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After undergraduate studies in Québec, Michel Fortin has obtained his Doctorat d'Etat in 1972 from the University of Paris. He made most of his career in Québec, with constant interaction with European and American colleagues.

He has been the director of GIREF (Groupe interdisciplinaire de recherche en éléments finis) and he currently pursues his research activities within this group. His present research interests are mesh adaptation methods for the Finite Element Method and contact problems in solid mechanics. He also pursues his previous work on Mixed Finite Element Method.