

Students of Colour Montreal

Motion for CLASSE Congress

Whereas more than 300,000 students have been on strike in Quebec this spring, representing the largest student movement in Quebec's history;

Whereas visible minority¹ and Aboriginal² peoples account for more than 10% of Quebec's population;

Whereas visible minority and Aboriginal students are positioned at a disadvantage in society due to ongoing systemic racism as evidenced by examples such as:

- The earnings gap between Quebec Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals is more than 33 percentage points;³
- Students of Arabic ethnicity are more likely to be disadvantaged in the workplace, are less likely to be able to find gainful employment, and will have a lower annual income than the Canadian average;
- Irrespective of age, education, language abilities, or occupation, Black women have lower total incomes than all other groups;⁴

Whereas visible minority and Aboriginal students face discrimination in accessing university education, as well as marginalization within university environments;

Whereas visible minority and Aboriginal students are disproportionately affected by tuition hikes and student debt;

Whereas CLASSE is mandated to represent and defend the interests of ALL students in Quebec;

Whereas CLASSE holds a public voice and decisive role in popular education at this critical moment in Quebec's history;

Be it resolved that CLASSE adopts an official position of anti-racism and anti-colonialism;

Be it further resolved that CLASSE adopts anti-racist and anti-colonialist discourse in all communications, including but not limited to publications, media relations, speeches and congress proceedings.

¹ Defined according to Census Canada as including Black, Arab, Latin American, Chinese, South Asian, Southeast Asian, Filipino, West Asian, Multiple visible minority, Korean, Visible minority not included elsewhere, and Japanese.

² Defined according to Census Canada as including North American Indian, Métis and Inuit

³ The 2006 Canadian Census counted 108,425 Aboriginal and 654,355 people, representing 10.26% of the total population of Quebec

⁴ C.D.Howe Institute (2011). Aboriginal Education in Quebec: A Benchmarking Exercise. The Education Papers, No. 328 (April). Retrieved from http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/Commentary_328.pdf

⁴ Torczyner, J. L. (2010). *Demographic challenges facing the Black community of Montreal in the 21st Century, Volume Three*. Montreal Consortium for Human Rights Advocacy Training, Montreal: McGill University School of Social Work, p.4

