



Coalition de Résistance pour l'Unité Syndicale Étudiante
(Coalition of resistance for a united student movement)

POSITIONS BOOK OF CRUES

LAST UPDATED: May 2024

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Internal Positions

Be it resolved that CRUES avoid reformist positions and take an explicitly combative approach in its mobilization against the current system all while recognizing the value of a diversity in tactics.

(April 29-30, 2023)

Political Positions

Considering the lack of public transit service in the regions outside of Montreal/Tiotià:ke, as well as the urgent demand of municipal activist groups and people living in the different regions of so-called Quebec.

Considering the significant cuts already made and announced in the funding of urban, regional and interregional public transit authorities in so-called Quebec;

Considering the importance of the accessibility of urban, regional and interregional public transit for the student population and for the ecological transition;

Considering the social mobilization on the subject, including the inter-union demonstration of transport company staff on November 14, 2023;

That CRUES support the mobilization for major investments in urban, regional and interregional public transit and invite the student population to participate.

That CRUES position itself in favor of a complete halt to all new fossil fuel projects and the rapid exit from them.

That CRUES position itself in favour of protection for all urban green spaces.

That CRUES position itself in favour of better accessibility and frequency of urban, regional and interregional public transport.

That CRUES take a stand against the third link project and the Northvolt project, in order to finance free and frequent urban, regional and interregional public transit accessible to all people living on the territory of so-called Quebec.

That CRUES opposes any possible government cuts to urban, regional and inter-regional public transit.

(November 18-19, 2023)

Considering that since October 7, 2023, bombing tactics have led to more than 7000 deaths in the Gaza Strip;

Considering that these bombings lead to the disproportionate slaughter of women and children, especially when they target hospitals, as in the case of the strike on Gaza's al-Ahli hospital on 17 October, which killed more than 500 people;

Considering that 2.2 million people, most of them Palestinian réfugié.es since 1948, are imprisoned in a territory smaller than the size of the island of Montreal in the open-air prison of the Gaza Strip, the majority of them children under the age of 18, and are now deprived of water, food and electricity through the Israeli army headquarters, which controls everything that enters and leaves the Gaza Strip by sea, air or land;

Considering that these attacks and tactics on the part of Israel since 7 October, accompanied by its revanchist, racist and colonial rhetoric, raise fears of an attempt at genocide against the Palestinian people of Gaza;

That CRUES supports the Palestinian people in their resistance to the colonial and murderous aggression on the part of the Israeli state, its army, and its international patrons such as Canada, the United States, England and France.

That CRUES give its moral support to local organizations and groups supporting the Palestinian people and denouncing the ongoing massacre, both at the university level, at the level of Montreal, so-called Quebec or so-called Canada.

That CRUES adopt a pro-BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) mandate for the Israeli state and its murderous campaign of repression and occupation of Palestine.

(November 18-19, 2023)

Considering the recent announcements by the CAQ of an increase in tuition fees for out-of-province and international students;

That CRUES take a stand against the tuition fee increase announced by the CAQ and in favour of free education;

That CRUES denounce any increase in tuition fees as an attack on free and non-discriminatory public education, the protection of which is one of its founding principles.

(November 18-19, 2023)

CONSIDERING that since April 18, 2024, with the establishment of the encampment on the campus of Columbia University in New York City against the genocide of the Palestinian people of Gaza by the Israeli apartheid state and its occupying forces, the international student movement has been a crucial part of the struggle for the liberation of the people of Palestine through the building of encampments on university grounds around the world

CONSIDERING the construction of such an encampment on the McGill University campus in Montreal on April 27, 2024, by the Montreal student community and its allies

CONSIDERING the political position adopted by the CRUES during its congress on November 18 and 19, 2023 in Rimouski, in favor of supporting the struggle for the liberation of the Palestinian people and the immediate cessation of genocide against them by the Israeli state

CONSIDERING principle no. 9 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the CRUES, which stipulates that CRUES stands : “for the solidarity with Indigenous peoples and nations of the Global North and South and with marginalized communities and racialized communities, against all forms of colonialism and imperialism;”.

THAT the CRUES openly and politically supports these encampments on university campuses around the world, aimed at the liberation of Palestine.

