



General Assembly

October 6

6:30 PM (Dinner at 5:30 in the Staff Cafeteria) RSVP ext. 7050

## Optimisation Plan

Does an "Optimisation plan" (rationalization of courses) seem like a good idea? Or do we need to be worried? The Federation of cegeps (a group made up of DG's and Academic Deans from all of the cegeps) is looking into merging technical courses in different programs to cut the number of sections offered in the different cegeps. They are currently doing studies to find similarities between courses to justify more "generic" courses that could be used in several programs with similar competencies, including some which are offered at Vanier.

The problem is that this plan is being run not by the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation which is usually the case with studies in our colleges but by the Secteur de la formation professionnelle et technique et de la formation continue of the professional and technical training group, a group more closely tied to short term needs of the job market. Nor does there seem to be any provision for formal consultation either with the program concerned or with Academic Council which by law must be consulted.

Local unions are asked to keep an eye on this situation and Fneeq is trying to get the Minister to revive the Provincial Discipline and Program Committees. We will be sending out more detailed information to programs which could be affected.

## Meeting on the Functions of Department

There will be a meeting to discuss the role and responsibilities of departments on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 10:30 a.m. There will be more details regarding this meeting in the weeks to come.

## Tuition Increases

At the last Regroupment cegep, Léo Bureau-Blouin, the President of FECQ (**Quebec College Students' Federation**) asked us to support their fight against the increase in university tuition fees. All of the various Quebec student federations have banded together in this struggle against the plans of the Charest government.

One interesting point he emphasized is that there is a correlation between the rise in tuition and the demographics of enrolment in university. One major consequence of increased tuition fees is that students coming from middle class families, like our children, will be more affected because they won't be eligible for loans and bursaries and their parents may not be able to pay for them. The situation is very dramatic in some departments of universities. In medicine, for example, there are so many applicants that quotas will continue to apply. However, it may not be the best students who get accepted because they may not have the money to apply. Will this build the health care system that we want to create for the future?

So the student federation is asking teachers, to NOT put any graded assignments due on November 10<sup>th</sup>, the date of the big demonstration to be held in Montréal. Locally, our Association Council has passed the following motion:

***"The VCTA Association Council encourages teachers to refrain from scheduling any graded assessment on Nov. 10, 2011 so that students will have the opportunity to attend the province wide student demonstration."***

And teachers are invited to attend the demonstration to show solidarity with our students (time and place to follow). So So So Solidarité!

## Early Childhood Education

Are the Early Childhood Education programs only for pre-school daycare? ECE can also train workers for after school daycares. In these daycares, the mostly female workers are with our children in the morning before class, during lunch and in the afternoon, after their school day is over until their working parents can come to pick them up.

The position of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, Fneeq and the CSN is that the educators need more education – not less- to give quality services to our children. But the school board employers would rather see educators with an attestation of professional training so that the mainly female educators can continue to get low wages. Since studies show that quality early childhood education is crucial for children, we have to fight for good, quality education at this level which means more education for the workers and paying them decent salaries. After all, our children are our future.

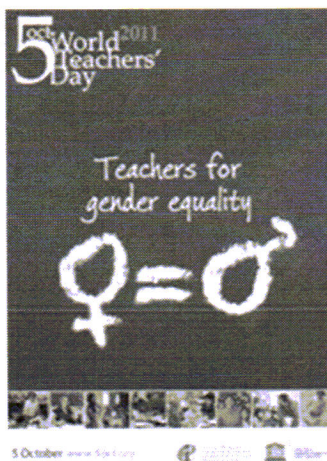
## World Teachers' Day

October 5, 2011

Come have bagels and cream cheese with us.

C-101 – 10-12 a.m

N-Building Lounge – 8:30-10:00



## Employee Assistance Program

The College's Employee Assistance Plan makes counselling by professional psychologists available to every eligible employee or immediate family member living at home. There is a very wide range of reasons for which individuals may decide to consult this service including substance abuse, addictions, personal, family or relationship difficulties, burnout, and eating disorders.

The first five visits are without charge to the employee. The service is offered through Groupe Santé Physimed, which maintains complete confidentiality for the users. One may contact the service by calling the following number, 24 hours a day: 1-800-667-2683.

One may also call, during business hours, 747-8888