



Motion Regarding Climate Justice at McGill

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

Whereas, a petition, signatures, and social injury briefs created by Divest McGill were posited to the Secretariat on February 1, 2013;

Whereas, over 1500 members of the McGill community have signed the petition;

Whereas, the SSMU's mandates for a McGill Free from Fossil Fuels, adopted January 24, 2013, for Support for Indigenous Peoples and Allies, adopted January 24, 2013, for Ethical Investments at McGill, adopted November 1, 2012, and for a Greener McGill, adopted February 21, 2013;

Whereas, the FEUQ, l'ASSE, and student unions across Quebec have mandates to lobby the government on the issue of climate change and to oppose the projected pipeline projects, in particular the Energy East project, and to make this issue the 2014-2015 annual campaign;

Whereas, the Peoples' Climate March happening this September 2014 is expected to be the largest climate march in history, bringing the issue of climate change to the forefront;

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

Be it resolved, that the SSMU reaffirm its support for divestment from the fossil fuel industry and Divest McGill

Be it resolved, that the SSMU commit to taking the following course of action outlined below, and that the SSMU Legislative Council charge all individuals or groups named herein to fulfill these mandates to the best of their ability:



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Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Speaker
Bureau de Président du Conseil

Article 1

The VP (External Affairs) in concert with Divest McGill shall campaign to mobilize the McGill population on the responsibility of the McGill endowment to avoid investments that pose social injury by virtue of being the largest contributors to climate change, and the issue of climate justice as a whole by tabling, meeting with faculty, staff and alumni, meeting with student associations, and holding actions and events around campus.

Article 1(a)

The VP (External Affairs) or her office shall, in concert with Divest McGill and the Society's graphic designers, create a set of advertisements to be posted around campus, which may include the use of the television in the SSMU lobby and hanging banners on or around the SSMU building in accordance with all relevant regulations.

Article 1(b)

The VP (External Affairs) or her office shall create a page for the SSMU website, to be highlighted on the front page, that shall include divestment, along with other SSMU policies and political positions, including the Society's Equity policy

Article 2

The VP (University Affairs) shall, in concert with the Student Senators, work towards the replacement of internships and co-operative programs in the fossil fuel industry with internships and co-operative programs in the renewable energy industry or other sustainability-related fields.

Article 3

Council shall request that the President fully support any recommendation from the CAMSR to Board of Governors that, in her estimation, is both a method to affect substantive change and is in accordance with the spirit of the motion.

Article 3(a)

Any recommendation for engaging in shareholder action with companies engaged in the Tar Sands, fossil fuels production, or on native land without consent shall be considered ineffective and against the spirit of the motion unless:

- a) It can be reasonably understood that the actions considered would be successfully passed by the shareholder meeting, and;
- b) The actions considered would result in such outcomes as dramatic reductions in fossil fuel emissions, as commitments to end all further exploration for the hydrocarbons, as companies adhering to the full, democratic decisions of the Indigenous communities, or other equally impactful outcomes.



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Article 3(b)

Council shall request that the President read a statement on its behalf in support of divestment to the Board of Governors at a meeting before the end of 2014.

Article 4

The Executive Committee shall educate members about its positions, about climate change, and about modern-day colonialism, and shall, at its discretion but at least once every semester, send a special message on the Society's listserv to update members on the campaign and/or related topics. The Society's social media sites may be used to promote this campaign as well, as may regular listservs and the Environment Committee's listserv.

Moved by:

VP Moustaqim-Barrette (External Affairs)

VP Bradley (Finance & Operations)

Councilor Boutin

APPROVED