# JUDICIAL BOARD

## OF THE STUDENTS' SOCIETY OF McGILL UNIVERSITY

BETWEEN	
Zach NEWBURGH	
and	
Brendan STEVEN	
Petition	ers
and	
Rebecca TACOMA,	
in her capacity as Chief Electoral Officer of the Students' Society of McGill University	
Respond	'ent
PETITIONERS' DECLARATION	

Advocate for the Petitioners: Ms Carmen Barbu

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## I. Overview

- 1. From the outset, Zach Newburgh and Brendan Steven (collectively, the "Petitioners") declare that this appeal in no way reflects any views on the worth of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group McGill ("QPIRG") as an organisation.
- 2. The Petitioners challenge the validity of the Fall 2011 referendum, in which students were asked a question concerning QPIRG. This appeal considers the constitutionality of the

referendum question, the Yes Committee's adherence to the Bylaws, and Rebecca Tacoma's (the "Respondent") failure to fulfill her responsibilities as Chief Electoral Officer ("CEO") of the Students' Society of McGill University ("SSMU").

3. Referenda are fundamental democratic processes. Electoral rules must be followed strictly, and any irregularities that put in doubt the clarity of the results or the enlightened quality of the voters' decision must be handled with utmost seriousness. Therefore, the Petitioners respectfully request that the Judicial Board invalidate the results of the Fall 2011 referendum and quash the Respondent's decisions detailed below.

### II. Statement of the facts

- 4. On 10 November 2011, SSMU concluded its Fall referendum period. The referendum contained a question about QPIRG (Appendix A1, "the QPIRG Question").
- 5. Many voices on campus, including in SSMU's Legislative Council, the AUS General Assembly and McGill newspapers, criticized the content and drafting of the QPIRG question (Appendix A3, 4, 7). Nevertheless, the question appeared on the ballot. 24.7% students participated, of which 65 % answered "yes" to the QPIRG question.
- 6. The Yes Committee was endorsed by SSMU's Legislative Council (in a motion moved by Carol Fraser, Adam Winer and Micha Stettin), and by the AUS General Assembly (in a motion moved by Micha Stettin) (Appendix C3, 5).
- 7. During the campaign, some illegal activities were observed and duly addressed by the CEO. These illegal activities involved the Yes Committee posting letters of support from non-members and organizations external to SSMU on its website (Appendix B26).

- 8. The Petitioners brought to the Respondent's attention other questionable activities in support of the Yes Committee. These included letters of support published in the *McGill Daily* and the *McGill Tribune* by external organizations and by non-members, use of influence by councillors, media endorsement by TVMcGill, and unsolicited electronic email (Appendix C).
- 9. The Respondent did not deem any of these activities illegal (Appendix B2, 5, 7, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 23 and 25).
- 10. The Respondent explained some of her decisions (Appendix B2, 5, 23). On 11 November, when asked for additional clarifications, the Respondent refused to provide them in writing and, instead, invited the petitioner Mr. Newburgh to her office (Appendix B25).

## III. Procedures already followed

- 11. Between 31 October and 11 November, the petitioner Mr. Newburgh wrote to the Respondent about activities that he considered illegal. The current appeal relates to some of the Respondent's decisions on these matters (Appendix B 2, 5, 7, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 23 and 25).
- 12. Three electoral irregularities are raised here for the first time: the No statement on the ballot, the constitutionality of the question, and the signature of the referendum petition by non-members of SSMU.

## IV. Reasoned argument

## 1. The QPIRG referendum question is unconstitutional

13. The Petitioners submit that the QPIRG referendum question is unconstitutional because (a) it includes two questions, contrary to art 25.2 of the SSMU *Constitution* (the "*Constitution*"), and (b) it is not clear, contrary to art 25.3 of the *Constitution*.

### 1.1. Background

- 14. QPIRG is an Independent Student Group. Before negotiating a new Memorandum of Agreement with McGill University, QPIRG must submit a referendum existence question. The last such referendum question was submitted and was voted upon in Winter 2007.
- 15. Every undergraduate student pays \$3.75 per semester to QPIRG. Since 2007, this fee has been opt-outable via Minerva. Since 2007, QPIRG has repeatedly expressed discontent with the Minerva system.

## 1.2. The QPIRG referendum question deals with two issues

16. The QPIRG question does not deal with "one, and only one, issue" and is therefore unconstitutional as per art. 25.2 of the *Constitution*. The QPIRG question contains one question concerning the existence of QPIRG (marked below in italics), and another question concerning the modality of collecting the fee-levy (underlined below):

Do you support QPIRG continuing as a recognized student activity supported by a fee of \$3.75 per semester for undergraduate students, which is not opt-outable on the Minerva online opt-out system but is instead fully refundable directly through QPIRG, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate fee-levy funding to QPIRG?

17. The existence question describes the status quo, as suggested by the words "continuing," "recognized," and (future) "termination." A "yes" vote supports continuing the status quo.

- 18. On the contrary, since the student fee is currently opt-outable through Minerva, the fee question does not describe the status quo, but rather asks the voters about the desirability of a new opt-out system. A "yes" vote supports a <u>change in the status quo</u>.
- 19. As was recognized by the Judicial Board, the constitutional prohibition against multiissue questions is meant to protect students from abusiveness, manipulation and "horse-trading"
  (*Tanguay-Renaud v SSMU* (6 April 1999)). A referendum question may refer to a broad issue,
  which can be broken down into "sub-issues," or to a series of issues; in the latter case, the
  question is unconstitutional. While this determination must be done on a case by case basis, the
  Board established the test of philosophical connectedness between issues, which was also
  described as "philosophical overlap" or "philosophical intention" (*ibid* at 2). The Board
  recognized that, "as a general rule, referendum questions are abusive if a majority of students
  voting are likely to say 'yes' to only one of [the] proposals but will vote 'yes' to ensure the
  execution of that one proposal" (*ibid* at 2).
- 20. In the QPIRG question, the two issues are not necessarily compatible and are not closely connected. An average student may have different positions regarding the two questions, and may wish to support the existence of QPIRG, but to reject a change in the opt-out system. The referendum question as presented did not offer students this possibility, and therefore fell into the category of abusive questions.
- 21. Explanations provided by QPIRG for why both questions appear in a single referendum question are unreasonable and cannot provide the grounds for the necessary philosophical connectedness. In allowing this question, the CEO adopted QPIRG's position uncritically.
- 22. QPIRG repeatedly indicated that online opt-outs are so resource-draining that "[QPIRG's] very existence is at stake with the current system" (Appendix A7 at 4). This position was

reiterated before the SSMU Legislative Council (Appendix A3), and appears to be reflected in the seventh recital of the question's preamble. In 2010-2011, opt-outs represented 11.74% of QPIRG's expenses (Appendix A6).

- 23. The two issues are too remote, as it is unreasonable to consider an 11.74% decrease in funds as a threat to existence. The opt-out can be budgeted much like overhead or doubtful debts in a corporation, since it has not varied significantly from year to year. Strategies can involve restructuring, expense reduction, increased fundraising etc. Nevertheless, it is unclear which other options have been contemplated by QPIRG, if any. Indeed, QPIRG's internal coordinator, Ms Anna Malla, may have suggested that QPIRG had examined no alternatives: "This is a question that we'll have to address after the results of the referendum" (A7 at 5). Moreover, it is unclear how much of the 11.74% represents campaigning against the online opt-outs, how much would have to be spent with an internal opt-out system, and how different would the new number of students opting out be. Despite the visibility of QPIRG representatives throughout the campaign, no hard numbers have been presented to the voting community. QPIRG appears to ignore sound budgeting or, at least, does not provide enough information to allow voters to make a well-informed decision.
- 24. Finally, the two issues have different juridical effects. The existence issue concerns QPIRG's capacity to negotiate a new Memorandum of Agreement with McGill. The opt-out issue gives QPIRG a mandate to modify the means by which it collects fees pursuant to such a Memorandum of Agreement, namely replacing the Minerva online system with an opt-out system managed by QPIRG.
- 25. In sum, the question concerns two different issues, which relate differently to the status quo, are logically susceptible of different answers by a single voter, are remote, and entail

different juridical effects. The two issues are therefore insufficiently connected, infringing art 25.2 of the *Constitution*.

- 26. This conclusion was reached by numerous members of the McGill community, who made their position known in the SSMU Legislative Council, the AUS General Assembly, and campus newspapers (Appendix A3 at 12; A4; A7).
- 27. Indeed, an advertisement by Elections McGill itself appears to acknowledge that the question deals with two issues: "Referendum Question Regarding QPIRG Fee Renewal and Opt-Out System" (Appendix A6; emphasis added).

## 1.3. The QPIRG referendum question is not clear

- 28. While the inclusion of two questions itself produces a lack of clarity, the drafting of the question is also misleading, and the preamble further confuses the question.
- 29. The drafting of the opt-out question suggests, erroneously, that the fee is now not opt-outable on Minerva, and that a "yes" vote would support continuing the status quo: "[a fee] which is not opt-outable on the Minerva online opt-out system but is instead fully refundable directly through QPIRG." The opt-out question is phrased as a positive statement of facts, and nothing in the drafting signals that the described opt-out process is, in fact, a proposal of change. This misrepresentation is particularly damaging in a Fall referendum, when first-year students may not yet be aware of the particularities (or indeed the existence) of opt-out fees.
- 30. The preamble makes it even harder to interpret the question. Recitals 1-3 describe QPIRG's activities in general. Recitals 4-8, concerning opt-outs, are very precise. This structure suggests that the referendum question is about opt-outs thus contradicting both the title and the grammatical structure of the question.

- 31. Members of the McGill community also criticized the "convoluted, confusing way" in which the question was asked (Appendix A7).
- 32. An average student who attempts diligently to understand this question would find it confusing and unclear. The question, therefore, infringes art. 25.3 of the *Constitution*.

### 2. The campaign was riddled with irregularities

- 33. According to the *Constitution* Preamble, SSMU has a mandate of service to, and representation of, its student constituencies. As a rule, students are SSMU members, subject to certain exceptions, and they pay mandatory fees (art 1 of the *Constitution*). In return, SSMU acts as the "official voice" of its members (Preamble IV).
- 34. The mandate of representation has, as corollaries, stringent conditions for elections and referenda, established in the *Constitution* and the Bylaw I-1 ("the Bylaw"). These conditions are meant to ensure that fundamental democratic processes are carried out in the spirit of fair play, and that voters make their decision in an enlightened manner. In the past, the Judicial Board stated that, unlike other legislation, election by-laws must be applied strictly (*Re: SSMU Election Spring 1989*, 15 May 1989).

### 2.1. Misuse of authority and conflict of interest

35. During the SSMU Legislative Council of 3 November, councillors Micha Stettin, Carol Fraser and Adam Winer moved a motion to endorse a "yes" vote to the QPIRG Question (Appendix C3). Mr Stettin moved a similar motion in the AUS General Assembly (Appendix C5).

- 36. Ms Fraser and Mr Winer were members of the Yes Committee, while Mr Stettin sits on the Board of Directors of QPIRG-McGill. Although the three councillors found themselves in a conflict of interest, they did not "stat[e] the conflict openly to the Chair of the Committee before the start of debate," as required by SSMU Policy Manual, Conflict of Interest Policy art 4.2.
- 37. Moreover, the councillors misused their position of authority to further their campaign, since "only councillors shall have the right to bring resolutions, vote on resolutions, ask questions, and engage in debate in Council" (art 3.1 of Bylaw I-2).
- 38. It is hard to imagine a more egregious misuse of authority than the Yes Committee hijacking two *representative* bodies and having them advance the Yes Committee's position. Questions submitted to referenda are of such importance that they cannot be settled by representatives: *students must decide themselves*. Indeed, worries about the appropriateness of such motions and the possible stifling of the constituents' opinion were conveyed during the AUS General Assembly (Appendix A4 at 3).
- 39. The SSMU Legislative Council and the AUS General Assembly provided a strong, if unfortunate, expression of support for the Yes Committee. It is regrettable that the two bodies took a position that contradicted the *raison d'être* of referenda. But, leaving aside the wisdom of having such motions passed, it is unjustifiable that the CEO learn about such high-handed campaigning, learn that the authors are Yes Committee members, and decide *to do nothing*.

## 2.2. Support from external groups

40. Consistent with SSMU's mandate of representation, the Bylaw ensures that, when students vote in SSMU elections and referenda, their vote will not be influenced by organizations and individuals external to SSMU, and who share neither the mandate of SSMU, nor the interests

of its members. Accordingly, art 12.3.1 of the Bylaw prohibits the electoral involvement of external groups:

No organization external to SSMU may be directly or indirectly involved in the activities of the "Yes" and "No" committees and the implicit or explicit support of said committees.

