



Students' Society of McGill University  
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

**Office of the Speakers**  
Bureau de Présidents du Conseil

## Interest Group Report

January 31, 2012

### **Interim Approved**

#### Freestyle Street Dance Community

The Club's mandate shall be to

- 2.1.1 Create a community for old school freestyle street dancers (i.e. b-boys, poppers, lockers)
- 2.1.2 Shed light on the obscure and underground culture behind such dance styles for the McGill Community
- 2.1.3 Act as a liaison between the members and the Montreal dance scene, bringing information such as upcoming competitions, jams, events, and workshops
- 2.1.4 Provide and organize practice sessions where members can:
  - Train together as a social gathering
  - Share and learn amongst veterans and beginners
- 2.1.5 Organize social events, jams, and competitions to foster the community

#### Salvaging Activity Workshop

Provide McGill students the opportunity to be involved in creative furniture design and creative furniture construction.

- Reuse and Refurbish obsolete and broken furniture.
- Contribute to the reduction of waste generated by the McGill campus.
- Produce useful and original furniture that can be used by members of the McGill community.
- Provide customize design services to other McGill student-groups.

### **Tabled**

#### Austrian School of Economic Association

The committee felt the topic was too broad. The club was encouraged to broaden the idea to include different streams of economic thought.

1. Raise awareness of the Austrian School of economics by hosting on-campus fundraisers and social events, inviting guest speakers, and periodically publishing articles on our website
2. Promote an understanding of Austrian economic theory by providing access to literature and hosting bimonthly discussion and debate meetings.
3. Create a centralized resource for Austrian economic insight on current events and,
4. Provide an opportunity for members to gain recognition by publishing articles on the Club's website.
5. Create an environment for students of all faculties to discuss economics.



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## Full Status Applications

### MedLIFE McGill- REJECTED

“As a chapter, we have two main goals. First, we hold fundraisers on campus to raise money for the MEDLIFE Fund; created by MEDLIFE to sustain their various development, educational, and health related programs. 100% of all donations to the MEDLIFE Fund goes directly to their projects.

Second, we organize McGill students to go on Mobile Brigades, which are **week-long volunteering trips** to various locations within Ecuador, Panama, and Peru. Students have the opportunity to shadow local doctors, as well as to gain valuable field experience in foreign medicine. A **Mobile Clinic is set up in several stations, and most of them are run solely by students.** These stations include taking patients vital signs, running the pharmacy, teaching children about dental hygiene, and taking patient's histories. While shadowing doctors, students have the opportunity to get hands on experience with diagnostics and patient care, and to learn about the health struggles that exist in these parts of Latin America.”

#### Reasons for Rejection

- 1) Unconstitutional
  - a. Specifically, in violation of:

VII The Students' Society commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection. The Society shall be mindful of the **direct and indirect effects** corporations, businesses and organizations have on their social, political, economic, and environmental surroundings.

The committee feels that MedLIFE's actions are unsustainable (1 week long, not recurring), and are harmful to the communities they attempt to serve (eg clinics run solely by untrained undergraduate students). We strongly believe that this group is socially irresponsible and is exploiting vulnerable communities so that McGill undergrads have something to write on their CVs.

### End Poverty Now- TABLED

“End Poverty Now is a national organization dedicated to relieving poverty on both local and international levels. This vision is supported by the three “pillars” of grassroots projects, education, and InReach. Started by McGill students in 2006, EPN has since spread across Canada, with several chapters in different cities and universities. What we believe makes the McGill chapter of End Poverty Now so unique compared to other clubs and charities is our personal, hands-on approach. The members of the club work closely together in a friendly, motivated environment that paves the way to creative, innovative ideas for volunteering opportunities and fundraisers. We decide what projects – both local and international – we would like to fund, which makes every project close to everyone's heart. Moreover, our hands-on approach not only gives us the opportunity to have a



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direct impact on the community but it also enables us to see exactly where the club's money is going and how it is spent.”

### **Mandate**

- Conduct fundraising for the national organization
- Provide local volunteer opportunities for club members to work hands on to alleviate poverty in their own cities
- Raise awareness of the issue of poverty, both locally and internationally, through various campaigns and events.
- The three major events listed in the application were two dating auctions and a Mexican themed party. The committee struggles to find the connection between dating, dressing up as Mexicans, and the alleviation of poverty. Although some money was raised at these events, the committee feels that ENP is not fulfilling its mandate to raise awareness or to provide local volunteer opportunities. It is also concerned about the small minded nature of such a racialized party and the underlying colonial attitudes that this may indicate.