



The Association of McGill
University Support Employees

Le Syndicat des employé(e)s occasionnels
de l'Université McGill



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Statement by the AMUSE Board of Representatives regarding Quebec Tuition Hikes and Bill 78

The Board of Representatives of the Association of McGill University Support Employees (AMUSE) condemns the government of Quebec for its plans to increase tuition rates by 83% over 7 years. This represents an assault on the right of access to public education in the province. Thousands of students across Quebec, some of them AMUSE members, have been on strike since February. The AMUSE Board of Representatives stands in solidarity with those who demand free access to university education, and in solidarity with those who are fighting back against the Liberal government's attempts to increase fees on vital public services like health care, tuition, and hydro. The Board of Representatives recognizes the added economic strain that these rising user fees cause for its members and for other workers across Quebec.

Further, the AMUSE Board of Representatives strongly condemns the government of Quebec for its adoption of Bill 78. This bill, passed on May 18th, 2012, in response to over three months of strikes and demonstrations against tuition increases, requires any protest of over fifty people to provide eight hours advance notice to police authorities, who may alter the date, route, or duration at any point. It imposes additional restrictions on protests taking place on university property, and inflicts heavy fines on individuals, student associations, and labour unions that do not comply with the Bill's provisions. Instead of negotiating, the government has chosen to impose this law to attempt to control the daily demonstrations against its policies of austerity and attacks on Quebec's working class.

Bill 78 represents an intolerable infringement on the fundamental rights provided by both the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Charte québécoise des droits et libertés de la personne. The AMUSE Board of Representatives joins unions across Montreal and Quebec in calling for the immediate withdrawal of the Bill and the resignation of Quebec Premier Jean Charest. Additionally, as representatives of university-sector workers, we condemn the Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ) in particular for their support of Bill 78. We stand in solidarity with all individuals and associations contesting these measures in court and on the streets.

In solidarity,

The Board of Representatives of the Association of McGill University Support Employees