- 41. On 1 November, the Respondent accepted the Petitioners' submissions that letters of support from external groups, published on the website of the Yes Committee, are illegal. These letters were removed.
- 42. After this incident, at least one member of the Yes Committee continued to advertise support by Kanata on 5 November, a group external to SSMU, on his Facebook page (Appendix C2). This illegal advertisement, *after the Censure*, was not penalized.
- 43. Furthermore, support for the Yes Committee continued to be provided by various external groups: QPIRG working groups, including a working group of QPIRG Concordia, and organizations under McGill University. These groups wrote letters of support, published in the *McGill Tribune* and *The McGill Daily* (Appendix C4). Moreover, IRC sent an unsolicited email expressing support for the Yes Committee (Appendix C6).
- 44. The Respondent did not consider the IRC unsolicited email. With respect to the other occurrences, she allowed these expressions of support, explaining:

The Tribune and Daily are exempt from having to remain neutral in regards to referenda (see by-law 16.9). As a result, the editors are at liberty to include what they want in the papers. If people who are not part of the society are writing in about why they feel QPIRG or CKUT are important on campus, this is a freedom

of expression, not support to the campaign committees themselves. It would be a little on the ridiculous side for Elections McGill to attempt to attempt [sic] to control what is written in the papers. (Appendix B23)

### a) The *Tribune* and the *Daily*

45. In recognition of the importance of free press in a democratic society, art 16.9 of the Bylaw provides:

No publication supported either directly or indirectly by the Society may express or imply any but a neutral attitude in an article, editorial, advertisement or letter towards any candidate or position in a Society election or referendum. This provision does not apply to either the McGill Tribune or the Daily Publication Society.

- 46. The Respondent's interpretation of art 16.9 is improper because it does not allow for an interpretation of the art 16.9 exemption in harmony with the strict prohibition of "implicit or explicit support" by external groups in art 12.3.1 of the Bylaw. Since art 16.9 provides an explicit exemption to the two publications, art 12.3.1, *a contrario*, does not exempt them from its prohibition.
- 47. Legislation should be read so as to give effect, harmoniously, to all its provisions. Read together, arts 16.9 and 12.3.1 provide the rule that the *McGill Tribune* and the *Daily* may express or imply non-neutral attitudes, but may not assist organizations external to SSMU in being directly or indirectly involved in the activities of the "Yes" and "No" committees, or implicitly or explicitly supporting the said committees.

- 48. Specifically, art 16.9 may allow the *Tribune* and the *Daily* to publish expressions of support, for either committee, but not from external organizations. Alternatively, the exemption in art 16.9 may concern only content produced by publication staff. Either of these interpretations would allow for a harmonious construction of arts 12.3.1 and 16.9.
- 49. This legislative scheme establishes an electoral environment which favours the freedom of expression of those who have the right to vote and who will be affected by the consequences of this vote. This approach is in line with self-governance and self-determination in democratic societies.
- 50. The same legislative scheme impairs, minimally, the freedom of expression of external organizations. SSMU legislation does not reach to external websites or newspapers; external groups have the freedom to express their position elsewhere. Furthermore, they can express their position on campus, *outside* the campaign period. Nevertheless, external groups do not, and should not, have the freedom to influence SSMU elections and referenda unduly.
- 51. If external groups are allowed to express their support in campus newspapers, where should a line be drawn? In the Letters section of the *McGill Daily* (3 November 2011), external groups outnumber internal groups by 5:1. This example shows the very real consequences of the Respondent's decision: the public discourse of SSMU is appropriated by external voices. Political positions of internal organizations (including the right to not have a position) are subdued and overwhelmed by those of external organizations.
- 52. In the face of an unambiguous provision such as art 12.3.1, the CEO's duty is not to establish which provisions are "ridiculous" and worthy of respect, but to ensure that valid legislation is not infringed. In the Fall 2011 referendum, there were grave violations of the legislation, and these violations were not sanctioned. The respondent failed in her duty.

## b) What is an external group?

53. In her reasons, the Respondent states that groups that have a member sitting on the council of a group under the SSMU are not external organizations:

I do not believe the IRC to be a [sic] external to SSMU because according to the FYC constitution, one member of the IRC sits on the SSMU FYC council, making them a part of the workings of SSMU. The same sort of logic can be used for manner of the other groups you consider to be external to SSMU (Appendix B23).

- 54. With respect, this criterion is unworkable. It cannot be applied arbitrarily in some instances and not in others and, when it is applied consistently, it leads to absurd results.
- 55. Consider two examples. First, CKUT is an Independent Student Group, but one member of the Board of Directors is appointed by SSMU. This situation would seem to qualify as being "a part of the workings" of a group. According to the Respondent's criterion, this would mean that SSMU is internal to CKUT. Second, the McGill Senate includes thirteen representatives of SSMU. Again, according to the Respondent's criterion, SSMU would be considered internal to the Senate. Such examples can be provided *ad nauseam*. Ultimately, these institutional relationships are simply instances of organizational cooperation, in a limited space with as high a number of active groups as the McGill campus.
- 56. Contrary to the Respondent's position, the Petitions submit that external organizations should be defined narrowly, to permit the operation of art 12.3.1 of the Bylaw. A broad definition could not satisfy the legislative policy of limiting external influence on the election.

57. In the absence of workable criteria provided by the Respondent, the Petitioners submit, reading art 1.2.1 of Bylaw III-1 *a contrario*, that external groups are groups that are not governed by the SSMU *Constitution* and Bylaws. Even if SSMU legislation may govern the *relationship* between SSMU and these groups, this is irrelevant if SSMU legislation does not govern the *constitutional framework of the organization*.

#### 2.3 TVMcGill

58. Art 16.9 of the Bylaw explicitly extends an exemption only to the *Tribune* and the *Daily*. Applying the principle *of expressio unius est exclusio alterius*, the exemption does not cover TVMcGill. In expressing its support for the Yes Committee on its Facebook page (Appendix C8), TVMcGill therefore violated art 16.9.

## 2.4. Support by non-members of SSMU

- 59. Similar to the letters of support by external groups, non-members of SSMU also published letters of support (Appendix C9). The Petitioners submit that these letters infringe art 12.3 of the Bylaw.
- 60. While the policy reasons for prohibiting such support are similar to those regarding external groups, non-members' letters provide further incentive to strictly prohibit such external expression during the campaign period. The letter by Mr Paul Dewar, NDP Member of Parliament, brings undeniable notoriety to the cause of the Yes Committee. At the same time, this letter raises the question whether the SSMU democratic processes can be appropriated without censure by political interests that are irrelevant to SSMU. This letter also raises the question whether SSMU democratic processes can be used for self-advertising purposes, which would be foreign, if not contradictory, to the goals of SSMU referenda.

#### 2.5. Unsolicited electronic mail

- 61. On 1 November, CKUT sent an unsolicited electronic mail encouraging recipients to answer "yes" to the QPIRG question (Appendix C7).
- 62. This occurrence is an attempt to circumvent art 16.7.5 of the Bylaw, which prohibits candidates from sending unsolicited electronic mail "for the purpose of campaigning." The email is ostensibly sent in support of QPIRG, thus respecting the <u>letter</u> of the Bylaw prohibition. Nevertheless, sending it during a campaign in which CKUT asks a *nearly identical question* and in which the two groups are mentioned together in most accounts of the referendum violates the spirit of fair play and non-harassment inscribed in art 16.7.5.

## 3. The Respondent did not fulfill her duties with due diligence

### 3.1. The Respondent's decisions are unreasonable

- 63. The *Constitution* and Bylaws of SSMU recognize a large degree of discretion to the office of the CEO. Nevertheless, no discretion is untrammelled. The Judicial Board can review unreasonable decisions of the CEO (art 32 of the Bylaw).
- 64. The Respondent's interpretation of art 16.9 of the Bylaw ignores basic principles of statutory construction and permits infringements of arts 12.3 and 12.3.1. The decisions based on this interpretation are a clear misapplication of the relevant legislation, and therefore are unreasonable.
- 65. The Respondent's definition of groups external to SSMU is based on an unworkable criterion. The decisions based on this definition are therefore unreasonable.

### 3.2. The Respondent did not respect the rules of natural justice

### a) Bias

- 66. Although the CEO has a constitutional duty of due diligence and impartiality (art 21.1 of the *Constitution*), the Respondent's decisions throughout the Fall 2011 referendum fall short of this standard and display, instead, bias. Bias is found by considering "what would an informed person, viewing the matter realistically and practically and having thought the matter through conclude" ( $R \ v \ S(RD)$ , [1997] 3 SCR 484 at 31).
- 67. While illegal "No" campaigning has been duly sanctioned, numerous infringements of referenda rules by the Yes Committee were left uncensored. This alone may suffice to satisfy the test for reasonable apprehension of bias.
- 68. In addition, however, the CEO's bias is evident in the most visible document of a referendum: the ballot. The ballot is the one document which most voters will read, and it is also the *last* document that voters will read before voting.
- 69. Despite the importance, both practical and symbolic, of the ballot, the CEO's conduct with respect to the ballot betrays partiality. The No vote links to a statement about illegal No campaigning although the CEO explains that "only approved campaign committees are entitled to submit a statement to appear on the ballot" (A2). In this referendum, there was no No Committee. By the Respondent's own criterion, if there is no No committee, there should be no No statement.
- 70. Moreover, if the Respondent's rule allows for exceptions, an impartial decider would apply those exceptions equally to both answers. If the CEO believes that "Elections McGill has to make students aware than any "No" campaigning that has gone on was not done through such

a committee," it is unclear why voters should not be also aware of the illegalities committed by the Yes Committee, and for which the Committee had been censured.

71. Only the irregularities committed by one side are mentioned, and they appear in a place on the ballot reserved for Committee statements. Considering that the CEO authored, or at least approved, this highly irregular statement, an informed person, viewing the matter realistically and practically – and having thought the matter through – would conclude that the CEO's decision was biased.

### b) Right to reasons and legitimate expectations

- 72. The CEO further breached her duty to be fair. Specifically, she infringed the Petitioners' right to reasons or, alternatively, their legitimate expectations.
- 73. The content of procedural fairness is established by balancing the *Baker* factors (*Baker v Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration*), [1999] 2 SCR 817 at paras 21-28). The case at bar can be analysed as follows:
  - <u>Factor 1</u>: The decision is <u>quasi-judicial</u>, as it involves fact-finding and an application of the law to the facts. This factor indicates greater procedural protection.
  - <u>Factor 2:</u> The <u>statutory scheme</u> provides for appeals to the Judicial Board. This scheme indicates lower procedural protection.
  - Factor 3: The high importance of the decision for the individuals affected in an electoral context indicates greater procedural protection. This factor is particularly significant in the analysis (*ibid* at para 25).
  - <u>Factor 4: Legitimate expectations</u>, when they occur, indicate greater protection, even if they cannot limit the CEO's discretion as to the substantive outcome of her decisions.

- <u>Factor 5</u>: The CEO is <u>allowed to establish her own procedure.</u> While such scheme indicates a lower content of the fairness duty, the statutory requirements of due diligence and impartiality would indicate greater procedural protection.
- 74. This analysis indicates that the CEO's duty to procedural fairness is extensive. While oral hearings would encumber the CEO unnecessarily and could prevent her from fulfilling her responsibilities during the campaign period, Petitioners should be allowed to make submissions, and those submissions should be considered with due diligence. Moreover, while extensive reasons would be prohibitively time-consuming, informal reasons are necessary, particularly given the statutory right of appeal. In the absence of a right to reasons, the statutory appeal could only be an appeal *de novo*, in which case the CEO's decisions would be entitled to no deference. An appeal *de novo*, however, does not seem compatible with the statutory scheme.
- 75. The Respondent provided reasons for decisions B2, B5, B20 and B23, but provided no reasons for decisions B7, B12, B14, B16 and B18. Moreover, the Respondent ignored completely one petition (and it is unclear which one), since decision B12 responds to the "earlier three emails"; the petitioner Mr. Newburgh had sent four emails. While the CEO is empowered to set her own procedure, whatever procedure she might have set <u>was not applied</u> consistently.
- 76. On 11 November, the Respondent explicitly refused to provide reasons, stating: "I do not feel that I have to explain each of my decisions, although I do have reasons for all the decisions that I have made" (Appendix B25). Given the tone of this statement, it is little consolation that the Respondent, contrary to her "feeling," invited the petitioner Mr. Newburgh to her office for additional clarifications.

- 77. The Petitioners submit that this message was meant to discourage further interaction with the Respondent. Even if the Respondent genuinely offered to provide oral reasons, such reasons would be insufficient in the context of a statutory right of appeal.
- 78. Furthermore, the reasons provided on the first two decisions created <u>legitimate</u> <u>expectations</u> that adverse decisions would continue to be accompanied by reasons. The Respondent disappointed the Petitioners' legitimate expectations, and her chosen course of action appears to rest on an arbitrary "feeling."
- 79. In light of the unreasonableness of the Respondent's decisions, the reasonable apprehension of bias and the breach of natural justice, Petitioners submit that the Respondent did not perform her duties with due diligence and impartiality.

