

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **STUDENT ASKS JUDGE TO ORDER CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS (CFS) TO LET HIM VOTE**

17 March 2014

McGill University graduate student Ge Sa will appear before a Quebec Superior Court judge on March 18, 2014 to ask the Court to order the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) to allow him to exercise his right to vote to leave the group.

On October 11, 2013, Mr. Sa mailed a petition to CFS signed by over 20% of graduate students and postdocs at McGill asking CFS for an opportunity to vote to leave the CFS. This petition was sent by registered mail, as explicitly required by CFS' bylaws, and was split into two envelopes due to Canada Post rules regarding weight. After a failed delivery attempt at CFS' headquarters in Ottawa, not only did CFS fail for two weeks to pick up the petition from the post office, they ignored subsequent e-mail and written reminders from Mr. Sa urging them to take delivery of the petition. Mr. Sa was forced to seek legal counsel and serve a demand letter by bailiff to CFS Chairperson Jessica McCormick to compel her to retrieve the petition. About a month later, Mr. Sa was stunned to receive a package containing half of the petition through the mail marked "Return to Sender".

Mr. Sa was forced to deliver a second demand letter and the remainder of the petition to Ms. McCormick during CFS' annual general meeting in Gatineau on November 21-24, 2013. While inside the meeting Ms. McCormick was being served the petition, outside the meeting Mr. Sa and a group of students from across Canada held a loud protest against CFS' refusal to let students vote to leave the CFS.

Although CFS was required by their own bylaws to schedule a vote for Mr. Sa and other McGill students within 90 days of receipt of the petition, they simply ignored this obligation and refused to schedule the vote. Thus, Mr. Sa will ask the Quebec Superior Court to uphold his right to vote, which is being flagrantly disregarded by the CFS.

Since 2009, students from fifteen schools across Canada have petitioned to leave the CFS. Of these, not a single student association has successfully left the CFS without a lawsuit. Students at McGill actually voted 86% in favour of leaving the CFS in 2010, but CFS refuses to recognize the vote and the matter is before the courts. CFS is currently involved in litigation with multiple student associations regarding votes to leave the CFS.

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The petition will be heard in Montreal at the Superior Court whenever a judge can be made available beginning at 9h30 a.m. The case will be called before the sitting judge in chambers in a room to be determined.

Contact: Jonathan Mooney: (514) 686-4770