

## RATIONALE:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected every way in which society functions. Through our new reality, we have learned to adapt in many ways. The largest adaptation we have made has been the shift to online ways of functioning within society. The modality of how we educate also adapted to this new reality, and has allowed us to remain safe during these times. On January 4th, McGill School of Social Work (SSW) students received an email from our director indicating that after coming together with the program directors, that the SSW had independently decided to continue online learning for courses until February 25th. Then, on January 6th, SSW students received another email from the SSW director, indicating that he was not authorised to make the decision to prolong online learning and so social work students would be returning back to classrooms on January 24th.

This is unacceptable! The SSW and faculty are more than capable of making sound decisions regarding pedagogy in the midst of this public health crisis. Moreover, this decision to delay in person classes was also taken as a pedagogical decision, as many of the classrooms allotted to SSW courses are not physically designed for social work instruction, that is, classes made up primarily of group work and activities. Thus, in facing the decision between delivering courses in person in a setting that would actually hinder the ability to properly deliver course content, the decision was made to go online, where, while not perfect, provided better infrastructure for course delivery than in person. Therefore, it seemed both pedagogically sound, and responsible in the midst of a public health crisis, for the SSW to opt to deliver courses online until March.

Our healthcare system is in crisis, case counts are in the tens of thousands, and our hospitals are running out of space. Moreover, those in U2 and U3, are on the frontlines during all this, serving vulnerable communities and peoples. Telling students that they need to come to class in poorly ventilated and maintained buildings, only for McGill to send those students to work with vulnerable people on other days of the week, is a risk and threat to the communities we serve.

This is why we are presenting this strike resolution that specifically targets in person learning. This strike will not be aimed at our internships, as we must both continue to serve communities as well as continue on in our programs. Moreover, should our professors decide to open zoom links for the time that their classes are at, we would support and encourage students to attend remotely. This proposed strike is one that targets forcing us SSW students back in person along McGill's timeline and not a timeline set by the SSW.

McGill University continues to disregard and belittle the expertise of its own faculties and schools during this pandemic. When [professors](#) in the Faculty of Law indicated that there was a legal basis for McGill to enact a vaccine mandate to be on campus, McGill Administration said no. When the director of McGill's School of Global Health programs [explained](#) that McGill's own policies around vaccines were inconsistent with the best, evidence based public health practise, McGill continued to ignore the experts. Now, when the SSW attempts to make an independent decision about its own pedagogy, McGill takes the authoritarian path and blocks the decision. We know what is needed now for our students, teachers, and communities we serve. McGill's administration does not.

## **Winter 2022 STRIKE RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Undergraduate Students in McGill's School of Social Work go on strike from School of Social Work courses held in person, from 12:00am January 24th, 2022, until February 25, 2022 at 11:59pm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Undergraduate Students in McGill's School of Social Work continue to attend field internships during the timeline of the aforementioned strike.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Undergraduate Students in McGill's School of Social Work are encouraged to attend their courses should course instructors hold them online.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Should McGill's administration reverse its decision and allow the School of Social work to independently set its own pedagogical policies around online learning, such as those announced on January 4th 2022, that the strike be complete and over.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Another General Assembly be held on February 25th, 2022, for students to convene, assess, and vote on if the strike should continue past March 4th, 2022.