

International Francophone LGBTQI Network

Steering Committee

An international steering committee will be supporting Montréal International in creating this network. The committee will comprise seven people from Québec, Europe, the Maghreb and Sub-Saharan Africa, and work to develop vision and mission statements and key strategic directions. Moreover, it will propose a structural model, operating procedures and a programming direction that is consistent with the objectives that this new international non-governmental organization (INGO) sets out.

The steering committee members are:



Marie-Pier Boisvert
Montréal, Québec

Marie-Pier Boisvert (*she/her*) is the executive director of the *Conseil québécois LGBT* (Québec LGBT Council), a key reference for LGBTQ+ advocacy in Québec. In order to make sure all gender and sexual diversities are recognized, the CQ-LGBT endeavours to strengthen the rights that LGBT persons have acquired, and actively campaigns for the rights still denied to some. The Council also ensures that the province's policies and guidelines are aligned with the needs and realities of LGBTQ+ communities. Acting as a federation, the CQ-LGBT acts to unite the voices of its members, allocate resources, and promote the leadership, education work and creativity that they provide on a daily basis.

Through her work with the Council, Ms. Boisvert acts as a consultant for various Québec and Canadian government ministries and departments on gender and sexual diversity related issues. She is a co-researcher on the SAVIE-LGBTQ project of the Research Chair on Homophobia at the *Université du Québec à Montréal* (UQAM). She is also a board member of ILGA North America (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association). She sits on the City of Montréal's *Table sur la diversité, l'inclusion et la lutte contre les discriminations* (Roundtable on diversity, inclusion and fight against discrimination). She is often asked to join various scientific committees and panels, such as UQAM's *Jeunesse et Diversité sexuelle et de genre* (youth, sexual and gender diversity) symposium, the conference on LGBTQIA2S+ rights at Canada Pride (2017), the RQCALACS advisory council and the Dignity Network (2016). She was a trainer and speaker at GRIS Estrie and GRIS Montréal, and co-founded Sherbrooke Pride in 2013. She holds a master's degree in literature from the *Université de Sherbrooke*, and published her first novel, *Au 5e*, in 2017.



Laurent Breault

Montréal, Québec

Laurent Breault has been the executive director of Foundation Émergence since April 2017. Mr. Breault holds a master's degree in sociology from the *Université du Québec à Montréal* (UQAM) and a graduate degree in post-secondary education from the Université de Montréal. He is currently pursuing his studies in business administration at HEC-Montréal. He is also a member of the scientific committee to develop and execute scientific programming at UQAM's Research Chair on Homophobia.

In addition to his responsibilities administering the foundation's operations, Mr. Breault is equally responsible for its organizing work and rolling out of activities surrounding the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (May 17), a day that is now recognized by many countries, including several French-speaking countries and communities.



Line Chamberland

Montréal, Québec

Line Chamberland is a professor in the department of sexology at the *Université du Québec à Montréal* (UQAM) and holds the Research Chair on Homophobia at UQAM. As a sociologist, she is interested in the life experiences of gay and lesbian people. Early on in her career, her involvement as a researcher in various associations and community groups enabled her to forge fruitful partnerships with many social stakeholders. The quality of her expertise has earned her numerous research grants, including several in the following fields of study: homophobic and transphobic violence in schools and its impact on the academic success of young people; discrimination in the workplace; tailoring health and social services to meet the needs of sexual minorities and aging populations.

Ms. Chamberland is currently conducting the joint SAVIE-LGBTQ research project, subsidized by Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, as part of the Partnerships Program. This extensive interdisciplinary survey on social inclusion and exclusion of LGBTQ individuals across Québec will take seven years and bring together 21 university researchers, 33 field researchers and 48 partner organizations, including partners in France, Switzerland and Belgium. Ms. Chamberland's work is well regarded nationally and

internationally. Her input is often sought for scientific events aimed at students, researchers, community partners and policymakers.

In 2017, Line Chamberland co-chaired the scientific committee of the Equality & Legality International Conference on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Francophonie.



