

Vanier College Teachers' Association

Newsbulletin2, Sept. 9, 2014



The Future of the Bookstore

In October, 2013, the President of the **Vanier College Students' Association** came to the VCTA Executive and told us that the DG (Gilbert Heroux) was looking into having a private company take over the Vanier bookstore. We were told that this private company was already running a bookstore at another cegep and that it was disastrous for students. He asked that the VCTA support a VCSA "action plan" to look into implementing a co-op with Coopsco (a group that works with co-ops in Quebec) rather than let a private company run the bookstore. In light of this information, we sent out Bulletin 7 on Nov. 4, 2013, with the following information:

Co-ops at Vanier?

The Vanier College Students' Association is trying to bring co-ops to Vanier! They are working with COOPSCO, an organization that helps to set up co-ops in various institutions in Quebec. At the moment, there are 60 co-ops in Quebec educational institutions that run under the COOPSCO banner. At the General Assembly on Nov. 6, we will be discussing the proposal of the students to see if we can support their efforts to go further with this idea. It is very important that we move quickly since the administration is now looking at letting a private American company take over our bookstore. The students are investigating bringing COOPSCO in to set up a co-op bookstore, rather than have a private, profit-making company take over the Vanier bookstore and they are asking for our support to do so. The students would also like to set up a student-run cafe to offer an alternative to the cafeteria. COOPSCO is presently only in French institutions and the necessary documentation will have to be translated into English. Association Council did not see this as a barrier to going forward with the co-op idea. Please come to the GA and give your input on this important issue.

On Nov. 6, 2013, the General Assembly passed a motion to support the students' plan of action which was looking into the possibility of implementing a co-op in the bookstore, in the context of the DG looking into a private company. In all of the VCTA discussions, it was clear that we would want to have further discussions and votes before any final decisions were to be made on the matter. At the same time, it was clear that the VCTA does not run the bookstore and has no power to make any decisions about it. And with the former DG, our position would probably not have stopped the DG bringing in a private company if he wanted to do so. However, his mandate was not renewed.

The administration has continued to look into the future of the bookstore. They are looking at the status quo, **privatizing** the bookstore or making it into a co-op. Before the administration makes any fundamental changes to the bookstore, we would hope that they will consult the community- including the VCTA. With the present administration, under the new DG, there is a good chance that this will happen. We will keep you up to date as information becomes available.

Has an administrator called you about a problem?

Do you think that there is something wrong with your contract? (Sign it and put "Without Prejudice" after your signature.)

Has the Dean called to ask you for a meeting to talk about a problem in your classes?

*In all of these cases, **CALL YOUR UNION AT 7411***

And remember, take a union executive member with you if you are called in by an administrator!

Upcoming Meetings:

Sept. 11 at 1:30 in F216

Association Council on Negotiations: A Fneeq rep will be present to answer your questions.

Sept. 17 at UB (12:30) Room to follow.

General Assembly to vote on Common Front demands like salary. **Please RSVP** since lunch will be provided.

Sept. 26 4pm-6pm. Room F216. General Assembly to vote on sectorial matters.. **Please RSVP** since food will be provided.