



## **Motion for an Increase in Indigenous Content at McGill University**

WHEREAS, the SSMU acknowledges that McGill University is located on traditional Kanien'kehá:ka territory;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has released their calls to action, including:

"10. We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:

...  
iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula

62. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to:

...  
ii. Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classroom";<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, several Canadian universities, including the University of Winnipeg, Lakehead University<sup>3</sup>, and the University of Regina<sup>4</sup> have already committed to an Indigenous course requirement;

WHEREAS, the SSMU has created an Indigenous Affairs Coordinator position, which includes coordinating advocacy efforts for Indigenous students and interests within SSMU and McGill;

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<sup>1</sup> SSMU, *Traditional Territory Acknowledgement*, October 9, 2014, available at: <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Motion-Adoption-of-a-Traditional-Territory-Acknowledgement-Statement-2014-10-09.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Truth and Reconciliation Commission, *Calls to Action*, p. 2 and p. 7, available at: [http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> The University of Winnipeg and Lakehead University requirements apply to all students: Maclean's, *Required reading: Making Indigenous classes mandatory*, November 19, 2015, available at: <http://www.macleans.ca/education/making-history-2/>.

<sup>4</sup> The University of Regina requirement applies to all students in the Faculty of Arts: CBC, *University of Winnipeg makes indigenous course a requirement*, November 20, 2015, available at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/university-of-winnipeg-makes-indigenous-course-a-requirement-1.3328372>.



BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs) lobby the University for an increase in the hiring of Indigenous professors in all faculties at the University;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs) lobby the University for an increase in the number of Indigenous studies and Indigenous language courses offered, as well as the creation of a major in Indigenous Studies;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU express its support on its website, via Twitter, and via Facebook for a mandatory Indigenous content or Indigenous studies course requirement in all undergraduate programs at McGill University, within a reasonable amount of time, taking into account the University's capacity to offer Indigenous content;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs) with the University faculty and administration design and plan for the implementation of the mandatory Indigenous content or Indigenous Studies course requirement, after sufficient teaching resources are available, through the use of a committee including but not limited to elders, Indigenous community members, and faculty to approve courses for the requirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs) publish a progress report on developments regarding the implementation of this motion at each of the next two General Assemblies.

Moved by:

NDP McGill

Valerie Olivier, Law Representative  
Erin Sobat, Senate Caucus Representative  
Sean Taylor, Science Representative  
Kareem Ibrahim, President  
Chloe Rourke, Vice-President (University Affairs)