

Pride for the Maple Spring

by Anna Davey - Thursday, May 10, 2012

<http://politicsrespun.org/2012/05/pride-for-the-maple-spring/>

I know it's such an Alan Moore thing to say, but people shouldn't be afraid of their government. Governments should be afraid of their people.

We should be proud of students in Quebec for [rejecting Charest's offer](#).

Here's what I find interesting as a parent: We often strive to teach our children discernment. We try to instill in them the understanding that they don't have to accept the first offer that someone makes them, that they should examine whether an offer meets their needs, whether the other party has another agenda, whether an offer would give them short-term gain to their long-term detriment, etc. It seems to be generally accepted that discernment is a fairly mature reasoning process, which might be why so much emphasis is placed teaching it.

So now, we have thousands upon thousands of students who are utilizing those discernment skills to understand and reject an offer that does not serve their needs. Not only are they utilizing their discernment, they're doing all sorts of other wonderful things we generally try to teach out children.

* They're doing the right thing, not the easy thing. They're sacrificing their academic year to see that this conflict comes to a just conclusion.

* They're advocating for those who can't advocate for themselves. This isn't just about tuition fees this year, or next year, or five years from now. It's also about the precedent this sets for the way tuition fees are regarded in the future.

* They've organized themselves quite enviably. Every parent who has ever despaired of their child's scattershot approach to organization should be able to appreciate this.

And those parents, those thousands upon thousands of parents who have clearly taught their children well, are probably telling those kids to get back to school and complaining to co-workers about what spoiled assholes those students are. The media, the government, the experts... it seems that everyone is decrying the student strike as immature, despite the fact that the striking students are clearly demonstrating mature reasoning faculties.

What's the problem? Jealous? Give your kids a hug and give yourselves a pat on the back for doing a good job. Be proud of your kids. Be proud of yourselves. Jesus Christ.