



**Motion Regarding the Plebiscite Question on Moving Towards a Smoke Free Campus at McGill**

WHEREAS, the SSMU is seeking to determine student support for a smoke-free campus, with the understanding that the precise nature of any smoke-free policy, including applicability to e-cigarettes, would require further consultation;

WHEREAS, the intention is not to engage in the shaming or blaming of smokers but rather to explore the complex social, environmental, personal, and biological factors that lead to smoking and nicotine addiction; to address these factors in a sensitive way; and to allow sufficient time for adaptation to any new regulations while creating a healthier campus for all students;

WHEREAS, a report from Americans for Non-Smoker's Rights<sup>1</sup> lists over 1000 North American institutions, including colleges, that have gone smoke free, and several Canadian universities, such as Dalhousie<sup>2</sup>, have implemented or are considering implementing smoke-free policies;

WHEREAS, it has been shown that<sup>3</sup>: "On tobacco-free college campuses, fewer students smoked and reported intention to smoke on campus. Strong majorities of students supported outdoor smoking restrictions across all policy types. Comprehensive tobacco-free policies are effective in reducing exposure to smoking and intention to smoke on campus," and smoke free policies were "associated with fewer students reporting exposure to secondhand smoke," suggesting that moving towards this model could decrease exposure to secondhand smoke, result in lower smoking rates amongst students, and help those trying to quit by providing them with a trigger-free environment;

WHEREAS, the health risks of smoking, both long and short term<sup>4</sup>, are well known, and so-called social smoking often results in long term smoking addiction<sup>5</sup>;

WHEREAS, a recent survey of over 500 McGill students<sup>6</sup> shows that a majority of respondents consider second-hand smoke to be a problem on campus and support moving towards a smoke-free campus;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://no-smoke.org/goingsmokefree.php?id=447>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/smoke-free.html>

<sup>3</sup> Amanda Fallin, Maria Roditis, and Stanton A. Glantz. Association of Campus Tobacco Policies With Secondhand Smoke Exposure, Intention to Smoke on Campus, and Attitudes About Outdoor Smoking Restrictions. American Journal of Public Health: June 2015, Vol. 105, No. 6, pp. 1098-1100.

<sup>4</sup> <http://breakitoff.ca/> , <http://iquitnow.qc.ca/> , <http://www.lung.ca/quit>

<sup>5</sup> <http://goaskalice.columbia.edu/answered-questions/social-smoking-really-all-bad-me>



WHEREAS, student concerns in that survey included the impact of secondhand smoke on people with asthma and other medical conditions, the environmental impact of cigarette butt littering, and the feeling that students are forced to encounter second-hand smoke in order to access study space;

WHEREAS, the same survey showed strong support for educational campaigns and increased access to smoking cessation resources, initiatives that are being pursued by a working group of student leaders and members at large in conjunction with the University administration and Student Health Services;

WHEREAS, these campaigns would focus on harm reduction and decreasing student exposure to secondhand smoke while providing all smokers wishing to quit with the resources to do so;

WHEREAS, the survey results also indicated support for smoking shelters, which have been used at other institutions (such as the Montreal University Health Center and the University of Melbourne) as a transitional step to a smoke-free campus, which McGill may choose to pursue as either a temporary or permanent measure;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT Council put the following plebiscite question to referendum in the Winter 2016 referendum period:

“Would you support McGill becoming a smoke-free campus if smoking cessation resources were provided and there were ongoing educational campaigns?”

BE IT RESOLVED, that the above whereas clauses be included in the ballot.

Moved By,  
David Benrimoh and Marina Smailes, shared Senate Caucus Representatives  
Francois-Paul Truc, Clubs Representative  
Chloe Rourke, VP (University Affairs)  
Erin Sobat, Senate Caucus Representative