

« 46 000 » étudiants débrayent aujourd'hui et descendent dans la rue

Presse Canadienne - MONTRÉAL

Le dégel des droits de scolarité, soutenu tant par le gouvernement libéral minoritaire que par l'opposition adéquate, est inacceptable, rappellent les étudiants, qui descendront aujourd'hui dans la rue pour rappeler que « la seule option acceptable, c'est la gratuité ».

Près d'une quinzaine d'associations étudiantes majoritairement associées à l'ASSE (Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante) ont accepté l'idée d'une levée de cours d'une journée. Selon les chiffres du groupe, environ 46 000 étudiants — 15 000 des universités, 30 000 des cégeps — ne se présenteront donc pas en classe ce jeudi.

On ne sait pas combien d'entre eux répondront à l'appel de l'ASSE et se rallieront au square Victoria, à Montréal, pour une manifestation « remplie d'actions-surprises et symboliques », comme l'a rappelé hier la porte-parole Évelyne-Élise Paquette. La manifestation, qui démarre en milieu d'après-midi, sera pacifique, « car nous avons invité parents et enfants à se joindre à nous », a-t-elle ajouté.

L'ASSE, qui milite depuis sa création pour la gratuité scolaire, profite de l'arrivée de ce gouvernement minoritaire libéral et d'une opposition fortement adéquate pour marteler son message. En campagne, les deux partis se sont montrés favorables à un dégel des droits de scolarité, les libéraux en ayant fait une proposition formelle, à raison de 50\$ par session; les adéquates ont ouvert quant à eux la porte à une indexation des droits, actuellement gelés au même niveau depuis 1994.

Le brasse-camarade politique des derniers jours a aussi fourni l'occasion hier à la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ) et à la Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec (FECQ) de partager leurs « grandes inquiétudes » face au sort réservé à l'éducation dans la formation politique actuelle.

« La composition libérale minoritaire et l'opposition adéquate créent beaucoup d'incertitude », a indiqué hier Étienne Hudon-Gagnon, président de la FECQ, qui précise que le « printemps sera un test » pour les trois partis.

Schools call for 'gently used' instruments

Donation program helps students receive a musical education

BY LORIANNE GARRISON

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is calling on residents to dig into their closets, cupboards and garages and donate musical instruments to needy schools.

The school board's Encore Instrument Donation Program accepts "gently" used instruments and gives them to schools in the Ottawa-Carleton district that do not have enough to go around. Dale Taylor, arts consultant for the school board, said many students cannot afford to rent or purchase their own instruments, and schools without enough cannot lend them out for students to practise.

"The Encore program has been highly beneficial to (my school) and my students," said Tom Heyerdahl, a music teacher at D. Roy Kennedy Public School, which received some of last year's collected in-

struments. "I have students from a range of backgrounds and many of them cannot afford to rent out instruments ... many students that I teach wouldn't have access to instruments (without the program)."

Having music programs in schools benefits his students by teaching them team work, self-discipline and self-control and helps instil self-confidence, Mr. Heyerdahl said.

The program collects the instruments and then checks them over to make sure they are in good working order.

Heather Flinn, a music teacher from Nepean High School and the person in charge of assessing the instruments, said some of what they receive require repairs, which a company, Musicare, supplies.

Ms. Flinn said the instruments go first to schools that serve a student body subject to social and economic disadvantages, which would make it



CHRIS MIKULA, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Music teacher Heather Flinn says instruments go first to schools whose students are disadvantaged.

more difficult for those students to afford their own instruments and lessons.

The program began on Monday and runs to April 5. The program is looking for a variety of instruments, but traditional

band instruments, such as trumpets, clarinets and flutes, as well as percussion and string instruments, are most in need.

Instruments can be dropped off at Mews Chevrolet, Southbank Dodge, Les Suites Hotel

Ottawa, the Ottawa Folklore Centre and the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board office on Greenbank Road.

"We could put them to good use," said Ms. Flinn. "It would be a big help to everyone."

Les jeunes sont encouragés à s'intéresser à des métiers spécialisés

*Le Droit
29 mars
2007*

Le Droit

Avril a été proclamé Mois des métiers spécialisés dans l'Est ontarien par les coordonnateurs des conseils scolaires, qui veulent encourager les jeunes du secondaire à faire un stage dans l'un des 130 métiers spécialisés et techniques où la demande est forte.

