



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

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

### **Motion Regarding Opposition to Canadian Military Involvement in Iran**

*Whereas*, on 7 September 2012 the government of Canada ordered the closing of the Canadian Embassy in Iran and expelled Iranian diplomats from Canada, indicating that the government of Canada will not seek a diplomatic resolution to conflict with Iran; <sup>i</sup>

*Whereas*, the government of the United States has repeatedly stated it considers military intervention in Iran to be an option, and has recently participated in large-scale naval drills in the Persian Gulf; <sup>ii</sup>

*Whereas*, the number of nuclear warheads possessed by Iran is zero, and the number of nuclear warheads possessed by the United States is 5,113; <sup>iii</sup>

*Whereas*, universities, including McGill, conduct research for defense ministries and military contractors, sell many of the skills required for the administration of military action, allow military recruitment on campuses, and invest in companies that profit from armed conflict, and are in these ways complicit in war; <sup>iv</sup>

*Whereas*, hundreds of McGill students are directly from Iran, have family in Iran, and are adversely affected by sanctions and military action; <sup>v</sup>

*Whereas*, the SSMU has historically opposed war and military intervention as a method for solving problems;

*Whereas*, the SSMU has an equity policy that explicitly opposes all forms of oppression, which include imperialism and colonialism;

*Whereas*, the SSMU has a resolution that registers its opposition to unethical investment and research in McGill;

*Resolved*, that the SSMU firmly oppose Canadian aggression towards Iran and oppose any military action that may be taken by Canada alone or in concert with other countries;

*Resolved*, that the SSMU oppose all ties between McGill University and any military efforts, including investments in military contractors and weapons manufacturers, weapons research, and research for government agencies that contributes to military action;

*Resolved*, that in the case of a military intervention in Iran, the SSMU provide information resources about the issue, as well as support to students who may experience stress, trauma or other difficulty as a result of military activity.

*Resolved*, that the SSMU create a policy opposing military activity and McGill's relationship with military industries by the end of the Winter 2013 semester, and that this resolution be in effect until that policy is adopted.



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Moved by:

Robin Reid-Fraser, Vice-President (External)

Moe Nasr, Senate Caucus Representative

Allison Cooper, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)

Haley Dinel, Vice-President (University Affairs)

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<sup>i</sup> Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada News Release <http://www.international.gc.ca/media/aff/news-communicues/2012/09/07a.aspx?view=d>

<sup>ii</sup> Business Insider: US and Britain Send Warships to the Persian Gulf to Prepare for an Israel Strike on Iran  
<http://www.businessinsider.com/us-and-britain-sending-warships-to-gulf-2012-9>

<sup>iii</sup> Arms Control Association: Who Has What at a Glance  
<http://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>

<sup>iv</sup> Demilitarize McGill <http://demilitarizemcgill.wordpress.com/>

<sup>v</sup> McGill Daily: Canada-Iran tensions boil over <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2012/09/canada-iran-tensions-boil-over/>