



Motion Regarding the McGill Board of Governors' Refusal to Divest Fossil Fuels

WHEREAS, the SSMU is committed to advocating for “keeping 80% of fossil fuel reserves in the ground” and to “actively oppose fossil fuel extraction or distribution projects that are being conducted without the free, prior, and informed consent of the indigenous communities whose lands they affect.[1]”

WHEREAS, the SSMU has pledged to “support a diversity of tactics needed to address climate change effectively and equitably[2]”

WHEREAS, the SSMU has supported Divest McGill’s campaign to end fossil fuel investments at McGill for over three years, most recently through the adoption of the Climate Change policy;

WHEREAS, Divest McGill’s most recent submission to the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility was endorsed by over 2500 signatories from the McGill community[3];

WHEREAS, fossil fuel divestment has been supported by over 150 professors at McGill[4];

WHEREAS, the professors of the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Education, and School of Environment have all endorsed Divest McGill;

WHEREAS, over 240 alumni have pledged not to donate to McGill until they divest from the fossil fuel industry, with many pledging to return their degrees to McGill[5];

WHEREAS, the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR) recently released a report which refuses to divest from the fossil fuel industry and sent it for approval at the McGill Board of Governors[6];

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors had only 26 hours to review the document before they approved it in a closed, unpublicized meeting;

WHEREAS, the CAMSR report specifies that while “injurious impact has occurred based on the elaborate body of climate science research,” that this impact is not yet “grave” due to the fact that “the most pronounced and harmful effects of climate change have not yet been experienced”;

WHEREAS, during CAMSR’s deliberations, meetings were held in closed sessions and the “experts” that they consulted were not made public;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU condemn the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility for their non-transparent process and demand that all future CAMSR deliberations occur in open sessions;

----- (Voted upon separately) -----



BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU work with Divest McGill to ensure that fossil fuel divestment can be brought back to the Board of Governors in an open and consultative manner;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU reaffirm its acknowledgement of the fact that the fossil fuel industry does indeed cause grave social injury, especially for communities on the front lines of extractive projects and indigenous communities;

Moved by,

Emily Boytinck, Vice-President External
Erin Sobat, Senate Caucus Representative
Adam Templer, Arts Representative
Sean Taylor, Science Representative
Chelsea Kingzett, Environment Representative
Gabriel Ning, Arts Representative
Sebastian Morales, Science Representative
Kareem Ibrahim, President
Kahli-Ann Douglas, Services Representative

[1] SSMU Climate Change Policy, 7.1

[2] SSMU Climate Change Policy, 7.2

[3] Divest McGill press release: <http://divestmcgill.com/breaking-mcgill-board-acts-against-community-support-for-fossil-fuel-divestment/>

[4] McGill Faculty for Divestment: mcgillfacultyfordivestment.com

[5] McGill Alumni for Divestment: mcgillalumnifordivestment.com

[6] CAMSR report: https://www.mcgill.ca/boardofgovernors/files/boardofgovernors/gd15-44_camsr_report.pdf