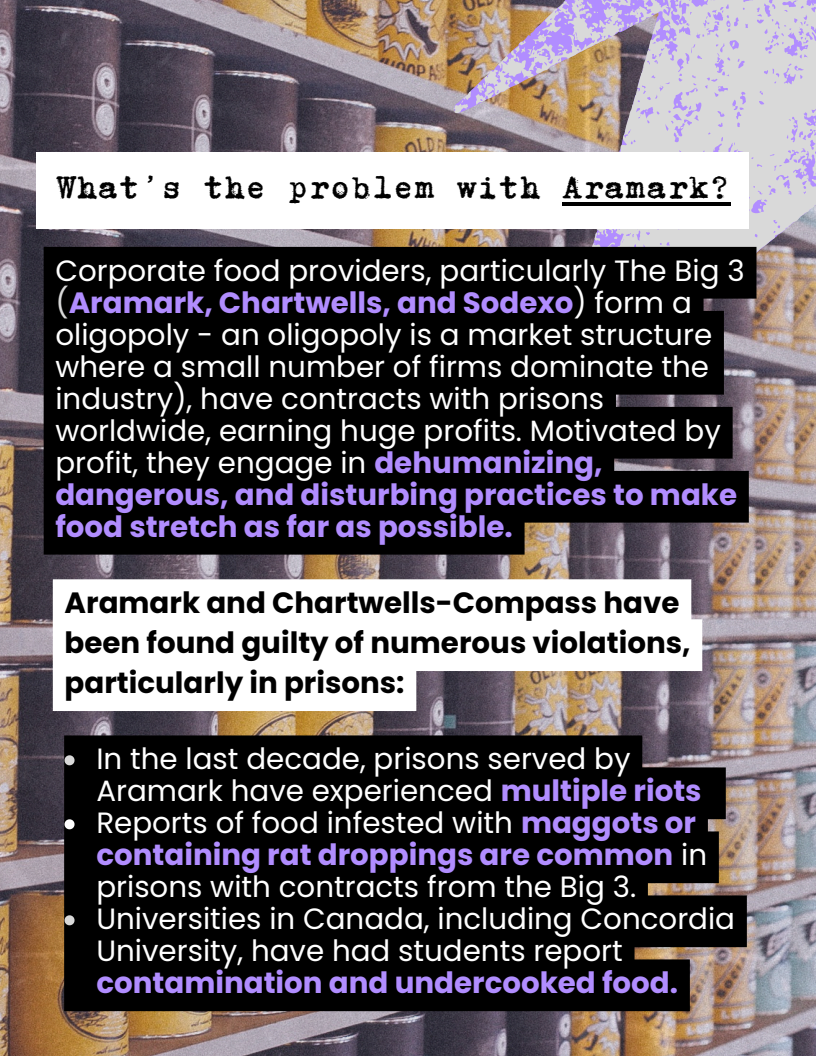


A photograph of a cafeteria food line with several stainless steel trays containing various food items like salads, fruits, and cooked meats. A silver serving spoon is visible in one of the trays. The foreground shows the metal railings of the food line.

Concordia, Campus Food & The Prison Industrial Complex



What's the problem with Aramark?

Corporate food providers, particularly The Big 3 (**Aramark, Chartwells, and Sodexo**) form an oligopoly – an oligopoly is a market structure where a small number of firms dominate the industry), have contracts with prisons worldwide, earning huge profits. Motivated by profit, they engage in **dehumanizing, dangerous, and disturbing practices to make food stretch as far as possible.**

Aramark and Chartwells-Compass have been found guilty of numerous violations, particularly in prisons:

- In the last decade, prisons served by Aramark have experienced **multiple riots**
- Reports of food infested with **maggots or containing rat droppings are common** in prisons with contracts from the Big 3.
- Universities in Canada, including Concordia University, have had students report **contamination and undercooked food.**



What is the Prison Industrial Complex?

The Prison Industrial Complex refers to the collaboration between government bodies and private businesses to create **a profit-driven system of incarceration.**

Governments and lawmakers determine what is legal and acceptable, often **criminalizing behaviors that result from poverty and desperation for resources.**

Prisons are paid based on occupancy rates, meaning **the more people incarcerated, the more money these corporations and food providers make.**

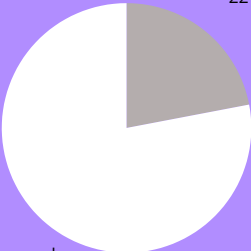
To maximize profit, these providers aim to **spend as little money as possible** while feeding as many people as possible.





These three food service corporations share a common theme seen across institutions: a captive market within schools, hospitals, elderly residence buildings, the military, and prisons —densely populated spaces where people cannot easily (or at all) purchase food elsewhere...

Racialized and marginalized people are disproportionately targeted by law enforcement and face harsher punishments compared to white cisgender individuals.



Racialized people
22%

White people
78%

In Quebec, racialized communities make up approximately **22%** of the prison population. **Over 38,000** people are incarcerated in Canadian prisons.

There are numerous criticisms of Aramark, Chartwells-Compass & Sodexo:

- At Concordia, a 2002 sustainability report provides an in-depth analysis of the university's food services, accusing Chartwells-Compass of **exploiting prison labor, engaging in aggressive competition with non-profit organizations**, and serving **smaller portions with low-quality ingredients** to save money.
- These corporations also employ **union-detering tactics** as part of its cost-cutting strategy. Their business model is based on centralized supply chains, corporate management structures, and reliance on pre-prepared food to reduce procurement and labor costs.
- Additionally, they depend on **unsustainable global supply networks, cheap labor, extensive marketing and branding tactics, and big money deals** exchanged for long-term exclusive contracts.





Why is Aramark at Concordia?

Since the 70's Concordia has had contracts with big corporate food providers and since 2000 has **rotated through each of the Big 3** food service corporations.

Universities receive \$\$ returns if their food service provider is profitable.

This profit-driven model leads to unsustainable food services and explains why transformative approaches to sustainability are often rejected by public institutions.



FED UP

Since Aramark was hired at Concordia, students and faculty, **dissatisfied with campus food services, have voiced their concerns to the administration.**

Students are also troubled by Aramark's treatment of prisoners in Canada and the USA, especially during the 2016-2017 prison hunger strikes in the USA, where **prisoners protested Aramark's food services.**

Student-run groups have proposed community-based food service model alternatives.

Finally, considering the negative social and environmental impact caused by Chartwells-Compass, Aramark, and Sodexo, **these corporations are major contributors to an unsustainable and unjust global food system** and have no place on our campus.





Are you **FED UP** with
corporate control of
your food?



Give feedback - online
or in the cafeteria!

Scan for Food Services
Survey!

Follow **FEDUPConcordia!** on Instagram

Drop this zine in residence!



We can stand up against corporate food
providers together and inspire other
universities to do the same!

Sources:

The Loaded Ladel Zine - Prison industrial complex
Building Food Sovereign Campuses - Erik Chevrier