

# Canada: A strategic perspective for uniting ecosocialists in Québec

Thursday 10 December 2020, by [RENAUD Benoit](#) (Date first published: 8 December 2020).

## **Newly formed 'Révolution écosocialiste' organization proposes a green, ecosocialist and democratic program for building a mass movement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

Ecosocialist activists in Québec have formed a new organization, **Révolution écosocialiste** (RE). *Climate & Capitalism* is pleased to publish our English translation of the group's Basis of Unity.

Interviewed by the magazine [Nouveaux Cahiers du Socialisme](#), Benoit Renaud explained that he and the other signatories felt that an earlier networking group, the Réseau écosocialiste founded in 2013, was no longer the activist organization they had originally envisaged, and instead functioned as little more than a "talk shop" (*lieu d'échange*). The new organization, he said, would succeed the Réseau, which will now be dissolved. "The mass mobilizations of recent years over climate change and the emergence of more radical groups within this movement (like Extinction Rebellion) indicate to us that the future of the struggle for socialism will probably unfold to a large degree through the political development of the ecology movement."

Asked about the new group's relation to Québec solidaire, Renaud said that while they thought the electoral and parliamentary action of QS was essential, it should be "subordinate to the development of social struggles." A mass ecosocialist party is needed, but whether QS could become such a party was an open question, he said. As a result of its electoral success, the party was becoming bureaucratized, a small minority of "political specialists" tending to substitute for the membership and to see themselves as the party leaders. Révolution écosocialiste would fight to get the party to adopt "horizontal, inclusive and participationist structures," and to help make QS more a "party of the streets," not just the ballot box.

It would also seek to radicalize the party's orientation, to make it a party of system change. "But we are not 'resolutionaries'. Révolution écosocialiste wants to build the movements that will enable us to overcome the present crisis of civilization."

In an accompanying article on "[a green, ecosocialist and democratic plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> century](#)," founding members Bernard Rioux and Roger Rashi critique the Legault government's "green economy plan" — "a smokescreen" — and outline their idea of "a green plan that opens the way to a fundamental transformation." It includes nationalization of the energy industry, socialization of the banks and financial institutions, and massive public investment in green, quality jobs.

The founding members have also published [proposals on the structures and functioning](#) of Révolution écosocialiste. They plan to hold general membership meetings "every two months or more often as needed." Among the proposed structures are an editorial committee to manage an RE web site, and an educational committee, each with at least four members elected on a gender-parity basis. As well there will be a women's caucus.

Révolution écosocialiste will be publicly launched on December 15; it can be contacted at

info ecocialisme.ca.

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**Benoit Renaud**  
**Nouveaux Cahiers Du Socialisme**  
**Richard Fidler**

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