



“Those who do not move, do not notice their chains.”

- Emma Goldman

## Report to Legislative Council

December 1st, 2011

### For your information

#### **Community relations:**

- I met with Hélène last Friday. She was not impressed that SSMU still has not put out some information about community relations / being a good neighbour. This week, I will be working on a listserv message as well as blog-supported, simple campaign website. I will be including some simple myths and facts about Milton-Parc type information, information about fines, something about the history of the neighbourhood, etc.
- I met with Councillor Doyle from AUS about possibly organizing a joint SSMU/AUS/MPCC event in early to mid December. However because of time constraints, this event will happen in February.

#### **External affairs:**

- Press conference with Sherbrooke Student associations: This was a big success. We were quoted in about a dozen different media sources as saying Sherbrooke and McGill students have united to bring the strikes to an end.
- I attended ASSÉ's regional mobilization committee meeting last Thursday. November 10<sup>th</sup> was discussed at length, and many were curious to hear what had happened at McGill.
- External affairs committee meeting: we started drafting a letter to the Minister of Public Security regarding police presence on university campuses, as per our council mandate. I will be integrating recommendations made by Simon and circulating the letter to the External Affairs Committee today.
- HMB talk at the Sheraton hotel: I was present, along with VP Clare and President Knight. We witnessed about 10 MUNACA supporters interrupt HMB.

#### **Mobilization/campus affairs:**

- Legal:
  - o I was approached by ASSÉ's legal aid fund, which is seeking donations to cover the cost of providing legal support to people who have been arrested as part of their activist involvement in the movement against tuition hikes. Exec Committee approved allocating 1000\$ from our legal fees budget to a movement defense fund.



- It's worth noting that the fund is committed to defending any person arrested in relation to the student movement, regardless of their organizational or political affiliation.
- I have been in touch with McGill students who were arrested on November 10<sup>th</sup> and potentially facing deportation. I put them in touch with ASSÉ's legal committee, who had contacted me about linking them up with lawyers to defend them.
- Actions:
  - MUNACA:
    - MUNACA planned an "alternative convocation" for supporters outside the main convocation ceremony at Place des arts
    - Various campus associations organized a mass coffee handout to the MUNACA picket lines, to boost morale as much as possible as the days start to get colder.
  - Board of Governors
    - At the time I was writing this, a rally was planned outside the McGill Board of Governors meeting on Tuesday afternoon.
- Mobilization:
  - Lots of new students have gotten involved in campus activism since November 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - Initiatives that have surfaced recently: independent student inquiry into November 1<sup>0th</sup>, statement of solidarity with students brutalized for protesting tuition hikes at UC Berkeley, UC Davis and CUNY Baruch.
    - There was a bed-in in the Student Lounge two Mondays ago to strategize and share expectations about where various initiatives should be going.

#### **Other:**

- MUNACA message to students: should be sent out by now.
- Community Engagement Committee: is working on the idea of instituting a "Day of service" at McGill, which would free up a day in September to allow McGill folks to go out in the community for a day to help with projects.
- Finished drafting my executive job description.
- Attended Lease Committee meeting last Sunday.
- GA reform process: I worked on some amendments with Councillor Burnett, which we hope to submit today.



Students' Society of McGill University  
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs)  
Bureau du Vice-président (affaires externes)

### Upcoming

- Working on SSMU policy proposals re: international students (finally)
- Working on informational/reflection text for this weekend's TaCEQ and ASSÉ Coalition meetings (regarding November 10<sup>th</sup> and its aftermath). I will be in Sherbrooke on Saturday and Valleyfield (!) on Sunday.
- Message to students regarding community relations, and "Better neighbours" campaign website.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joël Pedneault* VP (External)