



Students' Society of McGill University  
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

**Office of the Speakers**  
Bureau de Présidents du Conseil

### Motion Regarding Interest Group Committee Policy on Travel and Charity Based Clubs

*Whereas*, many groups centred around international travel apply for SSMU club status;

*Whereas*, many groups centred around domestic or international charity also apply for SSMU club status;

*Whereas*, the SSMU lacks the financial resources to send all students abroad;

*Whereas*, the SSMU commits to “demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice, and environmental protection” (Constitution Article VII);

*Whereas*, many groups applying for club status espouse a primary purpose of sending students abroad to engage in volunteer work;

*Whereas*, it is socially irresponsible to send groups of university students abroad for short periods of time with the expectation that these students will make positive and sustained change in the communities that host them;

*Whereas*, international trips which seek to learn from communities, rather than to impose solutions upon them, are of value to the SSMU's members and do not violate the SSMU's mandate;

*Whereas*, prospective clubs wishing to distribute charity either domestically or abroad should work with an established NGO;

*Resolved*, that the SSMU adopt the following Policy on Trip and Charity Clubs.

Moved by:

Adam Winer, Clubs and Services Representative  
Sahil Chaini, Clubs and Services Representative

#### Policy on Trip and Charity Clubs

1. The Interest Group Committee (IGC) will not grant interim or full club status to groups listing international travel as their primary purpose, with the exception of groups already granted interim club status;

1.1 The IGC will consider the applications of groups who list international travel as a peripheral purpose, as long as this travel will provide a learning experience for club members without causing direct or indirect social harm to local communities;



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2. Prospective clubs wishing to send charity abroad must work in tandem with a credible NGO.

2.1 Prospective clubs will only be considered for club status if the work of their partner

NGO clearly coheres with SSMU's mandate for social responsibility and environmental protection.

2.2 Prospective clubs must also include in their application a letter of affiliation with this NGO.

2.3 Prospective clubs wishing to distribute charity within Montreal are encouraged to partner with a local organization, but are not strictly required to do so.