



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

Office of the Speaker
Bureau de Président du Conseil

Submitted For: February 22, 2016

Approved On: February 22, 2016

Motion Regarding the Procurement of Products Containing Conflict Minerals by SSMU

WHEREAS, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) has a clear commitment to sustainable and ethical practices^{1 2 3};

WHEREAS, the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo) has been the source of ongoing violence for decades, particularly heightened since the Rwandan genocide⁴;

WHEREAS, the illegal exploitation of four minerals in particular - tin, tungsten, tantalum, and gold (3TG) - has funded armed violence in the eastern Congo⁵;

WHEREAS, a study found that 2008 armed groups were estimated to have earned \$185 million from the conflicts mineral trade⁶;

WHEREAS, the electronics industry is a primary purchaser of conflict minerals and has the power to disrupt the funding to armed groups⁶;

WHEREAS, in 2014, nearly three quarters of mines (74%) in tin, tantalum, and tungsten mines in surveyed locations were reported to no longer be controlled by armed groups⁷;

WHEREAS, McGill requires that its main electronics providers be part of the Electronics Industry Citizenship Coalition, implying that they also have access to be part of the Conflict Sourcing Initiative, which is an initiative that offers resources for companies to address conflict minerals in their supply chain.⁸;

WHEREAS, the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative is a student-led non-profit branch of the Enough Project that aims to support peace in Congo by encouraging companies to source conflict-free minerals from Congo and the region⁹;

WHEREAS, the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative and the Enough Project, a non-profit organization, offers information regarding the steps that companies are taking to end their use of conflict minerals¹⁰;

WHEREAS, the Financial Ethics Research Committee (FERC) is a Committee of the SSMU Legislative Council responsible for reviewing the ethical nature of the Society's transactions;

¹ [SSMU Sustainability Policy](#)

² [SSMU Ethical Investment Plan](#)

³ [SSMU Purchasing Policy](#)

⁴ [BBC Democratic Republic of Congo- country profile](#)

⁵ [Why Congo?, Conflict Free Campus Initiative](#)

⁶ [Why Congo?, Conflict Free Campus Initiative](#)

⁷ [IPI Research](#)

⁸ [Conflict Free Sourcing Initiative](#)

⁹ [Conflict Free Campus](#)

¹⁰ [Raise Hope for Congo](#)



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WHEREAS, the FERC is currently developing a Purchasing Policy, and associated Supplier Database, to outline what suppliers are acceptable for the Society to purchase from;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU declare itself as a part of the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU FERC update its purchasing guidelines to include consideration of the extent to which electronics suppliers are making efforts to source conflict-free minerals from Congo for their products;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the FERC update the Ethical Investment Plan to include the use of conflict minerals as a negative factor for consideration and to include the use of conflict-free minerals from the Congo as a positive factor for consideration (referred to as "negative screens" and "positive screens", respectively, in the Ethical Investment Plan);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT in determining whether a supplier is acceptable, the Financial Ethics Research Committee consider the efforts that the supplier has made to source conflict-free minerals from Congo for its products, by consulting resources such as the supplier's policies and SEC filings where applicable ^{11 12 13};

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU call on electronic companies and other industries to implement the necessary steps to remove conflict minerals from their supply chain;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU issue a statement on its website supporting the sourcing of conflict-free minerals from Congo, and that this statement include what actions the SSMU will take to support this fight;

Moved by:

Member from the Faculty of Arts

Seconded by:

Zacheriah Houston, Vice-President (Finance and Operations)
Adam Templer, Arts Representative
Francois-Paul Truc, Clubs Representative
Gabriel Ning, Arts Representative
Chelsea Kingzett, Environment Representative

¹¹ [Intel SEC Filings](#)

¹² [Taking Conflict Out of Consumer Gadgets. Company Rankings on Conflict Minerals. Enough Project, 2012](#)

¹³ [Conflict Free Campus Initiative Rankings](#)

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