

MAPLE SPRING, ONE YEAR LATER

A year. It's a short time and a long time, all at once. Since spring 2012, numerous lectures, symposiums, seminars, publications and films have sought to chart, depict, replay and analyze the student conflict that left an indelible mark on Quebec society. In many educational institutions, teachers, departments and even the schools themselves organized a variety of initiatives to underline the first anniversary of "Maple Spring." While by no means exhaustive, here is a brief look at some the different events and activities that took place.



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In May 2013, teachers from the French, Fine Arts and Social Sciences departments at **CEGEP Lionel-Groulx** organized *Rouge comme un printemps* (Red like the spring), an event that revisited the student movement through speeches, photo exhibitions, video screenings, authors and essayists. A debate, open to the public, delved into the aftermath of the crisis.

The 7th edition of Citizenship Week at **CEGEP du Vieux Montréal** in April 2013 also served as an opportunity to look back on this defining moment in our history. During the week, *D'un printemps à l'autre* (From one spring to the next) examined such issues as the media's coverage of the strike, teachers' duty of restraint, freedom of expression and civil disobedience.

A two-day symposium put on by **Université du Québec à Chicoutimi** brought together academics who spoke about the roots of the movement and the challenges of financing university studies and analyzed the more philo-

sophical and political aspects of the protest. These lectures were taped and broadcast on *Canal Savoir*, where they are still periodically re-aired.

On June 7, 2013, the **CEGEP Montmorency** teachers' union launched a collective work entitled *Avec vous dans la rue* (With you in the streets), an echo of the students' own slogan, *Avec nous dans la rue* (With us in the streets). Throughout the spring, these teachers spoke out in active defence of the right to accessible



PHOTO: LUC JARON

public education. This work is a compilation of their various presentations and includes texts outlining their analysis of the conflict.

Retour vers le printemps

From April 9 to 12, 2013, **CEGEP Garneau** in Québec City hosted a symposium called *Retour vers le printemps* (Back to the spring). Organized by teachers from the Philosophy and Literature departments, this initiative enabled students to take part in nearly a dozen lectures and round-table discussions designed to stimulate their reflection on the events of Maple Spring and the issues it raised. Guest speakers included Guy Rocher, Michel Seymour, Mathieu Bock-Côté, Marc Simard, Diane Lamoureux and Gilles Gagné, to name but a few. While tuition fees were obviously a topic of discussion, so were the Parent Report, the legal prosecution of protesters, the role played by the media, the question of student democracy, and the conflict as experienced in the Québec City region. This was an occasion for students who were in CEGEP at the time of the protests to look back on the events they lived through, and for those who were not yet there to gain a better understanding of what happened, beyond the media's portrayal of the situation.

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