to how our union dues are managed.

I am asking for your vote, so that I can represent your voice – our profession.

Teacher First.

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Languages**

Fluent in English and French (written and spoken)  
Basic written and conversational Japanese

**Education**

- 2009 to 2016 : Doctorate in Education, McGill University
- 2006 to 2008 : Master of Education, McGill University
- 1999 to 2003 : Bachelor of Education, McGill University
- 1996 to 1998 : CEGEP Diploma, John Abbott College

**UNION COMMITTEES/VOLUNTEER WORK**

**Local Union**

- June 2003 to present : Union Delegate (7.5 yrs); Member of various Governing Boards (11 yrs); Teacher Councils (11 yrs); SWLSB’s Special Education Advisory Committee (10 yrs) and School-level Special Needs Committee (8 yrs).

**Provincial Union**

- September 2009 to present : Member, Human Rights and Social Justice, Nominations and Finance and Budget Committees (QPAT)

**Federal**

- November 2010 to August 2012 : Member, Advisory Committee on Diversity and Human Rights (Canadian Teachers’ Federation)

**International**

- June to August 2008 : Leader of Humanitarian Health/Education Mission Operation Crossroads Africa, Tanzania

**Community**

- June 2002 to September 2013 : President, non-profit *Coopérative l’Envolée*, Montreal, Quebec; Managed a budget of \$134,000 annually

## Professional Experience

August 2008 to present	Teacher (Resource/Spec. Ed.) Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, Rosemère, Quebec
April 2009 to present	Part-time Lecturer/Supervisor/T.A. McGill University, Montreal, Quebec
April 2009 to present	Part-time Lecturer Bishop's University, Sherbrooke, Quebec
August 2006 to September 2008	Teacher (Resource/History), Rosemère High School, Rosemère, Quebec
July 2003 to July 2004	Teacher (Resource/History), Marymount Academy, Montreal, Quebec
December 2001 to June 2003	Teacher (Resource/History), Mother Teresa Middle School (Sacred Heart), Laval, Quebec

## Plenary/Papers

Benoit, Brian. (2016). Schools as Artifacts: Critical Autoethnography and Teacher Renewal. *McGill Journal of Education*, 51(3) 1-22.

Benoit, Brian. "Social Justice and Education in Quebec." Spain Initiative for Critical Pedagogy [Conference], The University of Granada, Granada, 14 Nov. 2010.

Benoit, Brian (2009, March), Private Media Constructing the New Curriculum. Paper presented at the McGill Education Graduate Students Conference, Montreal, Quebec.

Benoit, Brian. "Improving All Students success in Quebec Schools." Baeza Conference for Critical Health and Well-being. [Conference], The University of Baeza, Baeza-Jaen, 17 Sep. 2009.

## International Conferences and School Visits/Teaching

October 2013	Transformative leadership, Valletta, Malta Founding member of Congress on Transformative Leadership
October 2012	Transformative leadership, Noto, Italy Founding member of Congress on Transformative Leadership
October 2010	Critical Pedagogy Conference, Korinthos Greece Participated in workshops advocating for social issues, and creating strong global network of academics engaged in critical cultural work.
November 2010	Spain Initiative, Granada Spain Participated in workshops discussing international education and social justice education.
April 2010	Crosscurrents Special Ed. Conference, Vancouver, BC Attended workshops pertaining to technology and resources available to resource and regular classroom teachers at secondary and primary.
March 2010	McGill EGSS Conference, Montreal, QC Presenter: "Private Media Constructing the New Curriculum"
September 2009	Spain Initiative, Baeza Spain Plenary Speaker: "Improving Student Success in Quebec Schools" International Conference for Critical Pedagogy.
January 2009	ICESI Conference, Vancouver, BC International Conference for school effectiveness and improvement. Met with policy makers, administrators, teachers, researchers and other stakeholders from various nations.
July to August 2008	Ndolage Primary School, Tanzania Provided assistance to the local community by engaging the students in educational exchange activities and presentations.
March 2008	Skals Efterskole, Denmark Visited School in order to exchange and study the Efterskole system.
October 2005	ESL Teachers' Conference, Hiroshima, Japan Facilitated and planned workshops with Japanese teachers developing more efficient ways of engaging students in Hiroshima's Municipal SB.
July 2004 and 2005	Peace Conference, Hiroshima University, Japan Engaged and discussed issues pertaining to peace education.



Brian Smeltzer

**NOMINATED BY:**

Peter Sutherland, MTA  
 Steven Le Sueur, RTU  
 Stephan Ethier, LTU  
 Nick Ross, CVTA  
 Heidi Yetman, PTU  
 Yves Lambert, CQTA  
 Daniel Robitaille, WQTA  
 Rafi Khan, WQTA  
 Phil Messier, WQTA  
 Heidi Hall, WQTA  
 Sydney MacLeod, WQTA  
 Michael Kirkham, WQTA  
 Kathlene Vibert, WQTA  
 Brenda Raymond, WQTA  
 Gillian O'Rourke, ESTA

I am the President of the Western Quebec Teachers' Association and have held the position of Secretary on the QPAT Executive for the past four years. I am asking for your continued support in the upcoming QPAT election for the position of Secretary.

