

May 1, 2024

RE: Possible strike at McGill

# SOCIETY FOR SOCIALIST STUDIES

To the McGill Board of Governors and the Board of Directors of the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences,

We are writing to you as the collective of the executive of the Society for Socialist Studies, 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. Our understanding is that McGill and AMPL are not scheduled to meet until June 7. As such, we must confront the reality that a strike may continue into the Congress period.

Socialist Studies is planning to hold its annual conference at McGill during Congress and significant work has already gone into organizing this event, with over 100 members scheduled to attend. However, if the University does not reach an agreement in principle with AMPL, Socialist Studies 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. Further, it would cause an inordinate amount of extra work for our organizing committee. Nonetheless, we must stand in solidarity with our colleagues.

The Society for Socialist Studies will look into alternative venues for our conference and encourage other associations to do the same, should AMPL remain in an active picket at the time of Congress. It should also be noted that such a change of venue/cancellation would bring enormous negative publicity to McGill.

Sincerely,

2023-2024 Executive of  
The Society for Socialist Studies