## V. Conclusion and remedy

- 80. Considering that the referendum question dealt with two issues and was unclear, and that an unprecedented number of electoral irregularities occurred, the Petitioners respectfully request that the referendum results be invalidated.
- 81. Considering that some of the Respondent's decisions are unreasonable and that she breached her duty of fairness, the Petitioners respectfully request that the impugned decisions be quashed. Admittedly, this remedy would come too late to correct the Fall 2001 Referendum. Nevertheless, the remedy would help prevent future irregularities and uphold the legitimacy of future electoral processes.

## SSMU Judicial Board P-1 Petition for hearing PETITIONER (if more than one, please attach typed sheet including all required information) PETITIONER'S advocate, if any (if more than one, please attach typed sheet including all required information) bu e-mail address 11)13/11/11/19/01 borba D wait mocil RESPONDENT (if more than one, please attach typed sheet including all required information) Last name CEO) race e-mail address assno, mech. Ca election RESPONDENT'S advocate, if any (if more than one, please attach typed sheet including all required information) Declaration guidelines (declaration should accompany petition) Allegation of facts: What happened? Who did what? What were the relevant dates of any: e.g. communications, decisions, official Council motions? A copy of all relevant documents in their entirety should be attached to the petition (do not include the SSMU Constitution or By-Laws). @ Procedures already followed: Why is it not possible for this petition to be resolved by the parties? Have all possible avenues for dispute resolution been exhausted? If not, why not? What does the petitioner want (remedy sought)?: The petitioner must state clearly what he or she wants, e.g. order of Council overturned, an act by an officer declared unconstitutional, an interpretation of the Constitution or By-Laws in reference to a specific fact situation. Reasoned argument: What is the basis of jurisdiction for the Judicial Board? Why should the Judicial Board award the petitioner what he or she wants? What specific statutory provisions are involved and/or have been violated? How do the facts as alleged constitute a violation? How should the statutory provisions be interpreted according to the petitioner? PETITIONER'S witnesses, if any (if more than three, attach typed sheet including all required information) Last name irst name ast name Telephone Relation of witness to dispute elephone

date

Service shall be deemed to have been effected four days following delivery of the petition to a thirdparty mandated to deliver it to the respondent(s).

I, the undersigned, petition the Students' Society of McGill University Judicial Board and agree to submit to its

sole jurisdiction and be bound by its decision.

Petitioners

Brendan Steven, 514.679.8015, brendan steven Comail. migillica Zach Newburgh, 514.516.5424, zach newburgh Comail. migillica

### NOTICE OF APPEAL

ATTN: Jagtaran Singh Director, Student Advocacy & University Affairs 11 November 2011

In accordance with Bylaw I-1, Article 32.1, we, Brendan Steven and Zach Newburgh, do hereby launch an official appeal of the results of the QPIRG Referendum Question, which reads as follows:

**QPIRG Existence Question:** 

Whereas the Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill (QPIRG) is one of 200 PIRGs in the United States and Canada, and has been incorporated as a not-for-profit organization since 1989;

Whereas QPIRG provides vital resources, funding and meeting space that enable students and community groups to conduct research and launch a diversity of environmental and social justice initiatives;

Whereas QPIRG connects campus and community through annual event series for McGill students (e.g., Rad Frosh, Culture Shock, Social Justice Days) and through numerous working groups (e.g., Greening McGill, Campus Crops, Women of Diverse Origins);

Whereas McGill students voted to grant QPIRG its initial fee levy in 1988, and QPIRG subsequently created its own fee refund process for students who wanted to "opt out";

Whereas McGill University took over QPIRG's opt-out process in 2007 without consulting QPIRG or McGill students and created their own online opt-out system via the Minerva website;

Whereas McGill undergraduate students voted in the Fall 2007 Géneral Assembly to "put an end to the online opt-out system [...] such that campus groups shall be in charge of their own opt-out processes";

Whereas the placement of QPIRG's fee on the Minerva opt-out system has put QPIRG's finances in a position of increasingly unmanageable financial instability, thereby interfering with QPIRG's capacity to serve the McGill and Montreal communities;

Whereas a "yes" vote on the following question shall mean that QPIRG continue receiving the undergraduate fee-levy, with refunds administered by QPIRG instead of the externally imposed Minerva opt-out system, and that students retain their right to receive a full fee refund;

Do you support QPIRG continuing as a recognized student activity supported by a fee of \$3.75 per semester for undergraduate students, which is not opt-outable on the Minerva online opt-out system but is instead fully refundable directly through QPIRG, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate fee-levy funding to QPIRG?

We intend to submit a factum to the Judicial Board within the coming days. Please inform us of relevant procedure by email.

Yours truly,

Brendan Steven

U2 Arts

260367004

brendan.steven@mail.mcgill.ca

Zach Newburgh

U4 Arts

260265018

zach.newburgh@mail.mcgill.ca

This is to confirm receipt of Mr. Newburgh and Mr. Steven's petition before the Judicial Board.

Ms. Rebecca Tacoma

November 29, 2011

Dear Members of the Judicial Board,

I would like to testify before the Judicial Board regarding the unsolicited email sent by CKUT in support of the QPIRG referendum, on November 1, 2011.

I am a recipient of that email.

I was surprised to receive this email because, when I signed up for CKUT's email listsery, I expected I would only receive news about CKUT. I am interested in hearing CKUT's positions regarding many issues on campus. Nevertheless, I did not expect that CKUT would involve its members in a controversial political issue such as that of QPIRG.

I realize that, in this internet era, unsolicited email is a fact of life. However, when a person willingly provides her email address to an organization, she does so with an expectation that this private information will not be misused.

I would like to have an opportunity to testify to the Judicial Board that this unsolicited email was an instance of abusive use of private information.

Sincerely,

Eliana Schwartz

November 28, 2011

Eliana Schurce

I, Zachary Newburgh, member of the SSMU, am prepared to testify on matters related to my correspondence with the CEO of Elections McGill, Rebecca Tacoma, during the Fall 2011 referendum period.

In particular, I assert the following:

- On 31 October, I reviewed the petition that established the QPIRG Referendum Question, comparing the names listed therein to the SSMU Membership List under the supervision of the SSMU General Manager, Pauline Gervais;
- 2) I discovered that 10 of the names contained in the petition were from individuals who were not in the SSMU Membership List;
- 3) During a conversation with the CEO following my review of the petition, I was under the impression that the CEO had assessed the ratio of Faculty/School participation, but not whether signatories were members or non-members of the Society;
- 4) From 31 October-11 November, I was deeply concerned about a series of activities that I considered were in violation of campaign rules;
- 5) I informed the CEO of the aforementioned activities by email on numerous occasions;
- 6) Excepting the first response, the CEO did not inform me of any actions taken to correct these alleged violations;
- 7) Considering that the CEO had previously censured the Yes Committee on the second day of the campaign, I had therefore assumed that the CEO was dealing with the other alleged violations appropriately;
- 8) Not until the final day of the referendum period did I learn that all of my concerns, with the exception of two contained in my first email, were dismissed by the CEO; and
- 9) I believe this dismissal to have been committed without due consideration of the activities committed;

Sincerely,

Zachary Newburgh 260265018

# **Appendix A: Constitutionality of the QPIRG Question**

# **Table of Contents**

Document	NR.
QPIRG Referendum question - ballot	1.
Announcement (20111107) - regarding the No statement on the ballot	2.
SSMU Legislative Council - Minutes-10.13.11	3.
AUS General Assembly Minutes (20111108)	4.
QPIRG McGill Expenses	5.
Elections McGill Advertisement (20111101)	6.
Reactions from the McGill community regarding the content and the drafting of the QPIRG referendum question (Excerpts)	7.

# **Referendum Ballot**

Note: Numbering of Preamble recitals has been added for ease of reference.

1	QPIRG Existence Question: Whereas the Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill (QPIRG) is one of 200 PIRGs in the United States and Canada, and has been incorporated as a not-for-profit organization since 1989;				
2	Whereas QPIRG provides vital resources, funding and meeting space that enable students and community groups to conduct research and launch a diversity of environmental and social justice initiatives;				
3	Whereas QPIRG connects campus and community through annual event series for McGill students (e.g., Rad Frosh, Culture Shock, Social Justice Days) and through numerous working groups (e.g., Greening McGill, Campus Crops, Women of Diverse Origins);				
4	Whereas McGill students voted to grant QPIRG its initial fee levy in 1988, and QPIRG subsequently created its own fee refund process for students who wanted to "opt out";				
5	Whereas McGill University took over QPIRG's opt-out process in 2007 without consulting QPIRG or McGill students and created their own online opt-out system via the Minerva website;				
6	Whereas McGill undergraduate students voted in the Fall 2007 General Assembly to "put an end to the online opt-out system [] such that campus groups shall be in charge of their own opt-out processes";				
7	Whereas the placement of QPIRG's fee on the Minerva opt-out system has put QPIRG's finances in a position of increasingly unmanageable financial instability, thereby interfering with QPIRG's capacity to serve the McGill and Montreal communities;				
8	Whereas a "yes" vote on the following question shall mean that QPIRG continue receiving the undergraduate fee-levy, with refunds administered by QPIRG instead of the externally imposed Minerva opt-out system, and that students retain their right to receive a full fee refund;				
	Do you support QPIRG continuing as a recognized student activity supported by a fee of \$3.75 per semester for undergraduate students, which is not opt-outable on the Minerva online opt-out system but is instead fully refundable directly through QPIRG, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate fee-levy funding to QPIRG?				
	You may select <b>one</b> of the following choices. Click on each choice to read <b>supporting statements</b> .				
	O Yes				
	O No				
	State no opinion				
	Continue Cancel				

### **No Statement**

Do you support QPIRG continuing as a recognized student activity supported by a fee of \$3.75 per semester for undergraduate students, which is not opt-outable on the Minerva online opt-out system but is instead fully refundable directly through QPIRG, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate fee-levy funding to QPIRG?

You may select **one** of the following choices. Click on each choice to read **supporting statements**.

0	No Elections McGill advises all students to recognize any "No" campaigning that was done as a direct violation of the by-laws. It was not done through an authorized "No" committee subject to mechanisms such as postering, campaign funding, and sanctions. As a result, any information that was disseminated was not verified as correct nor could Elections McGill ensure that a spirit of fair campaigning was upheld.  The above statement applies to any "No" campaigning done up until November 4th. The statement also applies to any "No" campaigning done throughout the remainder of the campaign period unless otherwise notified through e-mail by Elections McGill that an authorized "No" committee has since come into existence.
0	<u>Yes</u>

## **Yes Statement**

Do you support QPIRG continuing as a recognized student activity supported by a fee of \$3.75 per semester for undergraduate students, which is not opt-outable on the Minerva online opt-out system but is instead fully refundable directly through QPIRG, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate fee-levy funding to QPIRG?

You may select **one** of the following choices. Click on each choice to read **supporting statements**.

$\bigcirc$	<u>No</u>
0	Yes Recycling! Rad Frosh! Social Justice Days! All these things and more! have been brought to you by QPIRG, your student-run non-profit organization. After 22 years of service to the McGill and Montreal communities, QPIRG is at an impasse: we cannot continue to exist under the opt-out system imposed by the McGill administration. So vote "YES" for a democratic, accountable, informed and accessible refund system that is under student control. Vote "YES" for the organization that makes McGill about more than just the classroom. McGill students deserve a diverse and vibrant campus life: vote "YES" for QPIRG's continued existence!
0	state no opinion

# **A 2**

# [ELECTIONS] take a second and VOTE!

From: zach.newburgh@mail.mcgill.ca on behalf of Chief Electoral Officer - Elections McGill

(elections@ssmu.mcgill.ca)

Sent: November-07-11 7:51:57 PM

To: ELECTIONS@LISTS.MCGILL.CA (ELECTIONS@LISTS.MCGILL.CA)

Hi Everyone,

Voting is still going on! Remember that you can vote in the SSMU Referendum anytime until 6:00pm on Thursday, November 10th. All you have to do is go to:

#### https://ovs.ssmu.mcgill.ca/

I have also compiled some Frequently Asked Questions that seem to come up during the voting period:

O: How can I vote if I don't know what the referendum is about?

A: Easy! The full question is provided on the ballot for you, all you have to do it take a second to read it.

Q: Why should I vote in the first place?

A: First off, it literally takes a minute of your time. Secondly, the questions are pertaining to your student groups and your student fees, you should have your say!

Q: When I went to vote, it seems that under the "Yes" options there was a statement about why I should vote "Yes," but under the "No" option there was only a statement about illegal campaigning that has occurred. Why is that?

