

# Button

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This round diaper pin badge is red with a white arrow pointing to the right. Inside the arrow are red markings. 2012 student strike button.

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Accession Number 2022.12.85

Fabricant / Éditeur Minimedia

Date 2012

Materials metal, paper, plastic

Measurements 3,5 cm

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## Historical context

The badge reflects student anger at the tuition fee increases introduced by Jean Charest's Liberal government, which would double in five years.

The first strike took place in November 2011. A second followed a few months later, on February 14, 2012. The movement is still considered slow and marginal. The March 22 demonstration changed this perspective. An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 people took part in the demonstration in Montreal. It was one of the largest demonstrations in Quebec's history.

While the main symbol associated with this movement is the red square, other symbols are used, such as this button, to show their dissatisfaction with rising tuition fees.

Over a seven-month period, 1,370 demonstrations took place, 532 of them in Montreal. This period will go down in Quebec history as the Maple Spring.

The protests end in August 2012, when Liberal Premier Jean Charest calls an election. On September 4, the Parti québécois was elected and Pauline Marois became Premier of Quebec. Her first act in office was to cancel tuition fee increases.