Qu'il s'agisse de plombiers, d'électriciens, de charpentiers ou de mécaniciens, il manquera environ un million de travailleurs spécialisés au Canada d'ici 2020, selon le Conference Board du Canada.

C'est pourquoi les conseils scolaires, par l'entremise du Programme d'apprentissage pour les jeunes de l'Ontario (PAJO), mis sur pied par la province, organisent une série d'activités en avril.

Le Conseil scolaire de l'Est de l'Ontario organise une trentaine d'activités d'exploration de carrière.

«Les travailleurs spécialisés jouent un rôle essentiel dans notre société et c'est à nous, parent, éducateurs et employeurs, de changer la perception des métiers spécialisés chez les jeunes Canadiens, leurs parents et d'autres intervenants clés», affirme Michael Scott, coordonnateur du PAJO au Conseil scolaire catholique du district d'Ottawa.



ARCHIVES, Le Droit

Sur cette photo d'archives, des élèves de l'Est ontarien apprennent les rudiments du métier de charpentier.

Le président du Centre de recherche et d'innovation d'Ottawa (OCRI), Jeffrey Dale, estime qu'il est aussi important, du point de vue économique, d'encourager les jeunes à se diriger vers les métiers.

«La pénurie devrait frapper plusieurs secteurs, dont la construction, les services de l'automobile ainsi que le secteur manufacturier et les services. Les employeurs locaux ont le devoir d'aider à trouver une

solution en offrant des possibilités de stages», a dit M. Dale.

PCL, l'une des plus grosses entreprises de construction au Canada, est parmi les entreprises qui accueillent des stagiaires dans les métiers. «PCL accepte des stagiaires dans tous les aspects de la gestion de la construction et emploie des apprentis au Canada et aux États-Unis», explique Dwight Brown, vice-président du district d'Ottawa chez PCL.

Ottawa Citizen 29-3-2007

Liberal MP defends his stand on language at Outaouais university

Critic says he spread
'disinformation'

BY DAVE ROGERS

Hull-Aylmer Liberal MP Marcel Proulx said yesterday the French-language rights group l'Impératif français was continuing a "campaign of disinformation" when it accused him recently of trying to anglicize the Université du Québec en Outaouais.

Mr. Proulx said the group's director, Jean-Paul Perreault, went too far when he condemned the MP for suggesting the university should offer graduate business courses in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

On Sunday, Mr. Perreault awarded Mr. Proulx a "lemon prize" at an annual Francofête dinner at Gatineau City Hall because of the MP's "repeated efforts to change the mission of the Université du Québec en Outaouais."

For the past three months, the university has been consulting students, professors and the public about a proposed language policy that would phase out English-language MBA and graduate project administration programs for about 400 of its 5,500 students.

The university administration is to decide on the future of its English-language programs in April.

See LANGUAGE on PAGE C6

Language: Compare test results

Continued from PAGE C1

Mr. Proulx submitted a paper to the university recommending that it continue its English-language business courses because they attract fee-paying students from China and Europe. He suggested the university add courses in languages such as Portuguese to serve students in the Outaouais and attract international students.

"It may seem strange that a federal politician would get involved in a provincial matter, but I feel very comfortable doing so because a few years ago, I supported the language technology research centre there," Mr. Proulx said. "I feel it is OK to defend international languages."

In his submission to the university, Mr. Proulx said it is a Quebec francophone institution and should proudly assert its identity while demonstrating openness to non-francophone communities by offering graduate courses in languages other than French.

Mr. Proulx said he is not attempting to anglicize the university. He said the university remains a French-language institution and as long as the courses are available in French, francophone students will have every opportunity to study in their native language.

"The university's English-speaking clientele accounts for five per cent of the student body, while the percentage of anglophones in the Outaouais is around 17 per cent," Mr. Perreault said. "The 95 per cent of adults attending programs in French make up the vast majority of students and are not in danger of assimilation."

"However, senior officials are advancing a new unilingual francophone identity excluding all other languages, no matter how relevant or indispensable, particularly to management disciplines. Such an orientation would be detrimental to the groups that it would exclude and it would be impossible to see any benefit for the people of the Outaouais or even for UQO itself."