A: This is because only approved campaign committees are entitled to submit a statement to appear on the ballot. As students only chose to form "Yes" committees, but no students came forward to form "No" committees, there were no statements submitted supporting the "No" option on the ballot. Further, only approved campaign committees are allowed to campaign, so Elections McGill has to make students aware than any "No" campaigning that has gone on was not done through such a committee.

GO VOTE--If you have any more questions, feel free to send us an e-mail!

(french version below)

Bonjour à tous,

C'est encore le temps de voter! Vous pouvez voter pour le référendum

## Meeting of the Legislative Council

### 1) Call to Order 6:07pm

### 2) Attendance

The attendance was circulated.

## 3) Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of September 29<sup>th</sup> were approved.

### 4) Approval of the Agenda

A motion passed to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to allow speaking time for the Coordinator of the Interest Group Committee for two minutes. Representatives of McGill Food Dining services were also granted speaking time for 5 minutes following the presentation from the Provost.

The agenda was adopted with amendments to allow for two additional guest speakers.

### 5) Report by the Steering Committee

President Knight presented key points of the report, and announced that The Steering Committee met on only one Monday because of Thanksgiving.

The report of the Steering Committee was adopted.

### 6) Guest Speakers

### 6a. Interest Group Coordinator

Kaiti O'Shaughnessy introduced herself as the Interest Group Coordinator. She works under Carol Fraser who is VP clubs and services. She is the person of contact for those who want to start a club at McGill. She said thanks to the Council for letting her speak. She stood for questions.

Councillor Stettin asked how the IGC can be contacted.

Ms. O'Shaughnessy said that she can be e-mailed at ige.ssmu.megill.ea

Chair Nizam thanked Ms. O'Shaughnessy for coming.

#### 6b. Prof. Anthony C. Masi, Provost, McGill University

Provost Massi said that last year he was on the clock for five minutes at a meeting of Council, but tonight he wants to take more time to talk about McGill's strategic academic plan for the next five years and receive feedback. The plan for the last five years was called strengths and aspirations. There is a strengths and aspirations white paper that is currently under review. Today, he would like to give a brief overview about what achieving strategic priorities for 2012 means and describe the steps that will be undertaken to achieve these priorities. Then, he will respond to questions. McGill University is comprised of 25,000 undergraduate and 8,000 graduate students from 160 countries around the world. Undergraduates at McGill have the highest entering grades of any university in Canada, McGill receives one more Rhodes scholarship than any university, and McGill has more all-Canadian students than any other university in Canada. Six years ago, Dr. Masi was named chief academic officer, which is the highest position in the university after the principal, and is the highest academic position at the university. All Deans report to him, and Deputy Provost for Student Life and Learning also reports to him. He is also responsible for setting the strategic academic plan. His second job is the chief budget officer (which is not the same as the chief financial officer). The budget is created so that it is in line with appropriate priorities, according to a

Chair Nizam thanked Ms. Mazzotta and Mr. de Volpi for their contribution.

### 10d. QPIRG Representatives

Anna introduced herself as one of the two full-time coordinating staff at the Quebec public Research Interest Group at McGill. Tyler is also a representative present here, and he is a board member. QPIRG's mandate is to connect students with the community and environment with community in order to create a partnership. There are three public research interest groups in Quebec and 200 with this particular mandate. The heart and soul of the organization is its' working groups. Campus crops is one of the working groups. Another important aspect is the alternative library, and the community-research exchange. Lastly, there is a lot of popular education. An upcoming event is culture shock, which is hosted in coordination with SSMU. Anna said that there is not much time, so popular education events on campus are integral in a couple of the events. Radical frosh and social justice days are done in coordination with the SSMU. QPIRG has been with McGill since 1988. A couple of other QPIRG staff and board members are here passing out flyers regarding working groups and research. There is another document being circulated regarding the opt-outs. QPIRG is going to referendum and chose the route of getting student signatures in terms of showing support for QPIRG, but it also feels that it is important to have the support of Council. If there are any questions, the representatives are happy to answer. Tyler said that the volunteer board of directors are elected democratically and there is also a representative from the SSMU, Micha Stettin, who represents the dialogue of SSMU. CKUT will be presenting their question which is related to the QPIRG question. The materials being passed around explain the referendum question that is being discussed.

### Questions

Councillor Paterson asked in regards to opt-outs, "What are your thought on in-person opt-outs not being a safe space for people wishing to opt-out?"

Anna said that in 1988 when QPIRG started there were opt-outs, and opt-outs happened in person for 19 years without incident. In 2007, without consultation with QPIRG, the opt-out system was placed on the Minerva system.

Councillor Bi asked "Could you make the operating budget available so that everyone could make a more informed decision?"

Anna said that the budget is open to all members (those who have not opted out). She said to e-mail her and she can get that to you.

Councillor Bi asked what the percentage was for opt-outs.

Anna said that last year and since opt-outs have gone online in general, there has been a spike. What they have seen is that the numbers across the board are equal and statistics can be made available to students. Students are doing "blanket opt-outs" without being informed of what the services are that they are opting out of. There is a serious impact on the ability to continue functioning at QPIRG McGill and at the Campus Community Radio Station because of opt-outs. Chair Nizam said that if the QPIRG representatives would like to send the Speakers information about opt-outs or the budget this could be circulated to Councillors via e-mail.

A member of the gallery said that she has the budget numbers for CKUT for those wishing to see them. Those will be passed around soon.

Councillor Clarke said that QPIRG has stated its commitment to a more accessible system, but how is something more accessible than online?

Anna said that accessibility is seen as students actually getting informed and making a decision themselves in an accessible process about whether or not they would like to opt-out.

Councillor Khan said that he read on a pamphlet which said that QPIRG was opposed to Canada day and that QPIRG was supposed to address research of public concern and has failed on that mandate.

Anna said that a letter was published about the anti-Canada Day reference to explain it. Since opt-outs there has been a campaign on campus to get students to opt out of QPIRG's fee. It is very difficult for QPIRG to be in referendum mode when there is an opt-out campaign. The School Schmool is an agenda/info booklet (like the SSMU Handbook). On July 1st 2011, it said anti-Canada Day. The idea is that we should be questioning celebrating a day which also celebrates the massacre of indigenous people and to spark the thought of critical analysis. QPIRG does not organize anything for anti-Canada Day. She was surprised to read on a pamphlet that QPIRG is supposedly failing on its mandate in research. She can talk about numerous endeavors that started with research and turned into action such as recycling on campus. Recycling on campus began through QPIRG and was somewhat controversial at the time. There was one initiative about military research at McGill. QPIRG is always looking at institutionally responsible research initiatives at McGill. There is an undergraduate research project along with QPIRG Concordia going on right now.

Councillor Niu asked whether McGill is not responding to calls for an autonomous opt-out system or whether they are just rejecting concerns.

Anna said that when that happened, QPIRG and CKUT got a letter saying that the opt-outs would be going up on the Minerva web system. QPIRG has been coming up with alternative solutions and has had meetings with several administrators. All concerns have been shot down. The opt-out conversation is closed according to the administration. However, it is not closed and they believe that student autonomy is being taken away and they want to make sure it's not happening. Tyler said that there is a wider issue of administrators not privileging student experience at this school.

Vice-President Pedneault said that there is a broader political/social context of the opt-out campaign and is wondering whether they see a shutting down of social justice in general. Tylet said that there has been a concerted effort of the conservative party in Canada to shut down social justice initiatives on campus. For example, the progressive conservative party in Waterloo was explicitly involved in trying to put funding online, misrepresenting what they do, and undermine causes because of ideological differences.

Anna said that Conservative McGill said that they would not meet with QPIRG about opt-outs or would only have one member of the group with them. Conservative McGill used to put its name on information about the opt-out campaign but no name is on opt-out materials anymore. However, QPIRG is accountable for every action that they do. The opt-out campaign is not accountable to anyone. QPIRG cannot leave glossy flyers across campus because they would have to answer for those flyers, while the opt-out campaign can do so because it does not have a group behind it, officially.

Chair Nizam said that if anyone has an issue and feels like they not being called on enough, please send a note or speak to her during a recess.

Vice-President Plummer asked if the representatives would say that faculty associations are equally affected by opt-outs?

Tyler said he is not certain but there is a valiant effort on the part of the associations to mount an opt-in campaign.

Councillor Kunev said that he would like to thank them for coming. Given the fact that some groups on campus have expressed opinions about QPIRG supporting a terrorist organization and this affects QPIRG's financial assets, is it possible for you to reconsider your relationship for this group and reconsider the name between the anti-Canada event.

Anna explained that Tedamon is one of the 20 different working groups and they work with struggles in the middle-east. The campaign from 2002-2007 was an autonomous group (so she may not know and questions should be addressed to them). The campaign was looking at the profiling of particular kinds of groups that were considered terrorist organizations. Hezbollah was blacklisted and they were talking about the delisting of Hezbollah. Tedamon stopped that campaign due to shifting in other areas. QPIRG supports Tedamon and their politics change over time. They chose to fund Tedamon this year based on what they are doing now. She was not involved with QPIRG at the time of the campaign, and would stress that QPIRG supports the work that Tedamon is doing. They bring in speakers, poets, and organizations. The QPIRG board did decide to fund them this year and believe that they do very much fit into their mandate in terms of what they are doing currently. QPIRG does not organize anything around Canada day or anti Canada day. That reference in School Schmool is to spark critical thought about celebrating the birth of Canada which represents the death of many communities.

Councillor Bi asked that opt-outs not be described as a miscommunication. She asked "Isn't that belittling to the students who choose to drop out?"

Anna said that dozens of students try to opt back in. When QPIRG representatives sit down and clarify to people that they do not support Hezbollah and they are an organization committed social and environmental justice, many people change their minds. However, some people do make informed decisions to opt-out.

Councillor Bi asked what the concerns were in the past having to do with right-wing parties. She asked "When you engaged with conversations with McGill about the program, what were those concerns?"

Anna said that QPIRG engaged in dialogue immediately and did not wait at all. McGill did not talk about the concerns that have existed with opt-outs. Anna said that she was not at the negotiating table when this was happening. Students were not coming with concerns over opt-outs. McGill was talking about how things need to be online. However, there has been a huge spike in opt-outs across the board. QPIRG is concerned about the ways in which it can advocate for itself. What QPIRG does is hindered by what the click of the mouse. There are financial issues for students and QPIRG recognizes the need for students to opt-out because of the cost of their fees and because of political reasons.

Councillor Shahid said that when students go online to opt-out, there could be a highlighted link to see what QPIRG is doing. Have you explored that? Secondly, he is more likely to opt-out if he sees that opt-out campaign has a huge following and QPIRG does not.

Anna said that there is a link, but the way the system is set up on Minerva, no one has to click on the link in order to clarify what QPIRG does before opting-out. QPIRG has done a lot of

outreach to try and make what they do known to people. CKUT has a similar link. If students just see an acronym and don't know what they do it might be easy to opt out. The vast majority of graduate and undergraduate students are not opting out. There are a lot of e-mails and phone calls during opt-out period from people asking how they can help. It takes a lot of capacity to do classroom announcements, tabling, and getting the real information out there under our campus our community. There was a lot of misinformation out there, including libelous claims made by a campus newspaper. People did listen when QPIRG sat down with editorial boards. There is a limited budget and capacity with two full-time staff members and a board of directors.

Chair Nizam said that if anyone has questions that may not enlighten the group, those that are enlightening should be prioritized. Individual questions can occur outside of this forum, because we are seeking more participation from gallery.

Councillor Chaini asked why you are not allowed to publish information you can have. As a first year, she had no idea what the fees were about.

Tyler said that that there aren't any standing rules for opt-out period. It has a ton of influence and goes a long way but is not necessarily true. There was a pretty large campaign this year. Anna said that according to campus rules no one is allowed to leave flyers on desks but we are held accountable for our actions. QPIRG values its relationship with SSMU and looks forward to continued support.

President Knight said that additionally, campaign regulations are administered by SSMU and those organizations have the ability to disqualify candidates, but there is no funding for campaigns. It is difficult for anyone to chase you down and do anything when your campaign does not have a name behind it.

Vice-President Plummer is wondering why existence and opt-out strategy are being discussed in the same motion (both for this and the CKUT referendum question). Anna said that there has been discussion with boarder membership about this. QPIRG cannot sustain itself with the drain, both financial and personal, from the opt-out campaign. There is a maximum 1% opt-out from the seven different groups. Since its existence is tied to the online opt-out system, QPIRG considers it the same question. The refund process was started in 1988 for a specific purpose, and it can still fulfill that purpose offline.

Councillor Bi said that everyone is asked to pay the QPIRG fee. SSMU services affect every single student. Is QPIRG coming up with events that every first year could sing up for? Could you theoretically provide services to 90% of the student population?

