

# SUPERIOR COURT

CANADA  
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC  
DISTRICT OF MONTREAL

N° : 500-17-133705-254

DATE : April 15, 2025

---

**BY THE HONOURABLE DAVID R. COLLIER, J.S.C.**

---

**MCGILL UNIVERSITY**  
Plaintiff

v.

**STUDENTS FOR PALESTINE'S HONOUR AND RESISTANCE MCGILL**  
Defendant

and

**STUDENTS' SOCIETY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY**  
Mis en cause

---

JUDGMENT  
ORIGINATING APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PROVISIONAL,  
INTERLOCUTORY AND PERMANENT ORDERS OF INJUNCTION

---

[1] McGill seeks the issuance of a provisional interlocutory injunction, to take immediate effect and be in place for a maximum of ten days, in order to restore a climate of security on its campus. Commencing on April 2 last, a three-day student strike on McGill's campus led to violent clashes, the blockading of buildings, the

disruption and cancelling of classes, and acts of vandalism and intimidation directed against the University's administration, students, professors and staff.

[2] While recognizing that its students have the right to strike and peacefully protest, McGill asserts that the defendant, Students for Palestine's Honour and Resistance McGill (SPHR), is behind the acts of vandalism, obstruction and intimidation, and is likely to cause more disruption, since SPHR has publicly vowed there will be "no business or classes as usual" until McGill divests itself of investments linked to Israel.

[3] Classes are about to end at McGill and exams begin on April 14. McGill describes this as a critical period during which no disruptions can be tolerated. Given upcoming exams, and SPHR's pattern of disruption and intimidation over the last several months, McGill argues that it urgently needs a Court order to restore a sense of calm and security on its campus.

[4] SPHR is an amorphous group of anonymous individuals that calls for student action against McGill on its Instagram page. Protestors appearing on the McGill campus, some of whom are masked, have displayed banners espousing SPHR's message of disruptive protest.<sup>1</sup> SPHR's Instagram posts encourage civil disobedience and claim victory when McGill buildings are blockaded and classes are cancelled.<sup>2</sup>

[5] Student protests linked to the situation in Palestine have been ongoing since February 2024, when protesters blockaded the Bronfman building (Faculty of Management) and classes had to be moved online. In March 2024 protesters blocked the entrances to McGill's faculties of Education, Management and Engineering. Between April and July 2024, a student encampment was set up on McGill's lower campus.<sup>3</sup> In May 2024 protesters demonstrated in front of the home of a McGill administrator and left intimidating messages at the homes of other administrators. In June 2024 SPHR announced a "Revolutionary Youth Summer Program" to be held on McGill's lower campus, with an Instagram picture showing masked individuals holding assault rifles. Also in June, protesters barricaded themselves in the James Building, causing extensive damage to property and leading to thirteen arrests by the police. On July 5, protesters vandalised several other McGill buildings, shattering glass and plastering buildings with posters and paint. SPHR posted photos of the destruction on its Instagram page, with the summons to "Escalate the Student Intifada".<sup>4</sup> In September 2024 SPHR blockaded five McGill classrooms.

---

<sup>1</sup> A banner carried by protestors on the second day of the strike stated, "No classes until divestment".

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit P-11.

<sup>3</sup> McGill's application for a provisional injunction seeking to dismantle the student encampment was denied by the Court on the grounds that there was no urgency, since the University had found another location for its spring convocation ceremony typically held on the lower campus: *McGill University c Association McGillienne des professeur.e.s. de droit (AMPD)/ Association of McGill Professors of Law (AMPL)*, 2024 QCCS 1761.

<sup>4</sup> Exhibit P-22.

[6] In October 2024 McGill obtained a provisional injunction to prevent campus unrest and property damage during SPHR's announced "Week of Rage" held to commemorate the anniversary of the Hamas attack.<sup>5</sup> The injunction was not renewed ten days later when the Court concluded that the week of protest had passed without incident and there was no further imminent threat to the University.<sup>6</sup>

[7] Violent protests have nevertheless continued at McGill. On the evening of February 5, 2025, approximately 40 individuals moved across McGill's lower campus smashing the windows of five buildings with stones, bricks and hammers, spreading fear and alarm amongst students and faculty.

[8] During the student strike held two weeks ago in support of Palestine, windows were once again smashed, buildings were splattered with paint, and classrooms were blockaded or invaded by protesters. Protesters threw a fire extinguisher with red paint through a glass office door, spraying a McGill staff member. Strike organizers called for professors who continued to hold classes to be named and shamed, clearly trying to intimidate them.

[9] The Students' Society condemned the "violent altercations" during the strike and decried the university community's failure to ensure that the McGill campus "is a place where we can all feel safe to learn and express our views [...]".<sup>7</sup>

[10] Recent events at McGill calling for divestment by the University have shown that student protests result in violence and intimidation. McGill reasonably asserts that a climate of fear and insecurity permeates its campus. This climate of insecurity, and the likelihood of future violence encouraged by SPHR, require the urgent intervention of the Court.

[11] In the Court's view, the criteria for the issuance of a provisional injunction are satisfied. It is urgent to restore calm and a sense of security on the McGill campus. McGill has a clear right to an order that allows it to carry out its academic activities without obstruction. McGill is entitled to the protection of its property. Serious or irreparable injury will be caused to McGill and others if classes and exams are disrupted or cancelled. Irreparable harm is being caused to everyone at McGill who cannot teach or speak freely without fear of violence and intimidation.

[12] Since the order requested will not prevent peaceful protest at McGill, the balance of convenience favours the issuance of the injunction.

