

Annie Smith St. Georges – Elder

Her teachings are based on respecting Mother Earth and all its creatures, spirituality and promoting harmony among each other. She also holds a teaching certificate from the University of Quebec and had worked for several years as a federal civil servant.

She is an outstanding events' coordinator and was featured in many documentaries regarding aboriginal culture and social issues. One of the documentaries she and her husband Robert (a Métis) were featured in "KWEKÀNAMAD" (The Wind is changing) was nominated in three aboriginal film festivals.

Blandine Soulmana

Blandine Soulmana has written six books and is highly sought after as a speaker, both in Quebec and elsewhere.

Her publications are also distributed in France, and she was a finalist for the Prix littéraire, resulting in several appearances on television and radio and numerous interviews in magazines and newspaper.

She doesn't just write a lot, she talks a lot, too!

Greg McGillis

Greg McGillis worked on his first campaign when he was 12 and has continued to be an activist in social justice and human rights issues ever since. An experienced and tested union leader and spokesperson, he has led strikes, large-scale protests, campaigns and coalitions for more than 30 years. He has worked in issue advocacy with groups as diverse as the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the Coalition Against Poverty, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), the International Joint Commission (IJC), the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) and the Canadian Teachers' (CTF) Federation.

Greg has written extensively on union and political issues over the last 25 years. Greg has held numerous positions in his Component (Government

Services Union), where he was a Regional Vice President, and in PSAC-NCR, where he previously held the position of Treasurer. He was Chair of the NCR Finance Committee, and a member of the PSAC-NCR Ottawa Area Council, Communications Committee, Education Committee and Members with Disabilities Action Committee. He was also a member of the GSU Communications Committee.

In 2002, OSSTF District 26 (where he was President) honoured him with the Gordie award for outstanding union career achievement. Following his term as President, Greg taught adult and alternative high school before starting a business as a freelance communications consultant. He joined the federal government in 2007 as a Public Affairs Advisor to the International Joint Commission and, later, acting Chief of Staff to the Canadian Chair, the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray. Most recently, Greg worked in the Strategic Change Office of Shared Services Canada.

Born in Cornwall's north end to a policeman and a nurse, he has a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, a Bachelor of Education in English, a Senior Honours Specialist in English Literature, a university-level Certificate in Business Administration and an Ontario Teaching Certificate. An accomplished singer and musician, Greg continues to play music in local venues as a soloist. He and his partner have five grown children.

Kim Thúy

Born in Saigon in 1968, Kim Thúy left Vietnam with the boat people at the age of 10 and settled with her family in Quebec. A graduate in translation and law, she has worked as a seamstress, interpreter, lawyer, restaurant owner and food commentator on radio and television. She lives in Montreal and devotes herself to writing.

In 2013, Kim Thúy was awarded the Paul-Gérin-Lajoie Award for Diversity by the organization ENSEMBLE for the respect of diversity. Kim Thúy has been appointed a Knight of the Ordre national du Québec.

In 2017, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Concordia University, for giving eloquent voice to the refugee experience, and the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly of Québec.

Kim Thúy has acted as a spokesperson for the Petit Robert dictionary since 2016 and will be honoured with her own entry in the 2018 Robert illustré illustrated edition.

Sharon DeSousa

PSAC Ontario members re-elected Sharon DeSousa as REVP for Ontario on May 28, 2017. Sharon was first elected in May of 2011 to represent PSAC's 30,000 members in the province. Sharon is the first racially visible member elected to the Alliance Executive Committee in PSAC's history.

Sharon was the alternate to the Regional Executive Vice-President from 2008 to 2011 as well as a representative for racially visible members on PSAC's Ontario Council. She was a member of the Program and Administrative Services Branch bargaining team in both 2008 and 2010.

In addition to her work on the Ontario Council, Sharon is an Alliance Facilitator, having delivered PSAC education courses on topics including union basics and employment equity. She is a graduate of PSAC's Union Development Program.