Tyler said that QPIRG is not under the illusion that all students at McGill are going to be asking for their services. For example, we all fund health care. QPIRG believes that people who are not as well represented on campus can be well-represented through QPIRG. It is not that every student is going to be using our services, but QPIRG is more than just a service.

Sebastian Forte, economics PhD student from the gallery he said that how many people do try to opt back in after they have opted out.

Tyler said that he does not have an exact number, but QPIRG is having a tough time explaining to people what it does. The campaign was about sitting down with people. There is a problem with a misconception about what QPIRG does. There are certainly a bunch of people who stop by after they have opted-out to ask about how they can support QPIRG and what they do.

## AUS GA

November 8, 2011

Call to Order

## Adding Motion RE: Karl Marx to the agenda

30 left side 52 right side

82 total

Motion fails

Request for revote with against and abstentions

New quorum = 264

For:

23

57

80 total

Against:

54

36

90 total

Abstentions:

7

11 total

Motion fails

# Motion to move c, e, g, above b on Agenda

Agenda clearly passes

#### **Announcements**

Vote in referendum

### **Question Period**

Question re: tuition strike

Question re: AUS as an independent student association

### **Old Business**

No Old Business

#### **New Business**

Motion re: Academic Amnesty

Reading of the motion

Amendment by Matthew Crawford: replace mandating with lobbying

Motion to call to question: clearly passes

Votes (quorum 263)

For: 93 ls 108 rs 211 total

Against: 9

Abstentions: 8

Motion re: QPIRG McGill Existence
Reading of the motion by Micha Stettin
Question period

Motion to call to question

Motion to extend question period

Motion to debate

Motion to amend: out of order

Motion to suspend parliamentary rules:

Quorum: 253 For: 179 Against: 92 Motion passes

Motion to debate:

Quorum: 263 For: 118 Against: 56 Motion passes

Speakers for: Matthew Crawford, Nico Block, Rebecca Dooley

Speakers against: Joe McGrade, Alex, Isabelle Bi

MATT: moral bankruptcy, support against the McGill admin, for QPIRGs programs

JOE: new opt-out system (not online) limits the ability to opt-out,

NICO: switches to Rebecca

REBECCA: taking autonomy away from students, compares to CKUT question

ALEX: taking out the internet opt-out

NICO: go to the QPIRG AGM to change the refund policy

ISABELLE: marginalizing voices, we should not endorse because were a huge student body

Motion to call to question: clearly passes

Quorum: 250

**Vote** 

For: 174 Against: 21 Abstentions: 21

**Resolution re: Support of African Studies** 

Reading of the Motion by Hyun-Soo Lim HSL Speaks to the motion

Questions

How many students in the program? 90 Who made the decision? Former Associate Dean of Arts

Motions

Motion to call to question

Motion to amend: BIRT that the AUS will actively lobby the administration to hire an

African Studies Professor (friendly)

Motion to call to question: clearly passes

Vote (239): clearly passes

**Motion re: Support of MUNACA** 

Reading of the motion by Sheehan Moore Questions

Motions

Motion to call to question: passes Motion to extend question period:

Motion to suspend parliamentary inquiry and move debate to the front:

Vote (229)

For: 133 Opposed: 27 Abstentions: 18

Motion re: November 10th Resolution

Reading of the motion Speaking to the motion Question period

**Motions** 

Motion to debate (12 mins, 2 mins each): motion fails



# **A** 5

### **QPIRG McGill**

Social Justice & Environmental Activism

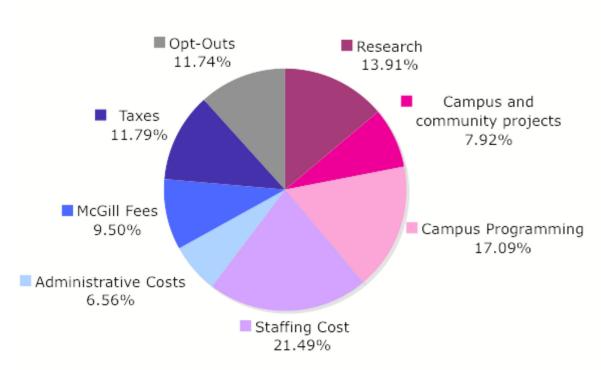
3647 University Montreal, Quebec H3A 2B3

- t. 514-398-7432
- f. 514-398-8976
- e. qpirg@ssmu.mcgill.ca

<u>Home</u> > <u>About QPIRG McGill</u> > QPIRG Expenses

# **QPIRG** Expenses

# **Expenses 2010-2011**



### **Details of**

# **Expenses 2010-2011**

### **Research (13.91%)**

Research is one of the pillars of our mandate at QPIRG. The expenses in this category include, amongst others: funding for the Community-University Research Exchange; the Study in Action Conference (at which students can present their own research projects); the Convergence Journal (a journal of papers by undergraduate students); Summer stipend research projects, as well as for our library, which is the largest alternative library in Montreal.

1 of 4 21/11/2011 22:14

# **A** 5

## Campus and community projects (7.92%)

QPIRG's mandate is to connect students with the larger Montreal community around issues of social and environmental justice. In order to carry out this mandate, QPIRG funds twenty independent working groups, one-off projects and discretionary funding for student projects and events.

## Campus programming (17.09%)

Every year, QPIRG-McGill organizes tons of awesome events on campus for McGill students. Amongst these include Rad Frosh, our alternative orientation for new McGill students, event series such as Culture Shock and Social Justice Days, as well as School Schmool, a no-nonsense planner and guide to McGill and Montreal community resources.

### Staffing Costs (21.49%)

QPIRG strongly believes in putting our mandate of social justice and equality into practice in the very structure of our organization. As such, workers' rights are very important to us. We try as much as possible to make sure that our staff are paid a living wage, and not just minimum wage, and that they receive some benefits (partial health insurance and bus passes). However, with a limited budget and an immense amount of work, our staff, both full-time and contract, work above and beyond what they are paid to do at QPIRG.

## **Administrative Costs (6.56%)**

As with every organization, QPIRG has several administrative costs to manage, such as office supplies, photocopies, our annual incorporation fee (as all registered non-profit organizations), accounting fees, insurance, postage, repairs and maintenance, and bank charges. Not very exciting, but they are part of what sustains the work we do!

## McGill Fees (9.50%)

We pay rent (\$1,713/month) to McGill, as well as internet, telephone and fax fees and administrative fees. According to our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), we cannot use any services other than McGill ones.

# Taxes (11.79%)

Like all organizations who have paid staff, we pay federal taxes (income tax and employment insurance) and Quebec taxes (Quebec income tax, Quebec Pension Plan, Health Services Fund, Quebec Parental Insurance Plan) to the provincial and federal governments. We also pay into the Comission de la santé et de la securité du travail (CSST).

## **Opt-outs (11.74%)**

Opt-outs represent a significant expense in our budget, as they do across the board for the fee-levy groups whose opt-out mechanism was placed on the Minerva on-line opt-out system. At the beginning of every school year, we receive funding from the student

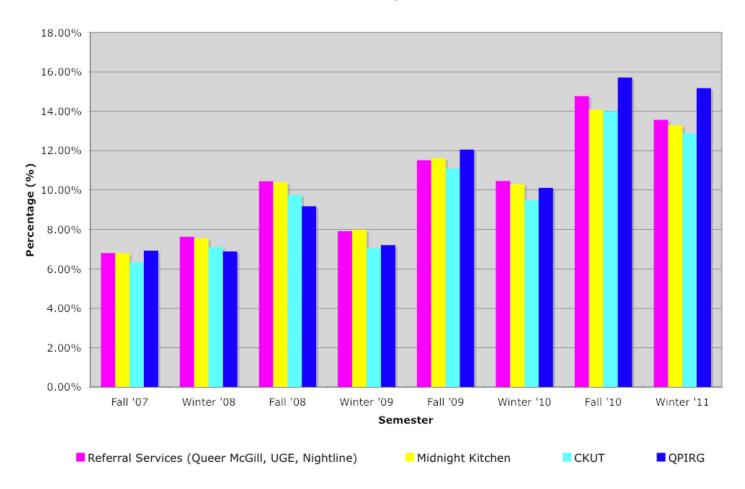
2 of 4 21/11/2011 22:14

**A** 5

fee-levy in full. With the current system, the amount of money that makes up the number of students who have opted-out online is subtracted from our next fee-levy cheque from McGill. As such, this is counted as an "expense" in our budget. The difference in opt-outs among all the different fee-levy groups is between 0.5% to 1.5%.

The chart below show opt-outs since they went online in the fall of 2007. QPIRG and CKUT get funding from all students at McGill, the Referral Services and Midnight Kitchen only get funding from undergraduate students. The percentages displayed below are based on the different student enrolments.

### **Blanket Opt Outs**



# **Section Subpages**

Share

- Board of Directors
- Conflict Resolution & Complaints Committee
- Documents and other downloadable items
- History
- QPIRG Revenues
- About
- I ♥ QPIRG
- Research
- Resources
- Popular Education

[...]

8

### Commentary

Judy Rebick

# The importance of QPIRG at McGill

I have just returned from the 100th anniversary of the *McGill Daily*. I was a writer and editor from

1964 to 1967. The *McGill Daily* set me on my path both as an activist and as a journalist.

Needless to say the 1960s were an exciting time at McGill. We fought for and won the idea that a university should provide a centre for a constant discussion of ideas inside and outside of the classroom. For me, my activities outside the classroom were far more important.

In an era where inequality is growing and our civilization is staring down major environmental and economic crises, the role of organisations advancing alternative discourses on these matters is even more important. More than ever Jinking environmentalism and social justice is critical to an understanding of the challenges we face. For 30 years the Quebec Public Interest Group (QPIRG) has brought innovations such as recycling to campus, queer friendly space stickers, campus gardens, Social Justice Days, Radfrosh, and more.

With upwards of 20 working

groups linking students with community and international issues, QPIRG McGill (like PIRGs all across Canada) contributes to the discussion and learning of students. Whether you agree with the causes advanced by these working groups or not, it is always important to keep in mind the role they play on campuses and in communities. The education of everyone is enriched when conventional nostrums are challenged and we are exposed to different experiences and perspectives.

Moreover, offering alternative spaces for communities and voices that do not conform to the mainstream is integral to a vibrant democracy.

Keeping organizations like QPIRG and the initiatives it supports alive and thriving requires stable funding. I therefore encourage McGill students to continue to value the work of QPIRG McGill and to engage with them and learn more about the work they do.



University years are unique in the richness of experiences they offer. Campuses abound with diversity of people and ideas. Nowhere are individuals more primed to learn and to be challenged.

With upwards of 20 working groups linking students with community and international issues, QPIRG McGill (like PIRGs all across Canada) contributes to the vitality of campus life. Whether or not one agrees with the causes and the stands advanced by these working groups, their contribution to a healthy debate on campus is undeniable.

In my work as a parliamentarian, I've always relied on student groups like PIRGs for advice, mobilizing public opinion and organizing around solutions. Of course, there are times we may disagree with each other, but that's the essence of democracy. The resolution to such disagreements can only be found through engagement.

For years, students have supported QPIRG-McGill and the services it provides to campus life and the global community. It's a tradition worth maintaining.

> Paul Dewar NDP Member of Parliament

I read with interest your editorial regarding union tactics, and I must say I am surprised you got the position you are in. Did you check your facts? Are you just repeating ad naseum what you have been told by the administration?

Has McGill provided you with proof that these indescretions did in fact occur?

Are you going to also blame MUNACA for the walkouts at the hospital site today and yesterday? Because it is a FACT that they had nothing to do with it.

Is it right to have someone arrested someone who is herself an alumnus—for distributing flyers? I don't believe anyone was harassed, has had things thrown at them, has defaced property, because if these things had happened, you can be sure more people would be arrested. McGill is playing hardball.

Childish tactics? What would you do if all your rights had been taken away from you? If your place of employment imposes injunctions which completely destroyed your ability to peacefully demonstrate—and all this at a university—higher education—freedom of speech. Try investigating before writing.

Donna Cormier A disgruntled employee who is not a member of MUNACA



# **Fall Referendum Period**

The Fall 2010 referendum campaign period will run from **October 31st- November 9th**, and the polling period will run from November 4th-10th.

The following **two** referendum questions will be on the ballot:

Referendum Question Regarding QPIRG Fee Renewal and Opt-Out System:

Do you support QPIRG continuing as a recognized student activity supported by a fee of \$3.75 per semester for undergraduate students, which is not opt-outable on the Minerva online opt-out system but is instead fully refundable directly through QPIRG with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate funding to CKUT?

