



Motion Regarding Action on Climate Change

Whereas, the Society reaffirms, in accordance with the strong principles of justice and equity laid out in clauses VI to VIII of the Society's Constitution, the commitment of the Students' Society of McGill University to the implementation of socially responsible investment strategies by the SSMU and by McGill University, and in particular its belief that both bodies should divest their holdings in companies involved in the Canadian Tar Sands, in fossil fuel extraction, production, or distribution, or that do business or lobby to do business on Indigenous territory without the full consent of the communities there;

Whereas, the SSMU has had mandates for a McGill Free from Fossil Fuels, adopted January 24, 2013, for Support for Indigenous Peoples and Allies, adopted January 24, 2013, for Ethical Investments at McGill, adopted November 1, 2012, and for a Greener McGill, adopted February 21, 2013, for Climate Justice at McGill, adopted September 25, 2014;

Whereas, student unions across Quebec have mandates to lobby the government on the issue of climate change and to oppose projected pipeline projects;

Whereas, the Peoples' Climate March on September 21, 2014 was the largest climate march in history, bringing the issue of climate change to the forefront¹;

Whereas, TransCanada will soon be looking for a permit for the Energy East Pipeline project, a pipeline set to stretch 4,600-kilometres and carry 1.1-million barrels of crude oil per day from the Alberta's tar sands to Manitoba, Eastern Ontario, Québec and New Brunswick⁴;

Whereas, this proposed pipeline project would act as one of the single greatest barriers to Canada transitioning to an alternative energy economy²;

Whereas, tar sands development has resulted in devastating social impacts and tens of thousands of treaty rights violations³;

1. Visser, Nick. "Hundreds Of Thousands Turn Out For People's Climate March In New York City." *The Huffington Post*. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 21 Sept. 2014. Web. 14 Oct. 2014.< http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/21/peoples-climate-march_n_5857902.html>
2. Flanagan, Erin, and Clare Demerse. "Climate Implications of the Proposed Energy East Pipeline." *Pembina Institute*. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Oct. 2014. <<http://www.pembina.org/reports/energy-east-climate-implications.pdf>>
3. Thomas-Muller, Clayton. "Standing Our Sacred Ground-First Nations, Tribal Leaders & Land Owners Send Message To Canada, Stop Tar Sands At The Source." *Idle No More*. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Oct. 2014.< http://www.idlenomore.ca/standing_our_sacred_ground>
4. "Energy East Pipeline Project." *TransCanada Corporation*. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Oct. 2014.< <http://www.transcanada.com/energy-east-pipeline.html>>



Whereas, the student coalition Étudiant(e)s Contre les Oléoducs (ÉCO) demands that pipeline projects in Quebec be blocked, that fossil fuels exploration and extraction projects on the territory of Quebec be terminated, and that Indigenous sovereignty over their territories, and their veto power over resource extraction projects, be recognized;

Whereas, ÉCO is only in its first month of inception and already represents more than 70, 000 students across the province of Quebec;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU join the student coalition Étudiant(e)s Contre les Oléoducs (ÉCO).

Be it resolved, that the VP (External Affairs) bring a policy regarding action on climate change to SSMU Legislative Council in the Winter 2015 term.

Moved by:

VP Moustaqim-Barrette (External Affairs)
Councillor Boutin
Councillor Zhang
Councillor Baraldi

1. Visser, Nick. "Hundreds Of Thousands Turn Out For People's Climate March In New York City." *The Huffington Post*. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 21 Sept. 2014. Web. 14 Oct. 2014.< http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/21/peoples-climate-march_n_5857902.html>
2. Flanagan, Erin, and Clare Demerse. "Climate Implications of the Proposed Energy East Pipeline." *Pembina Institute*. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Oct. 2014.<<http://www.pembina.org/reports/energy-east-climate-implications.pdf>>
3. Thomas-Muller, Clayton. "Standing Our Sacred Ground-First Nations, Tribal Leaders & Land Owners Send Message To Canada, Stop Tar Sands At The Source." *Idle No More*. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Oct. 2014.< http://www.idlenomore.ca/standing_our_sacred_ground>
4. "Energy East Pipeline Project." *TransCanada Corporation*. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Oct. 2014.< <http://www.transcanada.com/energy-east-pipeline.html>>