



Office of the Speakers  
Bureau de Présidents du Conseil

**Motion Regarding Sweatshop Apparel Letter to McGill Athletics**

*Whereas*, as described in the preamble to the SSMU Constitution, the SSMU serves as a campus leader in equity and social justice;

*Whereas*, the SSMU possesses a growing wealth of knowledge about ethical investment through the Financial Ethics Review Committee/Research;

*Whereas*, sweatshop labour has tremendous negative impacts on people and communities, as described in the attached letter:

Workers fighting for better wages at its sweatshops are routinely fired, freedom of association and the right to unionize are limited, and the company refuses to offer severance pay to workers unjustly fired.

*Resolved*, that the SSMU Legislative Council sign on to the attached letter encouraging McGill Athletics to seek non-sweatshop companies for McGill apparel,

*Resolved*, that the SSMU Legislative Council use this opportunity to take a stance against the use of sweatshop labour, and researches further our own garment purchasing practices.

Moved by:

Allison Cooper, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)  
Robin Reid-Fraser, Vice-President (External Affairs)  
Zachary Rosentzweig, Clubs and Services Representative  
Claire Stewart-Kanigan, Arts Representative

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To: McGill Athletics

The Students' Society of McGill University, which represents all 22,000 undergraduate and professional students at the downtown campus, has expressed its strong sentiment against the purchase of apparel made with non-consensual or sweatshop labour. The Society's Purchasing Policy, which replaced the Ethical Business Policy, demonstrates these core student values.

McGill Athletics sources its garments from Adidas, a company notorious for its use of sweatshops. Workers fighting for better wages at its sweatshops are routinely fired, freedom of association and the right to unionize are limited, and the company refuses to offer severance pay to workers unjustly fired.<sup>i,ii,iii,iv,v</sup>

The SSMU Executive Committee requests that McGill Athletics commit to sourcing 100% of its apparel from companies that provide living wages, decent working conditions, and respect freedom of association within two years. The SSMU has its Financial Ethics Research Committee, which is determining which companies are in line with the university's values, and will gladly make that



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research available.

Together, we can make our university a better member of the global community. Please make the right choice, and source your garments from an ethical and just company.

Sincerely,

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/workers-rights/adidas/inside-adidas-indonesian-factories/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/workers-rights/adidas/>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://badidas.com/>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.labourbehindthelabel.org/component/k2/item/583-sweet-fa?-football-associations-workers-rights-and-the-world-cup?qh=YToxOntpOjA7czo2OjJhZGlkYXMiO30%3D>

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.cleanclothes.org/campaigns/lighttheflame>

For Approval