#### Referendum Ouestion Regarding CKUT Fee Renewal and Opt-Out System:

Do you support CKUT continuing as a recognized student activity supported by a fee of \$4.00 per semester for full-time undergraduate students, which is not optoutable on the Minerva online optout system but is fully refundable directly through CKUT, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination

of all undergraduate funding to CKUT?

elections.

To view the full text of each question go to **ssmu.mcgill.ca/elections** and click on the "Elections" tab. Polling stations will operate from November 4th and November 10th

and locations and dates will be announced via email and posted on ssmu.mcgill.ca/

If you have any questions please contact Elections McGill at:

elections@ssmu.mcgill.ca

# Reactions from the McGill community regarding the content and the drafting of the QPIRG referendum question (Excerpts)

"Vote 'Yes' – Keep CKUT and QPIRG Alive", Editorial, <i>The McGill Daily</i> (3 November 2011), online http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/vote-'yes'keep-ckut-and-qpirg-alive/
"Yes for Funding, No for Offline Opt-outs", Editorial, McGill Tribune (8 November 2011), onlin <a href="http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/yes-for-funding-no-for-offline-opt-outs-1.2687598">http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/yes-for-funding-no-for-offline-opt-outs-1.2687598</a> >
Arsem-O'Malley, Queen & Henry Gass. "CKUT and QPIRG Face Existence Referenda for Fee Renewal and R Instated In-Person Opt-Outs", <i>The McGill Daily</i> (7 November 2011), onlin <a href="http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/ckut-and-qpirg-face-existence-referenda-for-fee-renewal-and-re-instated-in-person-opt-outs/">http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/ckut-and-qpirg-face-existence-referenda-for-fee-renewal-and-re-instated-in-person-opt-outs/&gt;</a>
Gilman, James . "Confusing Questions and Unclear Mandates", <i>McGill Tribune</i> (8 November 2011), onlin <a <i="" are",="" href="http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/confusing-questions-and-unclear-mandates-1.2687607&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt; " keep="" opt-outs="" the="" they="" way="">McGill Tribune (25 October 2011), onlin <a href="http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/keep-opt-outs-the-way-they-are-1.2663788">http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/keep-opt-outs-the-way-they-are-1.2663788</a></a>
Macdonald, Iain. "Why I'm Voting No", <i>McGill Tribune</i> (8 November 2011), online http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/why-i-m-voting-no-1.2687544>
Millán Ronchetti, Carolina. "Referendum Period Opens with Ballot on CKUT and QPIRG: Both Organizations Pla Their Existence on the Line with Bold New Questions for Student Voters", McGill Tribune (1 Novemb 2011), online: http://www.mcgilltribune.com/news/referendum-period-opens-with-ballot-on-ckut-ar qpirg-1.2677505
"Referendum Voting Opens Without Official Opposition: SSMU Council Endorses QPIRG and CKU- <i>McGill Tribune</i> (8 November 2011), online: <a href="http://www.mcgilltribune.com/news/referendum-voting-pens-without-official-opposition-1.2687711">http://www.mcgilltribune.com/news/referendum-voting-pens-without-official-opposition-1.2687711</a> >

"Vote 'Yes' – Keep CKUT and QPIRG Alive", Editorial, *The McGill Daily* (3 November 2011), online: <a href="http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/vote-'yes'---keep-ckut-and-qpirg-alive/">http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/vote-'yes'---keep-ckut-and-qpirg-alive/</a>

In an attempt to combat decreased funding from opt-outs, both QPIRG and CKUT have decided to add opt-out system changes to their existence referendums, returning to the previous system and removing the option of opting-out of student fees online through Minerva. Instead,

While The Daily encourages students to vote 'yes', we feel that the way these opt-out modifications are being put forth is unfortunate, because it forces students who wish to support these organizations to also support the opt-out change. In addition, these changes were made without adequate student consultation. Taking the opt-out system offline would force students with gravely limited financial resources, who seriously need their student fees refunded, to make this a public declaration. Students shouldn't have to publicly declare any aspect of their financial situation.

"Yes for Funding, No for Offline Opt-outs", Editorial, McGill Tribune (8 November 2011), online: <a href="http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/yes-for-funding-no-for-offline-opt-outs-1,2687598">http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/yes-for-funding-no-for-offline-opt-outs-1,2687598</a>

However, the proposed opt-out systems for each group do not seem as practical or accessible as they could be. Students opt out of fees for several reasons, including financial strain and personal beliefs, and we question whether students will be comfortable opting out in person. We welcome OPIRG and CKUT's initiatives to have a table in the lobby of the SSMU building for five of the 15 days of the opt-out period. This would enable students to opt out at a more neutral location than each organizations' office. Nevertheless, we question if this system will be practical either for students who prefer to retain their anonymity or for these organizations, which will need to man these tables for long hours, with the potential of having to deal with confrontation from those who oppose their views.

We also have serious concerns with how these two questions have been posed. QPIRG and CKUT each had to pose a referendum question this year in order to continue to receive funding from students, but by adding in the change to the opt out system they are merging two issues that ought to remain separate. Just like members of this editorial board struggled to reach a decision, many students will struggle to decide between cutting off funding entirely from organizations which largely benefit student life or imposing an impractical opt-out system.

## Arsem-O'Malley, Queen & Henry Gass. "CKUT and QPIRG Face Existence Referenda for Fee Renewal and Re-Instated In-Person Opt-Outs", The McGill Daily (7 November 2011), online: <a href="http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/ckut-and-qpirg-face-existence-referenda-for-fee-renewal-and-re-">http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/ckut-and-qpirg-face-existence-referenda-for-fee-renewal-and-re-</a> instated-in-person-opt-outs/>

Both organizations have tied their referenda questions, which ask for a renewal of student fees (\$3.75 per semester for QPIRG and \$4 per semester for CKUT), to a question asking to replace the online opt-out system with an internally-run alternative. The questions must pass – proving continued student support for their existence – in order to begin MoA negotiations with McGill.

Adam Wheeler, co-chair of the QPIRG 'yes' committee, said that online optouts in recent years have had such a severe impact on the organization that they felt compelled to include it in the fee renewal question.

"We are actually at a point where the existence of opt-outs, the way that they're happening – as opposed to the student-run refund system that we had previously – is undermining our ability to fulfill the student mandate," he said.

"Opt-outs present both obviously a financial burden on our organization, but [also] a huge human resources burden. It's incredibly taxing on our board and staff to essentially, every semester, run a referendum existence campaign against the opt-out campaign," he continued.

Both referenda questions ask that fees be "not opt-outable on the Minerva online opt-out system but [are] instead fully refundable directly through" the organizations.

[McGill Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)] Mendelson, however, said clarity is "clearly one of the problems" with the current question.

"Frankly, I find [it] to be put in a convoluted, confusing way, and it would, therefore, not meet the definition of a clear question," said Mendelson.

"When questions cannot be implemented because they are not clear, they aren't implemented –

until the group gets a result from a clear question," he continued. "Organizations are encouraged to submit their questions beforehand to avoid such problems. Many groups do, but some, unfortunately, don't."

Gilman, James . "Confusing Questions and Unclear Mandates", *McGill Tribune* (8 November 2011), online: <a href="http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/confusing-questions-and-unclear-mandates-1.2687607">http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/confusing-questions-and-unclear-mandates-1.2687607</a>

The questions ask for a renewed mandate for both groups' fee levies, as well as a mandate to take their opt-outs off Minerva and let the groups themselves administer them.

Beyond that, however, there's the issue of whether a "yes" vote on these questions would constitute a clear answer to a clear and straightforward question.

Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) Morton Mendelson has already indicated that the questions do not meet that standard as they are posed in a confusing and convoluted way.

The biggest problem is that they conflate two issues: the renewal of their student fee levies and the form of the opt-out system. There's no way for students to vote on these issues separately. One can't vote for continuing to fund QPIRG and CKUT and for keeping the opt-out system as it is: transparent, efficient, and online. It would be disingenuous to argue that a "yes" vote represents a clear majority on both of these issues. There may very well be a majority (of referendum voters, not students) that support QPIRG and CKUT, and also support returning to the pre-2007 opt-out system, but a "yes" vote on these questions isn't proof of that.

Yet QPIRG has argued that they are the same thing because the group can't continue to exist under the current system. This is, of course, preposterous. Having to combat the QPIRG opt-out campaign for two weeks at the start of the semester, and not knowing their exact budget until part way into the year may be an inconvenience, and may indeed make things more difficult, but that certainly doesn't threaten their existence. QPIRG still had about \$156,000 to work with last year. Is that really not enough to do anything with? Opt-outable student groups aren't entitled to enough money to fund the programs they want. They're entitled to the fees of students who don't opt out. QPIRG's budget needs to adjust to their fee allocation, they can't adjust the opt-out rate to fit the budget they want. If that's such an existential problem, they can always try for a mandate for a non-opt-outable fee.

----- "Keep Opt-outs the Way They Are", *McGill Tribune* (25 October 2011), online: <a href="http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/keep-opt-outs-the-way-they-are-1.2663788">http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/keep-opt-outs-the-way-they-are-1.2663788>

The referendum questions ask students to re-approve fees that support QPIRG (\$3.75 per student per semester) and CKUT (\$4.00) while shifting the responsibility for managing opt outs and refunds to QPIRG and CKUT.

Macdonald, Iain. "Why I'm Voting No", *McGill Tribune* (8 November 2011), online: <a href="http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/why-i-m-voting-no-1.2687544">http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/why-i-m-voting-no-1.2687544</a>>

The questions bundle together two vaguely related issues: the funding of a campus group and the

way in which opt-outs are conducted. In an article published in the Tribune last week, ("Referendum period opens with ballot on CKUT and QPIRG," Nov. 1, 2011), Anna Malla, QPIRG's internal director, argued that "[QPIRG's] very existence is at stake with the current system." She said that QPIRG spends too much time and energy defending itself during the opt-out period, and that the group aims to reform this process now. Caitlin Manicom, CKUT's funding and outreach co-ordinator, cited similar concerns.

These referendum questions are manipulative, irresponsible, and represent an attempt to separate opt outs from the fee payment system—and that's the main reason I will be voting no. While I disagree with some of their political views and the mandates of some of their working groups, I am not against their right to exist in an opt-out system where students are fully informed. However, should these referendum questions pass, they will take the opt-out system in entirely the opposite direction.

. . .

QPIRG cites the drain on human resources as one of the reasons it can no longer weather the current opt-out system. Yet changing the opt-out system won't end the QPIRG opt-out campaign. Additionally, it will only increase the amount of work QPIRG has to do during the opt-out period. In addition to defending their fee, QPIRG will also have to keep track of thousands of students opting out, and staff the opt-out stations they have advertised.

With all of today's modern conveniences, taking opt-outs offline is a step backwards. This is the 21st century, students should be able to opt out of a student fee online at the same place they originally spent their money—Minerva. If QPIRG and CKUT are suffering so dramatically from optouts, perhaps it's time to increase the fees. Based on data from last week's Tribune article and McGill enrollment figures, a 75 cent fee increase would allow both groups to receive about as much money as if no students opted out of the current fee. Or perhaps the groups should cut back spending on certain things.

Millán Ronchetti, Carolina. "Referendum Period Opens with Ballot on CKUT and QPIRG: Both Organizations Place Their Existence on the Line with Bold New Questions for Student Voters", *McGill Tribune* (1 November 2011), online: <a href="http://www.mcgilltribune.com/news/referendum-period-opens-with-ballot-on-ckut-and-qpirg-1.2677505">http://www.mcgilltribune.com/news/referendum-period-opens-with-ballot-on-ckut-and-qpirg-1.2677505</a>

. . .

Every five years, the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) and CKUT, the official campus-community radio station, hold referenda in which the student body votes on the organizations' existence. A 'yes' vote enables the groups to renew their Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the administration, a document that governs each group's relationship with the administration. Both MoAs will expire in June 2012.

Anna Malla ODIPC's internal coordinator, even

Anna Malla, QPIRG's internal coordinator, explained that the primary reason for the referendum question was the current system's drain on QPIRG's human resources.

"It's very difficult when [the opt-out campaign is] not held accountable by any rules or standards, but QPIRG obviously as an organization is, so one of the primary reasons is that it's a huge drain on our human resources, on our board and staff," Malla said. "A lot of time and energy is spent, is misspent in my opinion, in defending ourselves against the kind of attacks that are just baseless and against misinformation instead of focusing on the really great work that we do on campus."

### **Question clarity**

Some students believe that the wording of the referenda question may pose some problems for

voters.

. . .

When asked why the two questions were combined, Malla pointed again to the drain in resources arising from the current system.

"Our very existence is at stake with the current system, and that is both in terms of our human resources at QPIRG as well as in terms of not being able to predict our finances for the year," Malla said. "We actually will not be able to continue to exist under the current system, so it is an existence question."

. . .

A question of existence

Malla did not disclose QPIRG's options in the case that the majority of students vote no to the referendum question, although she did say that becoming part of SSMU is not an option.

