

# CONSTITUTION

## Local Committee for the World University Services of Canada (WUSC) at McGill University

### **A. Statement on International Development**

Development, first and foremost, should mean the empowerment of people, particularly those people who are marginalized, so that they can improve local conditions and/or global conditions themselves. Development is not a final material outcome but rather a process which involves working towards satisfying local needs. This necessarily involves a struggle for balancing the satisfaction of the local needs of all people around the world in an ecologically sustainable fashion. Development is, therefore, a global process which requires changes to occur in both northern and southern hemispheres. Thus, we can also use the term "underdeveloped world" to refer to industrialized countries because change, particularly overconsumption and waste, has to occur here as well. International development, therefore, refers to change in both the north and the south. It is also inseparable from political, economic, socio-cultural and environmental issues, and therefore should be included in any substantial dialogue on the subject.

### **B. Objectives**

1. To provide information about development organizations, projects, and programs to McGill students.
2. To generate a dialogue on international development issues in the McGill community.
3. To create working relationships with other local and international organizations, working towards progressive change, through joint projects.
4. To think critically about local and global issues and how they are interrelated and to translate this thought into possible action.

### **C. Activities**

The Local Committee for each academic semester should try to organize and facilitate the following types of activities:

1. Organize forums for discussion and working-research groups where development issues will be researched and acted upon.
2. Bring speakers to McGill who will add to our dialogue on development.
3. Organize and take part in joint projects with other organization mentioned in section B.3.
4. Establish and maintain a resource base for information on development organization, projects, and programs for McGill students.
5. Participate in initiatives of the national office, such as:
  - fund raising for special events
  - publicity and recruitment of volunteers, for WUSC and UNV (United Nations Volunteer Program)

### **D. Membership**

1. The Local Committee of WUSC is open to those people who are interested in contributing to a dialogue on international development and/or to the common actions of the Committee.
2. The membership of the Local Committee will consist of McGill students who, through participation and interest, support the activities of the Committee. All members of the Local Committee, except for "associate members," will have voting rights as mentioned in G.2 and G.3 (Organization and operation).
3. "Associate members" will be those people providing a service to the Local Committee for a limited period (i.e., an event or project), such as student association representatives or researchers from other institutions.

## **E. Elections**

Committee members will be elected by the general membership to the Executive. The Executive will be composed as described in section F (Structure of the Executive Council of the Local Committee). The Executive will be responsible for the task of coordinating the activities of the Local Committee. Executive members will be elected during March and will serve for the period of one year. If a position becomes vacant, another member will be elected to the post for the balance of the term. A simple majority vote will be the format of the election.

## **F. Structure of the Executive Council of the Local Committee**

1. *Co-facilitator of activities*: Four (4) people will be responsible for coordinating the projects initiated by the Committee. All four co-facilitators will be responsible for fundraising initiatives. One of the four co-facilitators will have a designated portfolio of 'public relations agent/archivist,' as outlined in F.3.
2. *Co-secretary*: Two (2) people will prepare notices of the Committee meetings and will take notes at the meetings. These people will also keep a list of the Committee's members and contacts. One of the secretaries will be in charge of the Committee's finances. These two people will be official signatories of the Committee.
3. *Public relations agent/Archivist*: This person will be in charge of publicizing the Committee and its activities using both campus and off-campus media. Her/his responsibility will be to coordinate all press releases concerning the Committee and its activities and is responsible for coordinating correspondences with other organizations. She/he will also be responsible for organizing and maintaining an international development information resource base that should be made available to all McGill students.
4. *Rotating chair*: One (1) person will be selected by the Local Committee to chair a meeting. This position is not fixed and will be decided by those attending at the end of each meeting, for the following meeting.

## G. Organization and operation

1. *Executive Council*: They will be responsible for organizing the various activities defined by the Committee as a whole. They will also be responsible for distributing the various tasks required for the activities to Committee members.
2. *Decision-making process*: Decisions regarding an amendment to the constitution will be based on the vote of the entire membership of the Local Committee as per the method outlined in G.3. Decisions concerning all other matters will be determined by a majority vote of the Local Committee after all possible consultation and accommodation.
3. *Constitutional amendment*: To amend or change the constitution, two thirds (2/3) of the Local Committee membership will have to vote in support of the amendments on the occasion of the two following meetings of the Local Committee. Decisions regarding changes to the constitution will be based on the two separate votes that result from the two meetings and a simple majority will prevail in determining the outcome of the vote. Following this, the change proposed will be brought to the SSMU council and, if approved by the SSMU council, it will be incorporated into the constitution.
4. *Non-profit motives*: The Local Committee will pursue its mandate without a lucrative motive for its members. All profits which may result from activities sponsored by the Committee will be used to further promote its other objectives.
5. *Dissolution*: If the Local Committee ceases to exist or decides to disband, all its assets which are in excess of debts, commitments, or other obligations, will be based upon a vote by the Local Committee membership and a simple majority will prevail in determining the outcome of the vote. The funds may be transferred to the national committee or to another organization pursuing similar objectives. *NO -> goes to SSMU?*
6. The Local Committee is open to people of all races, religions, genders, classes, sexual orientations, and cultural and political affiliations, and it will make no decisions or actions which would exclude anyone from its activities based on these criteria.

7. If this constitution does not cover a particular matter, then the SSMU constitution will take effect.