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Champlain Regional College Something's gotta give!

If there were one word to describe the situation at Champlain Regional College over the past few years, it would be *dysfunctional*. One central administration, three campuses, three vastly different student populations... it just isn't working! The unions at the St. Lawrence and Saint-Lambert campuses finally decided to take matters in hand and are ready for a showdown!

Multiregional colleges may have been commonplace when the CEGEP system was first created, but virtually all have long since disappeared to make way for independent institutions. Today, the sole remaining holdout is Champlain Regional College (CRC), with campuses in Lennoxville, Québec City and Saint-Lambert. The running of the college is being hindered by a costly and complex pan-regional structure, and the campuses are reduced to grappling with a redundant administrative system whose resources would be far better spent serving the needs of students in each of their communities. Even an external report commissioned by the college's management and released last May found that a centralized structure is not beneficial when it comes to making decisions on the educational services being offered to students.



Lauch of the campaigning for autonomy at Champlain Regional College's St. Lawrence campus



Petition signing for the autonomy of Champlain Regional College's Saint-Lambert campus

Enough already

Since winter 2015, the Saint-Lambert and St. Lawrence teachers' unions, along with those representing support and professional staff, have been calling for separate CEGEP status for each of their colleges. With the growing number of departures due to sick leave, job transfers, administrators leaving for greener pastures and a dysfunctional Board of Governors, a deep sense of malaise had set in to the campuses. The obvious remedy? To take control of decision-making. Independent institutions would mean greater efficiency, more direct services for students and better synergy and partnership between each college and its community. The initiative has been garnering the support of former CRC directors and administrators, students, community groups, business leaders and local politicians.

In short, when it comes to providing quality educational services that are adapted to the needs of students in these diverse communities, nothing beats autonomy! ■