

Press Release 21 Feb 2013

MAUT-initiated McGill community statement against the government budget cuts, uniting MAUT, SSMU, PGSS, MUNACA, MUNASA, SEIU, and the Principal:

JOINT STATEMENT

A university is a living community of students, professors, librarians, support staff, and administrators whose collective work drives the research and teaching activities that develop new knowledge and deploy existing knowledge. Knowledge of the human and natural world has been critical in achieving material and social advances over the centuries. The contributions of universities have been and will continue to be of enormous benefit to society. On December 6, 2012 and February 8, 2013, the government of Quebec unexpectedly announced budget cuts to its university system of \$124 M within the current (2012-13) fiscal year, and a similar cut to follow in the 2013-14 year. These cuts are sudden, severe, and dangerous. They are a real threat to the health of our university system and the future well-being of Quebec society.

We call on the government of Quebec to reverse these dangerous cuts and we appeal to Quebec society as a whole to join together to protect and sustain the universities as a key resource for the future health and prosperity of our society.

Alvin Shrier, President, McGill Association of University Teachers

Josh Redel, President, Students' Society of McGill University

Jonathan Mooney, Secretary-General, Post-Graduate Students' Society

Ron Critchley, President, McGill University Non-Academic Staff Association

Kevin Whittaker, President, McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association

Robert Huot, President, Trades union, Service Employees International Union

Heather Munroe-Blum, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, McGill University