



Motion Regarding the TPP and CETA

Whereas the Canadian government is currently pursuing negotiations aimed at arriving and/or ratifying two trade agreements, the Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (with the European Union, known as the CETA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (known as the TPP) [1,2];

Whereas the TPP is being negotiated without significant public consultation [1],

Whereas both of these agreements include maintained or increased protections for pharmaceutical patents [1, 2];

Whereas the international humanitarian group, Médecins Sans Frontières [1], and a McGill Student group, Friends of MSF McGill, have run campaigns in opposition to the TPP's protection of pharmaceutical patents [1, 2];

Whereas increased or maintained length of patents will likely lead to higher prices for pharmaceuticals, decreasing access to medicines here and abroad [1];

Whereas the SSMU is committed to ensuring that students have access to a safe and secure learning environment;

Whereas the health and/or financial security of students would be negatively affected by an increase in drug costs (due to direct increase in drug costs, to the inability of healthcare plans to cover new drugs due to cost, or to increased insurance premiums);

Whereas international students with families in the nations party to the agreements might experience financial insecurity due to their families' inability to pay for more expensive medications;

Resolved, that the SSMU take a stance against the provisions in the TPP, CETA that maintain or increase protections for drug patents,

Resolved that the SSMU write a letter of opposition to these provisions and the lack of public consultation on these agreements to the federal government;

Resolved that the SSMU offer non-monetary support to groups at McGill campaigning on this issue;



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

Office of the Speaker
Bureau de Président du Conseil

Resolved that the SSMU provide information to its members on this issue via listserv;

Resolved that the SSMU lobby the McGill administration to adopt a stance against the above provisions in the TPP and CETA and the lack of public consultation regarding these agreements,

Moved by:

David benrimoh, Medicine Representative
Joey Shea, VP University Affairs
Sue Jeong, Arts Representative
Samuel Harris, VP External Affairs

References:

1. <http://www2.macleans.ca/2013/07/16/canada-urged-to-reject-tpp-drug-patent-proposal-as-bad-for-poor-countries/>
2. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/summary-of-canada-eu-free-trade-deal-tabled-1.2286695>