



Name: **Clément Masse**

Local Number/USW District #: **Local 9700, President**

Employer, Job Title: **Aluminerie Bécancour Inc., Rio Tinto & Alcoa**

Years as USW Member: **17 years**

Hometown: **Bécancour**

#### **What is unusual about your hometown, place of work or job?**

It is a very industrial city. There's a provincial industrial park, with a port on the St. Lawrence River. That is what attracted a company like Alcoa. It is able to ship rapidly by boat to places throughout North America. ABI's arrival in 1986 was the impetus for the Industrial Park.

#### **What does this year's theme, "A Union That Works" mean to you?**

It is very reflective of the Steelworkers: they truly "get the job done." We saw it with the campaign in support of the workers arrested in connection with the Lac Mégantic tragedy, and also during the Alma lockout, with their international campaign. We also see it in our collective bargaining process. I feel that our negotiations with Alcoa are easier because they know we're members of the Steelworkers. We have power. The Steelworkers deliver the goods.

#### **What issues will be important when your Local's contract expires?**

We'll have to keep an eye on the pension plan. The Quebec government, with its recent legislation on pensions in the public sector, is setting a bad example. In Quebec, most of the unions have to fight just to maintain what the workers already have. We can see it coming. There will also be the challenge of replacing retired workers. Between now and 2020, 300 to 400 workers will retire. That means a lot of training. We will also have to think of the next generation of union activists. In fact, that's why one of our Local Union's mandates is to bring at least one young member to every convention.

#### **What is the most "political" thing you have done?**

I am involved in the Parti Québécois [political party in Quebec]. During the latest election campaign, I went around introducing my candidate to constituents in my area.

#### **What career option do you think Rob Ford should pursue?**

He could be Mayor of Quebec City. He reminds me of the current mayor [Régis Labeaume], who is on a crusade against pension plans. They are populists who say what people want to hear.

#### **Who would you prefer to have dinner with, and why: Hilary Clinton, Lady Gaga, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Will Smith, Richard Trumka or Jennifer Lawrence?**

I'd like to have dinner with Leo Gerard! Among the choices given, I would say Hilary Clinton. There is a chance she'll become the first female President of the United States.

#### **What's the best thing about the Convention so far?**

The best thing is meeting people from all over the world. The Convention is an opportunity for renewal. It drives motivation, and provides better arguments which we can then take back with us to the plant and use to convince people.

#### **What things do you hope to do while you're here?**

I would like to make some contacts. I'm going to the Rio Tinto meeting to make contacts with people who are all employed by the same company.

#### **Have you yet decided how you will put the convention to work when you return home?**

I liked the resolution on politics. Federal elections are just around the corner, and we're going to work on preventing Stephen Harper from being re-elected. Even though what we can do in Quebec is very limited ... There are people who support that type of politics, Harper has his voting base.