"This is a question that we'll have to address after the results of the referendum," Malla said. "But if we don't get a 'yes' vote we will no longer receive undergraduate student funding I so essentially it would mean that our organization would not exist."

SSMU President Maggie Knight commented that an end to CKUT and QPIRG would have a notable effect on student life.

"If CKUT ceased to exist, that would be a huge blow to the Montreal community and a lot of students on campus that are very actively involved in radio production. We don't have a journalism school I CKUT is the McGill school of radio in its own way," Knight said. "As far as QPIRG goes I they have a lot of groups involved in a lot of causes, [and] many are dear to the heart of lots of students. It's not only activism based on campus but also activism linked to the direct community."

This semester's referendum questions are on whether the groups should continue to receive student funds and if said fees should cease to be opt-outable via Minerva and instead be refundable directly through each organization.

## **APPENDIX B: PROCEDURE ALREADY FOLLOWED**

Emails exchanged between Mr. Zach Newburgh ("ZN") and Ms. Rebecca Tacoma ("RT").

Ms Tacoma's emails are reproduced in their entirety (with salutations removed); disputed decisions in are highlighted. Issues raised by Mr. Newburgh, and which are disputed in this appeal, are outlined.

Date	Sent by	Content	#
10/31	ZN	<ul> <li>Non-members of the Society, supporting the Yes Committee on Facebook (Andrea Figueora, Caitlin Manicom, Jessica Blair, Lainey Lumps, Leo Archila, Noé Ricardo Arteaga Santos, Sami Fink, Sarah Woolf, Simone Lucas)</li> </ul>	1
11/1	RT	Thank you for sharing that.  1) I agree it is illegal, action has been taken.  2)-11) I know it has been interpreted differently in the past, but in our information meeting for campaign committee chairs and I made it clear that I do not believe profile picture changes to be considered online campaigning. I am interpreting online campaigning as the creation of facebook groups, facebook events, facebook pages, and or inviting facebook friends to said groups, while profile pictures are considered simply individual expression.  12) I agree it is illegal, action has been taken.  13)-16) I think I explained myself above. Even though they are in position of authority in the Society, the above standard has to be applied to them equally. (Basically their individual rights have to be acknowledged in regards to the above interpretation).	2
11/1	ZN	Inappropriate use of influence by the President of the Society	3
11/1	ZN	CKUT unsolicited email in support of QPIRG McGill	4
11/2	RT	Thank you for both your e-mails. I have taken action where I found it appropriate.  As for profile pictures, let me suffice it to say that as you are undoubtedly aware, there are multitudes of ways the by-laws can be interpreted, and this is the manner in which I feel is best. I do recognize that is a break of precedent, but to this best of my knowledge I am not bound by the decisions of previous CEOs.  As for your previous allegations, the ones which I chose to take action on have have not persisted.  I am appreciative of you keeping an eye out for illegal campaigning. That said, as the by-laws can be interpreted in different ways, the case sometimes arises where the interpretations I am choosing to apply across the board do not match with the way others would like the by-laws to be interpreted, sometimes because they are interpreting the by-laws to serve a certain purpose, while I am trying to remain as neutral as possible. I am only pointing this out so you can understand that while I am considering everything you have sent, just as I do the mail of others, it does not necessarily	5

		follow that I choose to act on all of it.	
11/2	ZN	<ul> <li>Not contested. Use of influence by members of the Society in positions of authority (Facebook messages).</li> </ul>	6
11/3	RT	Thanks for sharing those.	7
11/3	ZN	<ul> <li>External groups supporting the Yes Committee in the <i>Daily</i> (Kanata, Dignidad Migrante, Campus Crop Collective, Prisoner Correspondence Project, the First People's House)</li> <li>Non-members supporting the Yes Committee in the Daily (Dr Aziz Choudry)</li> </ul>	8
11/3	ZN	<ul> <li>Use of influence by Councillors of the Society (the Legislative Council's motion of endorsement of the Yes Committee).</li> <li>Conflict of interest for Micha Settin, who moved the motion, and who is a member of the QPIRG McGill Board of Directors.</li> </ul>	9
11/4	ZN	Letter of support by non-member, Judy Rebick, in the <i>Tribune</i> .	10
11/4	ZN	Non-members supporting the Yes Committee through Facebook profile pictures (Sebastian Ronderos-Morgan, Max Zidel, Morgan Pudwell	11
11/4	RT	I apologize that I was not able to respond to your e-mails yesterday right away. Thank you for sharing. As always, I have carefully read and considered all that has been sent my way and taken action where believe appropriate. Please take this email to apply to your three earlier e-mails as well.	12
11/5	ZN	Letter of support by NDP MP Paul Dewar (Ottawa Centre), in the <i>Tribune</i>	13
11/6	RT	Thank you for sharing. As always, I have carefully read and considered your e-mail.	14
11/6	ZN	Member of the Yes Committee publicizing endorsement by external group	15
11/6	RT	Thank you for your e-mail. I continue to read and consider all that is sent to me and take action where I feel it is necessary.	16
11/7	ZN	<ul> <li>Non-member Facebook support (Samantha Cook)</li> <li>TVMcGill Facebook Support</li> <li>External groups – letters of support in the <i>Daily</i> (Montreal Media Co-op; Greening McGill)</li> </ul>	17
11/8	RT	Thanks for your email. As always, I have taken the time to consider everything that has been sent to me.	18
11/8	ZN	<ul> <li>External groups support (Montreal Media Co-op)</li> <li>AUS motion to endorse the Yes Committee</li> </ul>	19
11/9	RT	Thank you for sharing, I continue to take the time to consider everything that is sent to me.	20
11/9	ZN	External group support (IRC unsolicited email)	21
11/10	ZN	<ul> <li>Non-member support in the <i>Daily</i> (Ed Hudson)</li> <li>External group support (QPIRG McGill, CKUT, Filipino Solidarity Collective)</li> </ul>	22
11/10	RT	Thank you for sharing your concerns. As I stated in one of my previous e-mails, there are many ways to interpret the by-laws. I have chosen to interpret them in a way that is conducive to allowing information to freely circulate throughout campus. It is not that I am ignoring infractions, it is simply that many of the events that you deem to be	23

infractions do not necessarily have to be considered that way.  For example, I do not consider an organization to be external to SSMU simply because they are a separate legal entity, as the conceptss are not necessarily synonymous—one (the latter) is much more specific than the other. Rather, I do
external to SSMU simply because they are a separate legal entity, as the conceptss are not necessarily synonymousone
entity, as the conceptss are not necessarily synonymousone
(the latter) is much more specific than the other. Rather, I do
not believe the IRC to be a external to SSMU because according
to the FYC constitution, one member of the IRC sits on the SSMU
FYC council, making them a part of the workings of SSMU. The same sort of logic can be used for manner of the other groups
you consider to be external to SSMU.
In regards to your claim about CKUT, just because CKUT as
a whole chooses to endorse QPIRG does not mean that the
individuals who are on campaign committees, are "broadcasting."
A violation of section 16.4 would entail that they continue
their on-air duties during the campaigning period. That is
significantly different than the group as a whole choosing to
endorse a campaign committee, which they are at liberty to do.
I would like to make a few further distinctions. The
Tribune and Daily are exempt from having to remain neutral in
regards to referenda (see by-law 16.9). As a result, the
editors are at liberty to include what they want in the papers.
If people who are not part of the society are writing in about
why they feel QPIRG or CKUT are important on campus, this is a
freedom of expression, not support to the campaign committees
themselves. It would be a little on the ridiculous side for
Elections McGill to attempt to attempt to control what is
written in the papers.
All of this to say that I am not looking to start a debate
about any of this. I was simply hoping to clarify for you why I
may not take the same stance as you have on different events that have occurred throughout campaigning. I do not feel that I
have to explain myself for every decision that I make, but I
thought it would be helpful for you in this case.
Lastly, I would like to touch on a point that you brought
up in your previous e-mail. Of course we both know why the by-
laws existto run a fair campaign period. However, if the by-
laws are interpreted in a manner that is so strict that
campaign committees can barely get the word out, and other
campus groups cannot stand in solidarity with them if they see
fit, or stand against them if they so choose, then what is the
point of having a campaign period? Just something to think
about.
I appreciate your diligence in sharing information that
you found relevant to campaigning.
11/10 ZN • Requests clarification for external group
• Art. 16.9 does not negate arts 12.3 and 12.3.1
Yes Committee and other groups have other ways of getting the word out
11/11 RT As I mentioned before, I am not particularly keen on getting
into a debate about this because I do not feel that I have to
explain each of my decisions, although I do have reasons for
all the decisions that I have made. Reeping this in mind, if
you would like further clarification on anything you can feel
free to drop in during my office hours.

# [ELECTIONS] Referendum Campaigning

**B 26** 

From: zach.newburgh@mail.mcgill.ca on behalf of Chief Electoral Officer - Elections McGill

(elections@ssmu.mcgill.ca)

Sent: November-02-11 10:24:59 PM

To: ELECTIONS@LISTS.MCGILL.CA (ELECTIONS@LISTS.MCGILL.CA)

Hi Everyone,

The campaign period for the fall referendum has begun! More information will be sent out soon regarding voting that begins this Friday, but in the meantime please be made aware:

The QPIRG "Yes" Committee has been issued a sanction for violating by-law 12.3.1 as an outside individual showed his explicit support of the committee with direct mention to his affiliation with an organization outside of SSMU (the No One Is Illegal campaign).

The QPIRG "Yes" Committee has been issued a sanction for violating by-law 12.3 as non-Society members were indirectly involved in the campaign and supported the committee by writing letters of support posted on the QPIRG "Yes" Committee's website.

Should anyone notice any illegal campaigning occurring please send us an e-mail at elections@ssmu.mcgill.ca. Illegal campaigning is anything that is not in accordance with the by-laws, such as campaigning done by anyone who is not part of an approved campaign committee. The by-laws can be accessed at:

http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/about-us/who-we-are/consititution-and-bylaws/

Bonjour à tous,

La campagne pour le référendum d'automne a commencé! Plus de détails sur la période de vote qui commence vendredi vous seront communiqués bientôt, mais en attendant, veuillez prendre note des informations suivantes :

Le comité du "Oui" de QPIRG a écopé d'une sanction pour avoir violé le règlement 12.3.1 parce qu'un membre extérieur ayant manifesté son appui au comité avec une mention directe de son affiliation avec un organisme extérieur à l'AÉUM (la campagne Personne n'est illégal).

Le comité du "Oui" de QPIRG a écopé d'une sanction pour avoir violé le règlement 12.3 parce que des membres ne faisant pas partie du groupe étaient indirectement impliqués dans la campagne et ont appuyé le comité en rédigeant des lettres qui ont été publiées sur le site web du comité du "Oui" de QPIRG.

Si vous découvrez des actes illégaux durant la campagne, nous vous prions de nous envoyer un courriel à elections@ssmu.mcgill.ca. Les actes illégaux sont ceux qui ne respectent pas les règlements comme

Windows Live Hotmail Print Message 11–11–12 3:34 PM

faire de la campagne qui n'a pas été préalablement approuvée par le comité des campagnes. Les règlements sont disponibles sur le site web suivant :

http://ssmu.mcqill.ca/about-us/who-we-are/consititution-and-bylaws/

Best,

Rebecca Tacoma CEO Elections McGill Shatner Building Room 405 514-398-6474 elections@ssmu.mcgill.ca

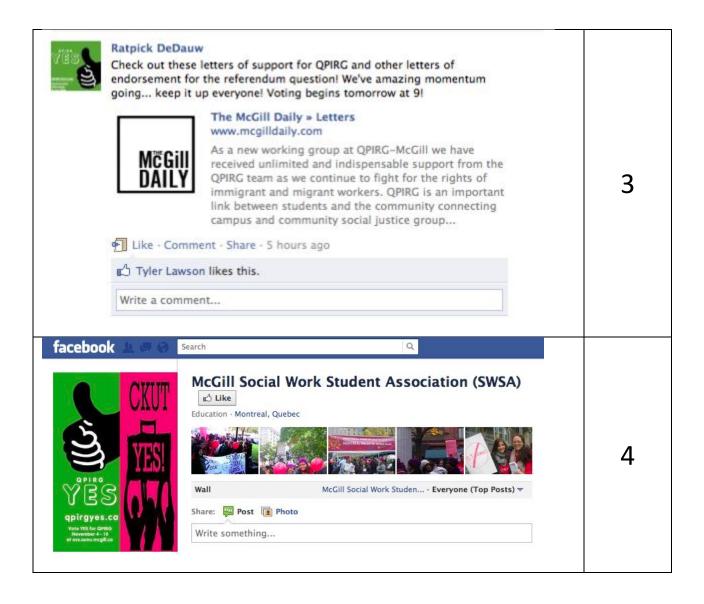
# **Appendix C: Campaign Irregularities**

