

## Motion Regarding the Institutionalization of Support for Indigenous Communities

Whereas, McGill is situated on unceded, traditional Kanien'kehá:ka territory,

Whereas, colonization is an ongoing process,

Whereas, the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity Subcommittee on Equity<sup>1</sup> for First Peoples developed a proposed Traditional Territory Acknowledgement Policy throughout the 2013-14 academic year in consultation with Indigenous McGill community members, the Kahnawake Cultural Centre, Indigenous Studies scholars, and offices of Indigenous affairs at peer institutions,

Whereas, this proposed policy states that “acknowledging the traditional territory and its history strengthens the relationship between post-secondary institutions and Indigenous communities ... [and] also educates the University community on Indigenous peoples in Canada, and provides a welcoming environment for Indigenous student, staff, and faculty to engage with the academy,”

Whereas, traditional territory acknowledgements are practiced and/or institutionalized at student unions and universities across Canada, such as the University of British Columbia<sup>2</sup> and the Alma Mater Society<sup>3</sup>, the University of Alberta<sup>4</sup> and the University of Alberta Student Union, the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan Student Union, the University of Winnipeg, the Concordia Student Union, the University of Manitoba, and the University of Victoria and the University of Victoria Student Union,

Whereas, the SSMU Constitution “commits [SSMU] to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection,”<sup>5</sup>

Whereas, Indigenous solidarity is central to practicing social justice,

Be it resolved, that the SSMU adopt the following statement, henceforth referred to as the ‘Traditional Territory Acknowledgment’:

“SSMU would like to acknowledge that McGill University is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien’keha:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. SSMU recognizes and respects the Kanien’keha:ka as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today.”

Be it resolved, that the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement be stated at all major SSMU events and addresses made by Executives, including but not limited to SSMU Awards, Town Halls, Discover McGill and General Assemblies.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/committeesofsenate/standingcommittees/joint-board-senate-committee-equity>

<sup>2</sup> <http://aboriginal.ubc.ca/community-youth/musqueam-and-ubc/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ams.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/AMS\\_External\\_Policy\\_Manual-2013-10-07-ToC.pdf](http://www.ams.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/AMS_External_Policy_Manual-2013-10-07-ToC.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/offices/aso/engagement/statement.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/SSMU-Constitution-2015-02-21-EN.pdf>

Be it resolved, that the Traditional Territory Acknowledgment be stated at the beginning of all sessions of SSMU Legislative Council.

Be it resolved, that Indigenous students and groups that organize events that aim to bring greater support and visibility for Indigenous communities will be able to access room bookings through the VP University Affairs.

Moved by:

Chloe Rourke, Vice-President (University Affairs)

Becky Goldberg, Arts Representative

Chelsea Kingzett, Environment Representative

Erin Sobat, Senate Caucus Representative

Kareem Ibrahim, President