

Nego Bulletin

Provincial Government Announces \$19 million in cuts to CEGEP's this year;

JACFA to Rally with other John Abbott Unions and Anti-Austerity Movement in Protest

On November 13, the Liberal government announced \$19 million in retroactive cuts to CEGEP's for 2014-2015 fiscal year. This will be the sixth cut in four years to the college system totalling \$109 million dollars. While the amount of the exact cuts to John Abbott's current operating budget is still yet to be determined, according to sources at the college, it will be roughly in the order of \$530 000.

While the budget for teachers' salaries will not be immediately affected—because they come from a separate envelope, these cuts will inevitably have an impact on our working conditions, via the reduction of resources that provide support for both teachers and students. Moreover, as we are about to enter negotiations for our next Collective Agreement, these cuts are a further indication of the zeal with which the government is pursuing their “Austerity” agenda, and the formidable hurdles we can expect to negotiate a fair settlement.

These proposed cuts cannot go without a response.

Accordingly, we are planning two events to register our opposition to the cuts in question and to the entire “Austerity” program:

- **On Thursday November 27, JACFA, along with the support staff union (JACASPA) and the professional union (JACPA), will be holding a rally in the Atrium of the Anne-Marie Edwards Building entitled: “Refuse Austerity: Let them eat cake”, where we will be serving cake, coffee, and alternative proposals to balancing the provincial budget.**
- **On Saturday November 29, 1 p.m., JACFA will once again be organizing a contingent to join other unions, student groups, and social activists, to take part in the March Against Austerity in Downtown Montreal. We are hoping to build on the momentum gained from the October 31st march, where an estimated 40 000 marchers took part. Together, we can make the government listen. Please let us know if you are planning to join us Saturday: jacfa@johnabbott.qc.ca. We will be following up with more details of the event in the coming days.**