



CAWLS

ACETS



Canadian Association
for Work & Labour Studies

Association canadienne
d'études du travail et du syndicalisme

April 24, 2024

Re: Strike at McGill

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you as the executive of the Canadian Association of Work and Labour Studies (CAWLS), in full support of the Association of McGill Professors of Law (AMPL) in its current demand for a fair contract at the University. AMPL is the certified bargaining agent of the tenure-track and tenured faculty of McGill's Faculty of Law and have spent the past year and a half bargaining in good faith to reach a fair collective agreement. We find it shameful and outside of established academic labour relations that the University has decided to adopt an overly legal and adversarial approach to the union that is simply applying their constitutional rights to free collective bargaining. We stand in full solidarity with the AMPL strike, that has now begun. We hope that the strike puts the necessary pressure on the University so that negotiations can resume in good faith. However, recognizing that at this moment a strike is ongoing, CAWLS will have to make important decisions about our attendance at the annual conference at the Congress of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, which McGill is scheduled to host from June 12-21.

As was mentioned by the Canadian Law and Society Association in their open letter of 23 April 2024, CAWLS also had planned to hold its annual conference at the Congress of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. We have been regular attendees at Congress, and we routinely have multiple panels over several days, with well over 150 participants attending. Yet, if the University does not seek to address this strike mandate by refusing to return to the table and negotiate a good faith agreement, we will be forced to cancel our conference as we cannot in good conscience dream of crossing a picket line. As an organization, we have already organized a robust conference program and spent countless hours planning for the June event. It would be a shame to cancel our annual meeting, but we will not attend a conference at a university that is treating its academic staff so poorly. We encourage the University administration to return to the bargaining table and negotiate a good faith agreement with the AMPL.

Sincerely,

Charles Smith, President CAWLS

Thomas Collombat, CAWLS 2024 Program Chair

Charles Smith