Mr. Perreault has said he was shocked that a federal MP like Mr. Proulx would interfere with the Université du Québec en Outaouais, which is a provincial responsibility.

In an interview yesterday, Mr. Perreault said the university was created as a French-language institution and its main responsibility is to serve the francophone population in the Outaouais. He said Mr. Proulx's paper supporting the continuation of English-language courses shows the MP is trying to anglicize the university.

"This is certainly an effort to anglicize and bilingualize the university and its services. The language of work and of services at the university would have to be English in addition to French," Mr. Perreault said.

Francophones have less access than anglophones to university education in the national capital region, Mr. Perreault said. He said there are 100 more courses in English than in French in Ottawa-Gatineau.

As proof that francophones are educationally disadvantaged, Mr. Perreault said Statistics Canada figures show that 43 per cent of Quebec anglophones fail standard literacy and numeracy tests, compared with 55 per cent of francophones.

Boys expelled for sending nasty e-mails

Unanimous decision means pair will have to re-apply for next year

BY TONY LOFARO

Two Grade 8 Aylmer students were expelled by the Western Quebec School Board Tuesday night for sending nasty, offensive e-mails to teachers and the principal of their high school.

At its Council of Commissioners meeting, board members voted unanimously to expel Kailin Noivo, 13, and another 13-year-old student for the remainder of the school year. Several weeks ago, the students sent several graphic e-mails filled with obscenities directed at the educators at Symmes Junior High School, in the Aylmer sector of Gatineau.

In one of the e-mails, a teacher is singled out for her "fat ass" and told she should get her tummy stapled.

The second expelled student has not been identified, but is a friend of Kailin's.

"I'm outraged," said Danny Noivo, Kailin's father, after learning about the board's decision, which was released to the media yesterday morning.

"These two thirteen year-old boys' future is being destroyed over a couple of insulting e-mails. The punishment does not fit the crime.

"These boys did not threaten anybody, they did not make any references of threat, threaten to blow up the school or hurt anybody. They just made very derogatory, insulting e-mails," he said.

The board decision came after it suspended the two students almost three weeks ago when the identities of the persons who sent the e-mails anonymously were discovered.

"The action to expel was taken because e-mails sent to staff were vulgar, abusive, demeaning, and served to undermine both the credibility and authority of some very dedicated people. The actions of these students were not committed in the heat of the moment, but contrived and deliberately calculated over a period of time," reads the decision, signed by Mike Dawson, director-general of the Western Quebec School Board.

Mr. Dawson declined to answer questions yesterday, saying he could not add anything to what was contained in the statement. According to the statement, the students "will be supplied with the necessary course materials and books to prepare for final examinations, which they are permitted to write."

Mr. Noivo believes the decision means the students will not be able to attend any school in the jurisdiction of the Western Quebec School Board and they must re-apply for admission to the junior high school this summer, prior to the start

of the new school year.

"They have to re-apply and it's all up to the board discretion (to be re-admitted). So, they could be denied to start school in September," said Mr. Noivo.

He said the punishment is far too severe, adding his son is being "crucified" for the offensive e-mails, which he acknowledged, were distasteful and should not have been sent out.

He said he plans to appeal the board's decision as soon as possible.

"But I'm not holding my breath they'll reverse it," said Mr. Noivo, adding he's writing a letter to the board this week.

He said he's also seeking help from Liberal MNA Charlotte L'Ecuyer — who was re-elected in Monday's Quebec provincial election. He said he's also considering sending his son to a high school outside of Montreal, where his brother lives, so his son does not lose the school year.

He said his son was devastated by the decision and is not eating properly or sleeping because of the board's decision not to allow him back to school.

"He's quite bad. I have to take him to a psychologist because this is starting to affect his health. He's walking around like a zombie because he doesn't sleep well and he's getting up at all hours of the night," said Mr. Noivo.

He said his son is finding it hard to understand why he is being harshly punished by the school board.

He said his son should pay for his actions, but the board could have sent him to another school rather than expelling him from all schools that come under the Western Quebec School Board.

"Expel him from the school, that I can live with, but not from the entire school board," he said.



CHRIS MIKULA, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Danny Noivo believes a suspension for 13-year-old Kailin and his friend is a punishment that does not fit the crime.