I have worked as a syndical member since the age of 18. My career has led me through the Eastern Townships, the Abitibi and the Outaouais. At the Western Quebec Teachers' Association, I have held the executive positions of President, Chairperson, Treasurer, Secondary School Director and Communications Co-ordinator. As President of the WQTA, I represent members who span across an area of 90,000 square kilometres and spread over 155 municipalities. As a union president, one of my continued goals is to actively listen and meet the membership, hence my commitment to visit each of the schools and centres yearly.

Within the Western Quebec Teachers' Association and QPAT we are focused on union renewal. As a founding member of the New Teachers' Committee, we have focused on maintaining our collective strength by listening and responding to the needs of both new and seasoned teachers. I am determined to keep the pride in the teaching profession. I have continued to expand my knowledge and involvement in unionism and that is why I ask for your support in the upcoming QPAT election.

In the four years that I have served on the QPAT Executive and prior to that as a member on the QPAT Board of Directors, we have worked diligently in the protection of teachers' rights. This includes representing the QPAT membership at provincial and local mobilization events during the negotiations process. It is imperative that we continue the work we have started and focus on the areas that need improvement. The QPAT Executive has had a very good working relationship amongst all the local unions and as such the QPAT Executive has received input from all corners of the province. I believe that this cohesion and teamwork will prove essential in the years ahead.

On a personal note, I am married to a wonderful wife, Melissa, who is understanding and supportive. We have a young boy, Noah, who is on the autism spectrum and is in a regular classroom. My son has taught me many life lessons through his eyes. It is through him that I have gained extensive knowledge of the in-school Special Needs Committee, the Board Complimentary Services Committee and the SEAC. As such, I am able to provide the QPAT Executive with a different perspective as a parent, teacher and union president who sits on the Special Education Advisory Committee.

I look forward to meeting as many members as possible from across the province; to listen to and understand the needs of all teachers, as our roles continue to evolve. Our unions continue to face challenges daily but it is our united approach that allows us to find solutions when possible. It is with this focus and drive that I wish to continue on the QPAT Executive, in the role of Secretary.

It has been a pleasure to work with the other members of the QPAT Executive throughout the years and I hope, with your help, to continue the process. I believe that a good working relationship amongst all the local unions is essential for QPAT.

I thank you, as a teacher and as a syndical member, for your daily efforts and truly believe that we do make a difference every day. We are the one profession that creates all other professions.

Respectfully submitted;

Brian Smeltzer

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### Objective

To serve all the members of the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers with pride and integrity.

### Education

1989	Level 2 Coaching Certificate (Canadian Coaching Association)
1988-1989	Bishop's University Diploma in Education (Elementary and Secondary Qualified)
1987-1988	Bishop's University Bachelor of Business Administration (Human Resources)
1987	Level 1 Coaching Certificate (Canadian Coaching Association)
1983-1987	Bishop's University Bachelor of Arts, Mathematics; minor Business Administration

### Work Experience

July 2013 to present	President, Western Quebec Teachers' Association (WQTA) Gatineau, Quebec
1997-2013	Mathematics Teacher – Philemon Wright High School Gatineau, Quebec
1996-1997	Administrative Assistant (Vice Principal) and Mathematics Teacher – Percival High School Val d'Or, Quebec
1990-1996	Mathematics, Accounting, Personal Money Management, Physical Education, Moral Education, Business Law, Criminal and Civil Law Teacher – Percival High School Val d'Or, Quebec
1989-1990	Grades 1/2, Physical Education Teacher – A.D.S. Elementary Danville, Quebec
1986-1987	Teaching Assistant, Department of Mathematics – Bishop's University Lennoxville, Quebec

## Syndical Positions

---

2013 to present	President, Western Quebec Teachers' Association (WQTA) and Secretary for QPAT Executive and Board of Directors
2011-2013	Communications Co-ordinator – WQTA
2007-2011	Chairperson – WQTA
2005-2007	Secondary Director – Greater Hull Sector – WQTA
2003-2004	Treasurer – WQTA
1997-2003	WQTA Delegate, Philemon Wright High School
1993-1996	WQTA Northern Delegate, Percival High School

## Other Syndical Experience

---

WQTA Nominations Committee  
WQTA Educational Policies Committee  
WQTA Complementary Services Parity Committee  
WQTA Value Added Committee  
WQTA Professional Improvement Committee  
WQTA Labour Relations  
QPAT Board of Directors  
QPAT Provincial Council  
QPAT New Teachers' Committee

## School Experience

---

Philemon Wright High School – Governing Board Representative  
School Council Representative  
Mathematics Department Head

Percival High School – School Council representative  
English Sector – Department Head

## **ELECTION OF SECRETARY FOR 2018-2020**



Brian Benoit



Brian Smeltzer

**The vote will take place in schools and centres  
on Wednesday, April 25, 2018**