

Fernand Daoust

Special Advisor to the President

Fernand Daoust studied economics and industrial relations in the social science faculty at Université de Montréal. In the early 1950s he joined the labour movement where he held various positions.

From 1969 to 1991, Mr. Daoust was General Secretary of the Québec Federation of Labour (QFL). He then became its president until 1993 and is currently honorary president of the central labour body.

As Special Advisor to the President, he is responsible for transferring knowledge regarding the Solidarity Fund QFL concept.

Mr. Daoust was appointed Secretary of the Solidarity Fund QFL when it was created in 1983 and remained in that capacity until 1994. He was then appointed Chairman of the board of directors, a position he held until 1996.

A member of the board of the Office de la langue française from February 1977 to October 2002 and of Université de Montréal from September 1995 to October 2003, Mr. Daoust also serves on the boards of the Fondation Lionel-Groulx, Déclit, the Office franco-québécois pour la Jeunesse, the Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie, and the Association de protection des épargnants et investisseurs du Québec.

Mr. Daoust was a Montreal Catholic School Board commissioner from July 1969 to June 1973, and a member of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation from 1967 to 1974 and the Conseil de planification et de développement du Québec until its dissolution in 1983. He also served on the boards of directors of the following organizations: the Institut national de productivité from June 1984 until its dissolution in summer 1986, and Université du Québec à Montréal from July 1984 to July 1990.

In December 1998, the Government of Québec honoured Mr. Daoust with one of the Prix du Québec, the Georges-Émile-Lapalme award, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the French cause in Québec. In November 1998, the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Montréal named him patriot of the year. Mr. Daoust has also been a member of the Ordre des francophones d'Amérique since 1994. In 1989, the Mouvement national des Québécoises et Québécois awarded him its silver medal for his service to the Québec cause. In June 2001, the Government of Québec named him Chevalier de l'ordre national du Québec.

Mr. Daoust served on the board of directors of the Institut de recherche appliquée sur le travail from its inception in 1972 until February 1994, the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre, from its creation in 1984 until February 1994, and the Société québécoise de développement de la main-d'oeuvre, from November 1992 to February 1994. He was also President of the Institut canadien d'éducation des adultes from 1973 to 1975 and a member of the Governor's Office of the Mouvement Qualité Québec.

Mr. Daoust is married to Ghyslaine Coallier (1956) and has two daughters, Marie-Josée and Isabelle.