Arnaud Gauthier-Fawas

Paris, France

Arnaud Gauthier-Fawas is a Franco-Lebanese transgender-homosexual activist. After co-directing “GLUP” (*Groupe LGBT des Universités de Paris* – LGBT group for Paris universities) during the debate on marriage for all in France, he now is an administrator of Inter-LGBT. He also served in the past as one of its spokespersons. Inter-LGBT is the premiere umbrella organization in France, assembling over 60 LGBTQI groups throughout the country and acts as the main LGBT advocacy group; he oversees its International Relations division.

He is also co-secretary of ALGO, the association of LGBTQI+ employees of the French ministry of foreign affairs and, in 2016, he founded the first LGBTQI-friendly diplomatic network in Europe: Over 52 embassies came together to support LGBTQI+ human rights. He keeps a close watch on France’s commitment to defend LGBTQI+ persons in its embassies as well in international bodies.

In 2017, he was a member of the scientific committee of the Equality & Legality International Conference on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Francophonie, held in Montréal.

He holds a DEUG (diploma of general university studies) in law, and is also a professor of history/geography.



Esther-Léa Ledoux

Montréal, Québec

Born in France, Esther-Léa Ledoux immigrated to Canada in 2009. She holds a master’s degree in management science and has 15 years of experience in internal audit and performance audit. Ms. Ledoux works as a financial manager for global health projects at *the Unité de santé internationale* (USI – international health unit) that is affiliated to the Université de Montréal and the CHUM (Université de Montréal Health Centre).

As a human rights activist and defender, Ms. Ledoux advocates against racism, and for better representation and inclusion of African-Caribbean visible female minorities in society. She is a passionate and dedicated person who volunteers with the elderly and young people. Ms. Ledoux fell in love with community involvement at the Queer Prov troupe in Vancouver, where she had lived until 2012.

She moved to Montréal in 2013, where she quickly became involved with GRIS Montréal and the inclusive Église Saint-Pierre-Apôtre, where she has been volunteering since 2014. She has been a contributor to Lez Spread the Word, and treasurer of the *Centre de solidarité lesbienne* (lesbian solidarity centre) and then its president in 2017. Since 2015, she has been the community representative on the Board of Montréal Pride, becoming its first black board member. Ms. Ledoux is deeply committed to the issues of poverty, equality and justice.



Solange Musanganya

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Solange A. Musanganya is a Rwandan/Québec trans* woman and LGBTQI activist who has been living in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, for two years.

After co-founding the Montréal organization *Arc-en-ciel d'Afrique* (Africa Rainbow – 2004), she initiated the Festival Massimadi (2009), and was an activist with several LGBT organizations in Québec. She joined the effort to help rebuild Haiti after the 2010 earthquake with the *Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie* (2012). After that, Solange decided to go back to live in Africa.

She moved to Ivory Coast, and has become a consultant working with several local organizations. She is the program director at *Maison de la Culture des Diversités Humaines*, a non-profit organization that uses culture, art and sports to address homophobia and transphobia.



Frida Wahrania*

Oran, Algeria

Frida Wahrania is a young feminist activist for human rights, with a particular interest on issues related to the rights of women and LGBTQI+ persons. She is a member of Association Alouen, a group of activists advocating for the decriminalization of homosexuality in Algeria.

The 30 year old is a biologist by training and has a PhD in Environmental Science and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean. In her years as an activist, she has undergone high-level training on matters related to gender and sexuality with the United Nations, UN Women and the European Union. She is a member of the Pan Africa ILGA office for a second term, representing the North Africa region.

In May 2017, Frida Wahrania drafted the first alternative report on the issues of SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression) in Algeria for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) under the auspices of the United Nations Human Rights Council. She has also sat on the scientific committee of the Equality & Legality International Conference on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Francophonie, organized as part of Montréal Pride 2017.

Frida Wahrania works as regional assistant documenting and making the case for rights in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) at the regional INGO the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality (AFE).

*Due to the hostile state-sponsored homophobia prevailing in Algeria, Frida's true identity must remain confidential. For security purposes, she uses this alias.

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