**“Walk the street with us into history.”**

* **Dolores Huerta**

**Report to Legislative Council**  November 17th, 2011

***For your information***

**Community relations:**

* I have been working on a listserv message to all undergraduate students regarding community relations. Noise and other disturbances caused by students in the neighbourhood east of campus are a perennial problem and some feel it would be a good idea to remind students of the virtues of being a good neighbour and of the fines for leaving trash out at the wrong time, public urination, etc. If you have any suggestions on how to frame this message, please contact me!

**Mobilization/campus affairs:**

* **November 10th demonstration against tuition hikes**
  + This particular event has taken up 90% of my time in the last two weeks.
    - It took a lot of work to get a contingent of McGill students a few hundred strong out to the march, which left McGill campus around 1 pm last Thursday. This report seems inordinately short compared to the amount of time I’ve worked in the past week, and this is due to the fact that much of my job has involved an infinite number of small yet significant tasks - getting material ready (flyers, banners), answering emails about logistics, updating social media, etc.
  + Following some coordination work which I was a part of, the McGill contingent was joined by Concordia students on the way to the main march, at the corner of Ste-Catherine and McGill College. Our joint contingent was later joined by people from Occupy Montreal (!), spontaneously to my knowledge. We were a few thousand strong! It’s worth noting that over a thousand MUNACA members were part of the march.
  + We merged with the rest of the march around 2 pm. The march was up to 30,000 people strong! It ended around 4 pm at the corner of McGill College and Sherbrooke.
  + People soon learnt that an occupation was taking place in the James Administration building, north of the demonstration.
  + As people gathered to learn what was happening, the police arrived, and eventually the riot police forced the protesters away from the James Administration building using pepper spray, tear gas, bicycles and batons.
  + Since the incidents occurred I have been fielding multiple interviews with campus and major media, including on CBC Daybreak and CTV.
  + Along with the rest of the executive, I helped draft SSMU’s statement on the events of November 10th.

**External affairs:**

* External Affairs Committee
  + Met last Friday: We split up the work of contacting faculty associations in advance of the November 10th march against tuition increases.
* Press conference with Sherbrooke student associations and PGSS: This happened this morning. Sherbrooke University is also affected by a support staff strike that has lasted since August (their libraries are only open a few hours a day!). The press conference aimed to remind our respective university administrations that they have the choice to pay support staff a decent wage, and to stop letting negotiations drag on.
* TaCEQ meeting:
  + There was a brief Skype meeting of TaCEQ on November 12th to debrief the November 10th march and plan the next steps in terms of mobilization. The events that took place on November 10th on McGill campus were briefly discussed.

**Other**

I have hired Amber Gross as Political Campaigns Coordinator. She has helped to work on mobilization around November 10th, and will be updating the tuitiontruth.ca website with information about last Thursday’s events and recent research about tuition hikes.

**Upcoming**

* This Sunday, I will start to work on policy proposals regarding international students, with the help of the external affairs committee and Simon. Expect big ideas!
* The Principal of McGill will be giving a talk on November 25th about McGill. Myself, Emily Clare and Maggie Knight will be there to take notes.
* Many students are still reeling from the shock of last Thursday’s actions, but are beginning to organize committees to respond to the administration’s and the police’s actions. I am considering contacting a lawyer to examine the possibility of organizing a class action lawsuit in relation to the events that took place on campus on November 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joël Pedneault* VP (External)