



## **Motion Regarding Sustainability Projects Fund Fee Referendum Question**

**Whereas**, SSMU, MCSS, PGSS, and McGill University have made commitments to support a culture of sustainability, as exemplified by the co-creation and operation of the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) in Winter 2010, which is co-funded by students (50%) and the University (50%) and has funded 171 projects to date totaling over five million dollars;

**Whereas**, a review carried out by the McGill Business Consulting Group (MBCG) in Winter 2017 concluded that “the SPF is currently meeting its mandate and has created a culture that promotes sustainability throughout the McGill campus”;

**Whereas**, a renewed SPF would continue to be governed by a consensus-based parity working group (equal numbers of students and staff) and accept project applications from any current SSMU, MCSS, PGSS students, and McGill academic staff and administrative staff,

**Whereas**, further information about the SPF is available at [www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/spf](http://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/spf), including application process and criteria, funded projects, annual reports, and other relevant documentation,

**Whereas**, after a successful trial period of 3.5 years the SPF was renewed in 2013 for a period of 5 years at \$0.50 per credit per student per semester (up to 15 credits), adjusted annually for inflation as indexed by the Bank of Canada Consumer Price Index (CPI),

**Whereas**, since 2016-2017 SSMU referendum questions cannot include an indexation request and must instead directly request the amount needed to cover the foreseen inflation throughout the renewal period,

**Whereas**, the average CPI inflation since the creation of the Fund in 2010 has been of 1.7%, bringing the SPF fee to a current amount of \$0.53, a 3-cent inflation since 2013,

**Whereas**, \$0.55 is the fee needed to cover an average inflation of 1.7% over the next five years, from 2018 to 2023,

**Whereas**, a “No” result for the SSMU, MCSS, and/or PGSS referendum would abolish the SPF entirely,

**Whereas**, SSMU is unable to commit to the renewal of the fee unless it is approved at a range that McGill University can match at a later date,



**Be it Resolved**, that SSMU Council approve the following question for Fall 2017 referendum period:

“Do you agree to renew the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) fee for the next five academic years (Fall 2018 through Winter 2023) at \$0.55 per credit per student per semester (up to 15 credits) as matched in equal amount by McGill University?”

Submitted to Legislative Council, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Moved by:**

Arisha Khan, Vice President (Finance)

Danny Dinh, PT/OT Representative

Caitlyn Bazylykut, Nursing Representative

APPROVED