



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

MOTION REGARDING THE ASSOCIATION OF MCGILL PROFESSORS OF LAW (AMPL) STRIKE

Submitted for: 2024-04-18

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-04-18-001
Moved by:	Jacob Shannon <i>Law Councillor</i>	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Lalia Katchelewa <i>VP University Affairs</i>		

Issue

The McGill Association of Professors of Law (AMPL) has announced that they will begin an unlimited strike as of April 24th, 2024, if a collective agreement is not concluded with McGill University before this date. The SSMU Legislative Council wishes to demonstrate their support for this important cause via a public statement distributed via listserv to the student body.

Background and Rationale

AMPL alleges that the McGill administration refuses to negotiate with the union in good faith which is a violation of their obligations as an employer (*QC Labour Code Art. 53*). The SSMU should support AMPL with a statement of support in favor of their strike for three reasons.

First, the McGill administration has advanced legally incorrect information about striking and protesting throughout the semester. This shows McGill's lack of good faith in managing legal forms of collective action, which include strike and protest. The SSMU must send a strong signal to McGill that the bargaining tactics used with collective employment groups on campus are illegal and unacceptable.

Second, the professors in the Faculty of Arts are also in the process of unionization. Related to the point above, right now is an essential moment to set the precedent that bad faith negotiation with McGill employees will



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face resistance from the SSMU membership. It is of note that AMPL has supported the strike of the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) in their own efforts to be recognized collectively.

Third, McGill is hosting the 2024 Congress of the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences on June 21st. Given that this is a congress mostly of professors and scholars, it is likely the congress would be moved if there is an ongoing professorial strike at McGill. The SSMU stands to lose reputation by its association to McGill through such a cancellation.

Alignment with Mission

The SSMU Mission and Policies support the rights of labor. The SSMU is committed to being a good faith and fair employer to its own employees. The SSMU should hold McGill to this same standard.

Consultations Completed

Consultations were completed with the SSMU Executive, the SSMU Legislative Council by email, the Law Student Association (LSA) Council, and the Association of McGill Professors in Law (AMPL). The LSA Council has already motioned a similar motion of support for the strike earlier this semester. The Policy and Advocacy Coordinator was consulted to ensure proper structure and formatting.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

There are no risk factors or implicated resources. This statement requires no funding. The Vice President of University Affairs does not believe this statement poses greater risk to the SSMU than previous statements.

Sustainability Considerations

The sustainability of labour is essential to the sustainability of Canadian society. There are no SSMU sustainability considerations in this motion.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If this motion is passed, the statement in Appendix A will be released to the SSMU membership via listserv from the Legislative Council email.



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Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that, if the Motion Regarding the Association of McGill Professors of Law is passed, the statement outlined in Appendix A be sent out to all SSMU membership via listserv from Legislative Council.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()

APPROVED



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Appendix A

The Students Society of McGill University (SSMU) Legislative Council writes this statement to express our support for the Association of McGill Professors in Law (AMPL) in the ongoing collective agreement negotiations with the University. The AMPL has announced an unlimited strike if a collective agreement cannot be reached with the university by April 24th. We regret that the university has failed to meet them in good faith negotiations as is their obligation as an employer under the *QC Labour Code (A. 54)*.

Professors play a central role in shaping the educational experience, and we appreciate the dedication and expertise they bring to our learning journey. We believe our professors when they say that the concerns they raise are integral to the overall well-being of the McGill academic community. We stand in solidarity with the Association in their pursuit of fair treatment and urge the University administration to engage in transparent and respectful negotiations to address their concerns promptly.

While we extend our support to the AMPL, we also acknowledge the potential impact of the strike on our membership. Disruptions to classes, examinations, and other academic activities pose challenges to students. We encourage both the university administration and the AMPL to communicate openly the progress of negotiations and any measures taken to minimize the impact on our education. Local Wellness Advisors (LWAs) can assist students with information on exam deferrals, mental health resources, and exam management advice. You can book an appointment with an LWA at this [link](#).

With this said, the SSMU understands that striking is an essential tool through which labor has established countless protections. We recognize the delicate balance that needs to be struck to ensure the well-being of McGill professors and the continuation of McGill's services. We urge all parties involved to engage in constructive dialogue and demonstrate their shared commitment to finding a resolution that serves the interests of both faculty and students. As stakeholders in our education, we believe in a fair and equitable resolution that upholds the values of our university.

In conclusion, we, the undersigned SSMU Legislative Council, support AMPL in their collective action. We stand in solidarity with their striking efforts.

Signed,
The SSMU Legislative Council