THAT the CRUES offers its moral, material, financial and logistical support to the encampments set up on the campuses of the so-called province of Québec

(May 4-5, 2024)

CONSIDERING that non-free software removes all freedom to copy, modify and redistribute a program through control and deprivation of source codes, thus affecting user autonomy;

CONSIDERING that the purchase of proprietary software licenses by all educational institutions wastes funds that could be used to improve the quality of education;

CONSIDERING that this money goes directly into the pockets of large corporations like Microsoft or Google, who are working to establish monopolies in their field and undermine the quality and compatibility of free software;

CONSIDERING that this imposed use encourages dependence on these companies and contributes to weakening the development of free software, and consequently its quality;

CONSIDERING that the massive use of such software by students and for specific training often obliges some to buy or pirate it, thus encouraging its proliferation;

CONSIDERING that such software limits access to knowledge, thus affecting the intellectual emancipation of users;

THAT CRUES opposes all purchases of software licenses by educational institutions, and all obligations to purchase such software from students.

THAT CRUES supports all concrete pressure for free alternatives to be implemented in these institutions.

THAT all documents shared by CRUES be written and designed using free software, insofar as there is a credible and functional alternative provided by the free software world.

THAT CRUES is generally in favor of the development of free software as a means of democratizing computing, and against any form of proprietary software development.

(May 4-5, 2024)

External Positions

Considering the rise of hate towards the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and more specifically trans people;

Considering recent events in a 2SLGBTQIA+ club involving external bullying of students;

Considering the recent protests promoting the obstruction of young people's learning and freedom with regard to their gender identity;

Considering that people from these communities are being deprived of their rights in some countries close to ours;

That CRUES supports queer struggles and movements.

(November 18-19, 2023)

Considering the intense working conditions, the poor mental state of the workers and insufficient wage increases that do not take into account inflation;

Considering the decrease in the quality of services offered in our educational institutions;

Considering the common interests shared between étudiant.es and workers, further uniting them as allies;

Considering the importance of work slowdowns and strikes as an effective means of fighting economically for justice, accessibility and quality of education at the post-secondary level;

That CRUES adopt a mandate to support the Common Front, the FIQ and the FAE.

(November 18-19, 2023)

Considering the history of relations between groups of militant associations and student federations;

Considering Article 2 of its statutes and regulations, "CRUES is a combative trade union organization";

That CRUES do not participate in any way in the official bodies of the student federations (in particular the UEQ and the FECQ).

That the CRUES team's contacts with the federations be adopted out in a manner that ensures its accountability to the member associations of the CRUES.

That member associations be informed of any contact between the CRUES team and the federations in a spirit of transparency, and that contacts with student federations be kept to a minimum.

Let these contacts be made in a cordial manner.

That CRUES give priority to its own information material rather than that of the federations when they are campaigning on the same issue as the CRUES.

(November 18-19, 2023)

CONSIDERING the history of betrayal by student federations of the more militant factions of the student movement;

CONSIDERING that these betrayals have too often taken the form of usurping common campaigns and signing agreements with the government that have excluded these factions;

CONSIDERING the concertationist, corporatist and lobbyist practices of student federations such as the FECQ and UEQ;

CONSIDERING that the federations' organizational practices run counter to CRUES' principles of direct democracy, since they are based on the logic of top-down, rather than bottom-up, representation;

THAT CRUES hold in contempt the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec (FECQ) and the Union étudiante du Québec (UEQ), as well as all their future names.

(May 4-5, 2024)

CONSIDERING that the Tendence Marxiste Internationale (TMI), of which the Revolutionary Communist Party is the Canadian chapter, has given rise to scandals such as group sexual assaults, assault cover-ups and abuse;

CONSIDERING that this organization continues to place the blame on the victims of misplaced behaviors, dynamics and events rather than working to remedy their problematic internal culture;

CONSIDERING the numerous allegations of misogyny and transphobia made against them;

CONSIDERING that, when confronted with these, the organization did no more than condemn a few problematic actors and cast doubt on the experiences and feelings of, among others, a former trans member;

CONSIDERING the odious response published by TMI condemning the survivors' speaking out as a political attack; Considering that this organization is suspicious of intersectionality because of its supposed similarity to right-wing ideologies;

CONSIDERING that they tend to appropriate struggles in order to gain media attention;

CONSIDERING that their vision of the struggle for Palestine implies liberation of the Palestinian people by the Israeli working class, and therefore they do not believe in the BDS

(Boycott, Sanction and Divest) movement, and profit monetarily from the sale of their materials associated with this cause;

CONSIDERING that such actions and positions contravene CRUES' mandate to support Palestine;

THAT CRUES hereafter and indefinitely distrust the Parti Communiste Révolutionnaire, also known as Révolution Communiste, (Fightback- La Riposte Socialiste), and officially the Canadian section of the Tendence Marxiste Internationale;

THAT CRUES be prohibited from collaborating, associating and providing services to the RCP, and all its future names.

(May 4-5, 2024)