

MUNASA at the National Assembly



Sunday, October 4, 2009

On Tuesday, September 29th, MUNASA appeared before the Commission de la culture et de l'éducation of the Quebec National Assembly to explain our objections to the proposed Bill 38, the "Loi modifiant la Loi sur les établissements d'enseignement de niveau universitaire et la Loi sur l'Université du Québec en matière de gouvernance". This historic intervention by MUNASA was done jointly with the McGill University Association of Teachers (MAUT) to protect the rights of Faculty and Staff to have a voice in the governance of McGill University. Presentations to the Commission are by invitation only and MUNASA's President, Ron Critchley, was instrumental in lobbying all three parties of the National Assembly to hear McGill employees speak to what would potentially silence us at the highest level of McGill Governance.

The entire one hour presentation and discussion between MUNASA, MAUT, The Minister of Sports, Education and Leisure, the opposition member for Higher Education, and the ADQ representative for Higher Education. The exchange is available as a video file for viewing or download on the National Assembly web site at:

<http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fra/travaux/Debats/banquevideo/cce/gouvernanceenseignement.html>

Also appearing at the National Assembly Commission yesterday was Principal Munroe-Blum leading the delegation from CREPUQ, Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec. The video of CREPUQ's presentation is available from the same website.

Although McGill's Principal was limited by her position representing all Quebec Universities, the President of MAUT, Prof. Richard Janda, was able to directly address the issue of collegiality which was clearly a concern for all of the MNAs including the Minister for Education, Mme

Courchesne. Prof. Janda was able to explain the interaction of Senate with McGill's Board of Governors and Senate's role in the establishment of the academic programme and the adoption of appropriate performance indicators. The minister recognized that McGill is unique amongst Quebec universities in that it is the only university in which the professors are not unionized. Prof. Janda proudly noted that McGill's Principal is a member of MAUT.

The MUNASA Executive Committee takes great pride in Ron Critchley's success in obtaining an invitation to present to the commission and in his coordination with the President of MAUT to present argumentation that both supported the interests of McGill employees and resonated in the consciousness of the members of the National Assembly's Commission on Culture and Education.

The MUNASA Executive Committee