



April 23, 2024

RE: possible strike at McGill

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you as the collective of the executive of the Canadian Law and Society Association (CLSA), in support of the Association of McGill Professors of Law (AMPL). AMPL is the certified bargaining agent of the tenure-track and tenured faculty of McGill's Faculty of Law and has been bargaining with the University now for more than 18 months. The University has adopted a litigious and adversarial approach to the union, challenging their right to exist through an application for judicial review of their certification, and refusing to bargain in good faith. Between April 9 and 11, AMPL held a strike vote in which more than 95% of colleagues participated and more than three-quarters voted to commence a strike of unlimited duration on 24 April 2024 if there is not an agreement in principle. We understand that McGill is scheduled to meet with AMPL today and we hope that the issues may be resolved. However, we must confront the reality that a strike may ensue.

CLSA is planning to hold its annual conference at McGill during Congress and significant work has already gone into organizing this event, with over 150 members scheduled to attend. However, if the University does not reach an agreement in principle with AMPL, the CLSA will be compelled either to cancel its June conference or to move it to an alternate venue. This would be most unfortunate and would be at considerable financial loss to our organization. We have sunk costs with Congress that cannot be recovered. Further, it would cause an inordinate amount of extra work for our organizing committee. Nonetheless, we must stand in solidarity with our colleagues. Under no circumstances can we cross a picket line. It should also be noted that such a change of venue/cancellation would bring enormous negative publicity to McGill.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Chambers, President

Dr Sarah Turnbull, Communications Officer



Philip J. Boyle, Treasurer



Dr. Irina Ceric, Board Member



Pierre Cloutier de Repentigny, Board Member



Bruce B. Ryder, Vice-President Membership



Palma Paciocco, Board Member



Joao Velloso, Vice-President Conference



Kelly Gallagher-Mackay, Secretary and Board Member