

Student tuition protest thin on 102nd night

BY MARWA SIAM, THE GAZETTE AUGUST 4, 2012

MONTREAL - For the 102nd night in a row, students and their supporters took to the streets of Montreal on Friday to protest against tuition hikes and a controversial law mandating a return to classes as early as next week.

Starting from their usual meeting place at Place Émilie Gamelin, the group of 40 demonstrators marched east on Ste. Catherine St., making very little noise and — unlike the tradition — were not clanging on pots and pans.

They were closely shadowed by about 10 Montreal police officers on bicycles and one SPVM vehicle. In defiance of Bill 78 and a municipal bylaw prohibiting the wearing of masks at protests, the demonstrators did not announce their route in advance.

Through a speakerphone, a policeman announced this protest is considered illegal because it was not announced in advance.

After a summer hiatus, during which police stopped following the demonstrators and the marches drew only a handful of protesters, the demonstrations have grown again to coincide with a provincial election slated for Sept. 4.

The small group of protesters was forced to disperse once it reached the intersection of Union and Ste. Catherine Sts. As of 10 p.m. The march was peaceful and no arrests had been made.

© Copyright (c) The Montreal Gazette