Content	#	
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TVMcGill showing support for the Yes Committee (Facebook)		
Non-members of SSMU showing support for the Yes Committee (letters)	9	

# Non-members of SSMU signing the referendum petition

- 1. Margaret Gordon
- 2. Alex E Timmons
- 3. Maya Sriqui
- 4. Peter Nalso
- 5. Carolyn Pelleher
- 6. Lea Narcel
- 7. Marc Hersh
- 8. Maya Fromstein
- 9. Zoe Robertson
- 10. Steve Kerr
- 11. Leo Geleblywn (handwriting hard to read)
- 12. Arthur Quront (handwriting hard to read)







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

### Motion Regarding CKUT and QPIRG Referendum Questions

Whereas, the SSMU's Constitution mandates the SSMU to "support the student groups that make up civic life in the McGill community, while providing services to strengthen the educational, cultural, environmental, political and social conditions of our membership";

Whereas, QPIRG McGill and Radio CKUT are significant student-initiated, student-run, student-supported and student-controlled organizations existing on McGill's downtown campus since 1989 and 1988 respectively;

Whereas, the SSMU's Constitution mandates the SSMU to commit "itself to groups, programs and activities that are devoted to the well-being of a group disadvantaged because of irrelevant personal characteristics":

Whereas, the SSMU's Constitution mandates the SSMU to "demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection";

Whereas, QPIRG and CKUT engage with the McGill students and the Montreal community so as to promote these aforementioned ends;

Whereas, a November 13, 2007 General Assembly motion mandated the SSMU to "take every reasonable action to reclaim and protect the sovereignty and independence of all campus student groups and activities" and to "take every reasonable action to put an end to the online opt-out system recently created by the University such that campus groups shall be in charge of their own opt-out processes";

Whereas, it is an official policy of the SSMU to primarily support clubs and services, and more broadly student life on campus;

Resolved, that the SSMU endorse a "yes" vote to CKUT and QPIRG's referendum questions in the Fall 2011 Referendum period.

Moved by:

Carol Fraser, VP Clubs and Services Adam Winer, Clubs and Services Representative Micha Stettin, Arts Representative

### **External Groups Showing Support for the Yes Committee**

### **QPIRG Concordia Working Group:**

### • The Prisoner Correspondence Project

o In "COMMENTARY Letters", *The McGill Daily* (3 November 2011), online: <a href="http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/letters-20/">http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/letters-20/</a>>

### **QPIRG McGill Working Groups**

### • Dignidad Migrante

o In "COMMENTARY Letters", *The McGill Daily* (3 November 2011), online: http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/letters-20/>

### • The Campus Crop Collective

o In "COMMENTARY Letters", *The McGill Daily* (3 November 2011), online: http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/letters-20/>

### • Midnight Kitchen

o In "COMMENTARY Letters", *The McGill Daily* (3 November 2011), online: http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/letters-20/>

#### Kanata

Open letter, in *The McGill Daily* (3 November 2011), online: <a href="http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/support-qpirg/">http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/support-qpirg/</a>

### **McGill Groups**

#### • First Peoples' House

 In "COMMENTARY Letters", *The McGill Daily* (3 November 2011), online: http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/letters-20/>

### IRC

Unsolicited email (reproduced as Appendix C5)

#### CKUT

o Unsolicited email (reproduced as Appendix C6)

#### • AUS

 Resolution Regarding AUS Support of the SSMU Referendum Question Re-QPIRG McGill Existence

# Resolution Regarding AUS Support of the SSMU Referendum Question Re: QPIRG McGill Existence

Whereas QPIRG McGill has been an integral part of social and environmental progress at McGill by initiating recycling, safer spaces for queers, fair-trade coffee, co-operative housing, and much more;

Whereas QPIRG McGill facilitates a student connection with the broader Montreal community through projects such as the Community-University Research Exchange, Convergence Undergraduate research journal, Study In Action research conference, and summer research stipends;

Whereas QPIRG McGill is a democratically run organization under student control, and

Whereas QPIRG McGill funds twenty working groups run independently by students and community members which are based on social and environmental justice, including Campus Crops, B. Refuge, KANATA, Women of Diverse Origins, and many more,

*Be it resolved* that the AUS endorse a "yes" vote to QPIRG McGill's Referendum Question in the Fall 2011 Referendum period.

Moved by:

Micha Stettin

# **C** 6

# FW: Upcoming important events!

Leora Mietkiewicz

Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 8:23 PM

**To:** Zachary Newburgh

From: AllRezStudents - Residence Students [ALLREZSTUDENTS@LISTS.MCGILL.CA] on behalf of

Samuel Gregory samuel.gregory2@mail.mcgill.ca

Sent: Monday, November 07, 2011 11:57 PM

To: ALLREZSTUDENTS@LISTS.MCGILL.CA

Subject: [ALLREZSTUDENTS] Upcoming important events!

Hey Res peeps!

As promised, IRC is sending you it's next email a little sooner, but with some very important information for you all!

In this email:

Demonstration for accessible education - Nov 10th.

Arts General Assembly

IRC endorsement of QPIRG and CKUT's - 'YES' campaign

- 1) On November 10th, there will be a demonstration for accessible education starting at 1pm starting at the Roddick gates. The actual march will start at 2 pm near Berri-UQAM station, and will then end at McGill College and Sherbrooke right in front of the University (Our best guess is around 3:30pm). This is a demonstration against the rise in tuition the quebec government is proposing that will affect ALL students. See you all there! FB event: <a href="http://goo.gl/lPfFe">http://goo.gl/lPfFe</a>
- 2) Tomorrow, Tuesday November 8th, between 5-7pm, the AUS will be holding a general assembly in the ssmu cafeteria, where they will vote on if the entire Faculty of Arts will go on strike (students and professors) on Thursday November 10th to show solidarity against tuition fee increases. The IRC council voted to support this strike, in the understanding that it will not affect any students grade or academic semester in any way, and with that we encourage all arts and arts/sci students to attend the vote tomorrow!
- The IRC is officially endorsing the YES campaign of QPIRG and CKUT. After having a informative discussion with members from both organizations, the IRC voted to support both campaigns. The IRC see's both organizations as instrumental and essential parts of creating a diverse, democratic student life at McGill. We therefore encourage you to vote YES in the referendum, that will be running until November 10th. To vote, go here! https://ovs.ssmu.mcgill.ca/

On a last note, all IRC meetings are held in the RVC West Lounge on sundays from 2:15 - 4:00pm. All students are welcome to the meetings.

Onwards and Upwards,

Sam Gregory IRC President Print



# Fwd: [CKUT Student Members] 2 exciting events, 1 podcast, and a referendum = CKUT's Tuesday Update!

```
From: Eliana Schwartz (eliana.schwartz@mail.mcgill.ca)
Sent: November-01-11 9:37:33 PM
      Brendan Steven (brendan steven@hotmail.com)
Begin forwarded message:
From: Caitlin Manicom <funding@ckut.ca<mailto:funding@ckut.ca>>
Date: November 1, 2011 5:32:37 PM EDT
To: <student_members@lists.ckut.ca<mailto:student_members@lists.ckut.ca>>
Subject: [CKUT Student Members] 2 exciting events, 1 podcast, and a referendum = CKUT's Tuesday Update!
appy tuesday all!*
hope you had a great halloween weekend. stay tuned for very important updates.
1. Hey, undergrads! It is referendum time. Voting will start this Friday, November 4th.
You can vote online at <a href="http://ovs.ssmu.mcgill.ca/">http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http://ovs.ssmu.mcgill.ca/&h=-AOFlYEin</a> from
November 4th to November 10th.
Radio CKUT encourages you to vote "YES!" to QPIRG McGill's referendum question. For more details about why you should vote yes to QPIRG, go to <a href="http://qpirqyes.ca/">http://qpirqyes.ca/</a> and <a href="http://qpirqyegill.org/">http://qpirqyegill.org/</a>, and check out the facebook event (<a href="http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=302340519777434">http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=302340519777434</a>).
QPIRG McGill is an incredibly valuable part of McGill University and offers very important resources, opportunities, meeting
spaces, etc. to many McGill students and groups. Please support QPIRG in the upcoming referendum. Be part of the democratic processes that exist for students at McGill and exercise your right to vote!
2. See you at Midnight Kitchen this Thursday, November 3rd, 2011:
The Venus Radio Collective, Radio CKUT, The Midnight Kitchen Present:
Venus Radio Live Broadcast from the Midnight Kitchen
Thursday, November 3rd, Noon-2PM
Live at Midnight Kitchen Serving Space, Shatner Building Room 302
Broadcast on CKUT 90.3FM in Montreal and www.ckut.ca/listen<ahlisten</ah
Join us as Venus Radio spins all the best music by all the best women for all the best listeners.
Venus Radio is CKUT's Women's Collective Music Show airing every Thursday from noon-2pm on Radio CKUT (since 1996).
Music by women, grrrls, chicks, chicas, gals, ladies, wymyn, wimmin, lesbros, les filles, mujares, les femmes, dykes, sisters,
sistas, and those from the Planet Claire.
Venus is a collective programme always open to new contributors.
http://www.facebook.com/?tid=1769850374518&sk=messages#!/group.php?gid=334859579750 //
myspace.com/venusradio<http://myspace.com/venusradio>
3. This Friday, November 4th! CAMPUS MIXTAPES LAUNCH PARTY!
Where? Citizen Vintage (5330 St. Laurent Boulevard, Montreal)
When? Friday, November 4th. Doors at 7:45 - event starts promptly at 8. This is an early evening, get excited for the rest of
your night, type-a event!
How much? FREE!
What? Come start your night off right with an early-evening show celebrating the finally-ready-ness of CKUT's Campus Mixtages
Site.
The Party:
8-8:45 Showcasing the best of the sites mixtapes (mingle, talk to friendly CKUT experts about how to launch your mixtape and
climb your way to obscure musical notoriety).
8:45 ISLE OF PINE
<a href="http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/">http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/>http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/>.com/<a href="http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/">http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/>.com/<a href="http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/">http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/>.com/<a href="http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/">http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/<a href="http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/">http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/<a href="http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/">http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/<a href="http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/">http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/<a href="http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/">http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/<a href="http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/">http://isleofpine.bandcamp.com/</a>
9:30 COBRA & VULTURE (Mems Parlovr)
http://cobraandvulture.bandcamp.com/
Campus Mixtapes is a music sharing project open to any member of CKUT or member of the McGill community. Users are free to
upload mixes of any genre - whether it's experimental freeform stuff you've mixed yourself, or a straightforward compilation
of Top 40 hits.
Check it:
http://campusmixtapes.org/
4. LEACOCKS PODCAST - This is Not a Lecture!!!
I want to give a shout out to Karen Robins who does an amazing regular podcast for Leacocks called "This is Not a Lecture".
Karen did a special Halloween podcast and will have another one coming up soon. The lady makes the best podcasts around! Check
```

her skills out at:  $\underline{\text{http://leacocks.com/FeaturesBlog/category/ckut/.}}$ 

**♥♥♥**radio ckut 90.3fm**♥♥♥** 

Student\_members mailing list
To unsubscribe from this list click on the link below and scroll to the bottom of the page to "Student\_Members subscribers" and follow the instructions.

http://lists.ckut.ca/mailman/listinfo/student\_members





Like Comment

TVMcGIII

C VOTING IS NOW OPEN FOR THE REFERENDUMS ABOUT OUR FRIENDS CKUT-FM AND QPRC. VOTE YES TO SUPPORT OUR CAMPUS AND OUR COMMUNITY

Like - Comment - Share - 4 hours ago

Rebranding Shared with: 🚱 Public

Report This Photo

Album: Wall Photos · 1 of 2





■ Like · Comment · Share · 6 hours ago ·

## **Non-Members of SSMU Showing Support for the Yes Committee**

- Aziz Choudry, Ph.D (Assistant Professor, International Education, Department of Integrated Studies in Education, Faculty of Education, McGill University)
  - o In "COMMENTARY Letters", *The McGill Daily* (3 November 2011), online: http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/11/letters-20/>
- Judy Rebick
  - "The Importance of QPIRG at McGill", *The McGill Tribune* (published 31 October 2011, updated 1 November 2011), online:
     <a href="http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/the-importance-of-qpirg-at-mcgill-1.2677443#.TtQRi3qwncM">http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/the-importance-of-qpirg-at-mcgill-1.2677443#.TtQRi3qwncM</a>
- Paul Dewar, NDP Member of Parliament
  - Letter to the Editor, *The McGill Tribune* ((published 31 October 2011, updated 1 November 2011), online: <a href="http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-1.2677440#.TtQSGHqwncM">http://www.mcgilltribune.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-1.2677440#.TtQSGHqwncM</a>