



**& THE STUDENT MOVEMENT:
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**



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MAKING HISTORY: In winter 2012 Concordia students made history by being the first anglophone institution in Quebec to have a general unlimited (open-ended) student strike. Francophone universities and CEGEPs have chosen to go on strike 9 times since the 1960s.

DIRECT DEMOCRACY : Concordia students voted at general assemblies of their departments and faculties to go on strike and also voted on how the strike would be enforced - including what kind of picket lines, how to treat labs and studio sessions, and whether to withhold assignments.

The associations on strike held general assemblies on a weekly basis to decide the continuation of the strike: any member had the right attend, discuss, debate and propose motions.

BUSINESS AS USUAL: Despite this unprecedented strike movement, Concordia administration adopted a policy of "business as usual" choosing to ignore and repress the movement. They hired more security contractors and in one instance a female student was assaulted by one of these guards. On March 23rd the administration released a letter encouraging the political profiling of students on strike.

REPRESSION: The results of the March 23rd letter were profound. Students took pictures of and videotaped other students, as did the security guards. Many students were charged under the university's Code of Rights and Responsibilities for their political activity and as of September 5th, 2012, many still have pending charges. **Overall Concordia spent almost \$250,000 on security during the strike.**

DIPLOMAS NOT EDUCATION: Despite the fact that some in departments 5 weeks of 13 week courses did not take place, Concordia pushed ahead with exam period as scheduled, making no accommodations for make-up classes. "The professors are in the best position to decide how to evaluate the courses," said then-President Lowy in his first dialogue with the students, 6 weeks into the strike and only two days before the exam period began.

RESULT: Course content was dropped. Exams were re-written and curved. Quality of education was compromised. Concordia got paid. Credits were awarded. Business as usual.

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES CONTINUE THIS FALL The student movement continues, and Concordia students are again coming together to democratically make decisions about their collective futures and the direction that education is taking in this province under the hand of neoliberalism.

For more information: FreeEducationMontreal.org | ConcordiaStudents.ca

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