

Motion to Support the Potential Indigenous Leadership Academy in the former Royal Victoria Hospital

Whereas, the SSMU has an Equity Policy which stipulates that “The SSMU will actively support projects and policies that aim to end oppression or to promote accessibility and inclusiveness in the McGill community.”¹

Whereas, the SSMU has recently hired an Indigenous Affairs Coordinator to undertake efforts that align with the mission, vision and values of the Indigenous Leadership Academy,

Whereas, the SSMU has recently formed an ad hoc Indigenous Affairs Committee to get more students involved in solidifying the SSMU’s solidarity and advocacy efforts with Indigenous communities,

Whereas, the Indigenous Leadership Academy would serve as a hub for Indigenous students and their advancement at McGill,

Whereas, the letter is appended hereto as Appendix A

Be it resolved, that the SSMU write a letter in support of the Indigenous Leadership Academy, to be included in the submission to the University, due January 29th, 2016.

Be it resolved, that the SSMU commit the participation of the Indigenous Affairs Coordinator and the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs) to this endeavour.

Moved by:

Councillor Ibrahim

Councillor Goldberg

Councillor Kingzett

¹ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/SSMU-Policy-and-Plan-Book-2015-04-091.pdf>

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pride and excitement that the Students' Society of McGill University's (SSMU) inform the selection committee of its committed and avid support of the Indigenous Leadership Academy being proposed for the former Royal Victoria Hospital's (RVH) site.

The SSMU is not only an organization that is dedicated to the wellbeing and growth of our students, but we are also thoroughly invested in finding transformational approaches to offering our students the most dynamic and enriching learning opportunities. At McGill, we are incredibly fortunate to have access to a community of enlightened young scholars and the SSMU is always looking for diverse mediums through which we can pursue their limitless growth and development. As an institution that continues to show leadership in numerous fields of great importance, the SSMU is confident that the mission, vision and values of the Indigenous Leadership Academy not only align perfectly with those of our University, but also that we would be creating something truly innovative and forward-thinking.

As a proponent of supporting our students, especially those with less institutional support, the SSMU is committed to taking an active role in the development of this academy, with the many stakeholders and partners that will be involved in its creation and future. We understand the importance of cohesion in project management and we look forward to facilitating the necessary communication between the University and our students throughout this process, in addition to providing ample human capital for any other needs that arise out of this project.

Once again, we would like to thank you for this opportunity and consideration. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns regarding our commitment to and support of the Indigenous Leadership Academy.

Sincerely,

The Students' Society of McGill University