---

<sup>5</sup> *McGill University v Students for Palestine's Honour and Resistance McGill*, 2024 QCCS 3671.

<sup>6</sup> *McGill University v Students for Palestine's Honour and Resistance McGill*, 2024 QCCS 3857.

<sup>7</sup> Exhibit P-33.

[13] Violence, intimidation and the destruction of property cannot be tolerated in this country, least of all at our universities, whose very mission is to foster learning and the expression of opinion through peaceful, respectful dialogue.

[14] McGill's proposed injunction is broad in scope, since it is directed not only to the defendant SPHR, but also to any person having knowledge of, or having received service of, the present judgment. McGill is requesting, moreover, that the Students' Society and SPHR be compelled to publish the Court's judgment on their social media pages, to extend its public distribution as widely as possible. These measures are necessary given that SPHR's representatives and members cannot be identified.

[15] Understandably, the broad scope of McGill's requested injunction is of concern to groups, such as teaching staff and employees at McGill who wish to protect their rights of association and expression on McGill's premises. Four such groups have announced their intention to intervene in the present case.

[16] Although a provisional ten-day injunction is subject to renewal, it is not an end in itself. The parties are requested to prepare their cases as quickly as possible, either to proceed to the interlocutory stage, or directly to the merits. If requested, the undersigned will assist by holding a case management conference in the next two weeks.

#### **FOR THESE REASONS, THE COURT:**

[17] **GRANTS** the Originating Application for the Issuance of Provisional, Interlocutory and Permanent Orders of Injunction at the provisional stage;

[18] **ISSUES** a provisional injunction to remain in force for ten (10) days following the date of the present judgment;

[19] **ORDERS** the defendant Students for Palestine's Honour and Resistance, as well as any person having knowledge of or having received service of the present judgment to **CEASE, DESIST** and **REFRAIN** from blocking or otherwise obstructing, in whole or in part, the entrance or exits to any buildings, paths, streets, or walkways on McGill University's lower campus, being the area bounded by Sherbrooke Street to the south, Peel Street to the west, Pine Avenue to the north, and University Street to the east ("Lower Campus"), as well as any buildings identified as being used for McGill's operations, including but not limited to offices, classrooms and research labs;

[20] **ORDERS** the defendant Students for Palestine's Honour and Resistance, as well as any person having knowledge of or having received service of the present judgment to **CEASE, DESIST** and **REFRAIN** from engaging in protest activities within five (5) metres of any building on Lower Campus, as well as any building identified as being used for McGill's operations, including but not limited to offices, classrooms and

research labs, with “protest activities” being understood as, but not limited to, blocking or otherwise obstructing access to buildings or areas, setting up tents or structures, or making excessive noise;

[21] **ORDERS** the defendant Students for Palestine’s Honour and Resistance, as well as any person having knowledge of or having received service of the present judgment to **CEASE, DESIST** and **REFRAIN** from intimidating, harassing or threatening any student, employee, representative contractor or visitor of McGill while they attempt to enter or exit any building on Lower Campus, as well as any buildings identified as being used for McGill’s operations, including but not limited to offices, classrooms and research labs;

[22] **ORDERS** the defendant Students for Palestine’s Honour and Resistance, as well as any person having knowledge of or having received service of the present judgment to **CEASE, DESIST** and **REFRAIN** from intimidating, harassing or threatening any identifiable student, employee or representative of McGill because said student, employee or representative is personally associated with the McGill policies that are objected to by the defendant;

[23] **ORDERS** the defendant Students for Palestine’s Honour and Resistance, as well as any person having knowledge of or having received service of the present judgment to **CEASE, DESIST** and **REFRAIN** from acting in a manner that obstructs the delivery or performance of organized academic activity, whether inside or outside a building on Lower Campus, as well as any building identified as being used for McGill’s operations, including but not limited to offices, classrooms and research labs;

[24] **ORDERS** the defendant Students for Palestine’s Honour and Resistance and the mise-en-cause Students’ Society of McGill University, within 24 hours of being served with the present judgment, to **PUBLISH** the judgment on their Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and “X” social media pages;

[25] **DISPENSES** the plaintiff McGill from furnishing suretyship;

[26] **AUTHORIZES** the present judgment to be served any time, including between 9:00 pm and 7:00 am and on a holiday;

[27] **AUTHORIZES** the plaintiff McGill to serve the present judgment on the defendant Students for Palestine’s Honour and Resistance by electronic message to its Instagram account, its Facebook account, or by email to [mcgillsphr@gmail.com](mailto:mcgillsphr@gmail.com);

[28] **ORDERS** the provisional execution of the present judgment notwithstanding appeal;

[29] **THE WHOLE** with costs against the defendant.

---

DAVID R. COLLIER, J.S.C.

Mtre David Grossman  
Mtre Marianne Goyette  
IMK S.E.N.C.R.L./LLP  
Counsel for the plaintiff McGill University

Mtre Sibel Ataogul  
Mtre Clarisse Émond-Larochelle  
MELANÇON MARCEAU GRENIER COHEN  
Counsel for the mise-en-cause Students' Society of McGill University and the proposed  
Intervenor AMPFA

Mtre Pierre-Luc Bouchard  
Counsel for the proposed Intervenor MUS, AMURE and AGSEU

Hearing date : April 10, 2025

Note au lecteur: La traduction française de ce jugement a été demandée le 14 avril 2025. Vu le délai annoncé pour sa livraison, le Tribunal estime que de retarder la signature du présent jugement dans l'attente de la version traduite causerait une injustice ou un inconvénient grave aux parties au litige.  
La traduction suivra.