

Montreal Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Promote Adult Education at a time of the climate crisis, a challenge of mobilization and innovation

Dear ICAE members and supporters,

With this letter, I ask for your support to allow me to be a regular member of the executive committee of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE). With the support of the Cooperation Institute for Adult Education (ICÉA), a founding member of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), I wish to be part of its executive committee to support the collective work of an organization that remains the only voice for adult education in the world.

Promoting the right to education, a commitment against the systemic crisis

Promoting the right to adult education today is a commitment against the discourse on performance that we too often find on education. If the inequalities between the richest and the vast majority of the population have never been so great, the increase in the capacities of young people and adults is necessary to meet the challenges of social and environmental upheavals. To engage collectively in ecological change, it is important to create the conditions for innovation, with the implementation of lifelong education.

A path of social engagement in education

I worked for 30 years in the world of education. As a teacher in a post-secondary technical program based on new digital technologies, I have published a comprehensive basic book. I learned to support not only the development of young people but also of adults, especially immigrant populations. By defending and promoting the rights of teachers, I got involved in labor relations and became president of a union federation of teachers in Quebec, affiliated with Education International.

Subsequently, I worked more directly in advocacy for adult education as executive director of the ICÉA. I led ICÉA during the ICAE World Assembly in 2015 in Montreal. During this professional career, I completed a master's degree at the School of International Development and Global Studies at the University of Ottawa and the University of Kassel in Germany.

Political and civic engagement

Being a member of the ICAE Executive Committee is not a professional success, but a new political commitment. The financial situation of ICAE is dramatic and goes hand in hand with the growing marginalization of the voice of the world of adult education.

The need to learn to cope with global systemic change is increasing worldwide. But defending the right to education of young people and adults comes up against neoliberal globalist, but also

populist and protectionist policies!

Obtain the means to mobilize and promote adult education

As a member of the ICAE finance committee, I plan to continue my commitment to help the Council open new avenues of funding and demonstrate the importance of its advocacy work. In this regard, we will have to make political choices taking into account the financial situation. Our choices will have to be guided by events that will allow us to mobilize members more broadly to act at transnational level and to build alliances to strengthen our ability to be heard on our content, especially on adult education. CONFINTÉA will undoubtedly be a great opportunity to join forces. To do this, we must put in place the means to promote our vision but to ensure the strengthening of our movement.

Currently retired from the world of education, I am not supported by an establishment or an institution, but I benefit from the political support of the ICÉA, but also from the North American organizations of the ICAE.