

Solidarity against by-law P-6 and police repression in Montreal

Whereas freedom of expression and assembly are protected by both the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, part of the Canadian constitution, and the *Quebec Charter of human rights and freedoms*, and “this protection extends to the right to one’s image and to the right to anonymity;”ⁱ

Whereas the Canadian Civil Liberties Associationⁱⁱ, the Association des juristes progressistesⁱⁱⁱ and the municipal party Projet Montreal^{iv} have all publicly condemned Municipal By-law P-6^v and the way it is being enforced as an infringement upon these rights;

Whereas the EGSS passed a motion on January 28th 2013 denouncing McGill University senior administrations’ protocol and all operational procedures intended to restrict McGill community members’ rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association on campus;

Whereas this spring upwards of one thousand demonstrators, the majority of them students and academics, have been kettled at demonstrations, arrested and/or detained and given \$637 tickets under By-law P-6;

Whereas the UN Human Rights Commission has repeatedly criticized the SPVM tactic of mass arrests through “kettling” as a violation of the right to freedom of expression;^{vi}

Whereas on April 23rd Montreal City Council voted to maintain the anti-protest By-law P-6 with Mayor Applebaum arguing that the police are responsible for “judging when [P-6] should be implemented, and how;”^{vii}

Whereas the SPVM is known for racial and political profiling and brutality;

Resolved, the Council of the Education Graduate Students’ Society denounces By-law P-6 and stands in solidarity with the Coalition Contre P-6^{viii} and La Convergence les luttes anticapitalistes (“Solidarity against police repression in Montreal: We will not submit to the municipal by-law P-6”).^{ix}

ⁱ Olivier Roy, criminal lawyer; Sibel Ataogul, labour lawyer and president of the Association of Progressive Jurists; Finn Makela, lawyer, law professor and Director of the common law and transnational law programs at the University of Sherbrooke (2013, April 7). “I Wasn’t Born a Panda, but I Have the Right to Become One! P-6 and the Right to Anonymity.” Available at: http://ajpquebec.org/?p=538#_ftn11

ⁱⁱ <http://ccla.org/2013/04/04/mass-arrests-under-montreal-bylaw-must-stop/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://ajpquebec.org/?p=500>

^{iv} <http://projetmontreal.org/communiqués/projet-montreal-demandera-au-conseil-de-ville-de-montreal-dabroger-le-reglement-p-6/>

v <http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/sel/sypre-consultation/afficherpdf?idDoc=23796&typeDoc=1>

vi Ethan Cox (2013, March 23) “‘There is no right to protest’: Montreal Police Deny Charter Rights.” *Rabble*, <http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/ethan-cox/2013/03/there-no-right-protest-montreal-police-deny-charter-rights>

vii Carla Green (2013, April 23). “Motion against bylaw P-6 fails: Protesters rally against P-6 at City Hall.” *McGill Daily*, <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2013/04/protesters-rally-against-p-6-at-city-hall/>

viii <http://ajpquebec.org/?p=551>

ix <http://www.clac-montreal.net/en/against-P6>