



**Motion Regarding Endorsement of Family Resources at McGill
Sustainability Projects Fund Application**

Whereas, an application to the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) seeking to begin a "Family Resources Coordinator @ McGill" project (see Appendix A) has been drafted by members of the Senate Subcommittee on Women in collaboration with other members of the McGill community, and shall be submitted by the end of January, 2014,

Whereas, the proposal seeks to create a 2-year pilot project aimed at creating a central resource for the entire McGill community that addresses family care issues, initially focusing on the crucial concern of childcare for both students and staff,

Whereas, childcare services offered through McGill are not currently meeting demand; for example, the waitlist for the McGill Childcare Centre currently exceeds 740 children waiting for one of the 106 subsidized spots (Conzon 2013, 9),

Whereas, the proposed project shall support campus equity by ensuring that lack of access to appropriate childcare is not a barrier to education for student-parents, and ensuring that the concerns of single parents, queer parents, and international students with families are specifically addressed,

Whereas, SSMU "commits itself to groups, programs and activities that are devoted to the well-being of a group disadvantaged because of irrelevant personal characteristics that include but are not limited to race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, gender identification, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or social class,"¹

¹ "Preamble: Leadership," SSMU Constitution, <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/SSMU-Constitution-Approved-2013-11-15-English.pdf>, 1.



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Resolved, that the SSMU adopt a stance of support for the forthcoming Family Resources Coordinator @ McGill SPF application to be expressed in the form of a letter sent on behalf of the SSMU to SPF.

Moved by:

Claire Stewart-Kanigan, Arts Senator

Joey Shea, VP University Affairs

Sam Harris, VP External

Appendix A)

Statement from SSCOW regarding the Family Resources Coordinator @ McGill proposal:

"The Family Resources Coordinator @ McGill project is a 2-year pilot project aimed at creating a central resource for the entire McGill community that addresses family care issues, initially focusing on the crucial concern of childcare. As Conzon's Childcare Access Study and the recent McGill Daily article "Diapers, Daycare and Dissertations" illustrate, the current resources, such as on-campus childcare or information about available off-campus services, are not meeting demand. Moreover, even when facilities or aid is available, parents and family members may not know how to access these.

The Family Resources Coordinator will not duplicate currently available services. Instead of organizing childcare or other events, the focus of this project is on linking individuals to already established services, liaising with on- and off-campus service providers, and advocating for family and child care support within and beyond the McGill community. By building and securing on-going linkages with established organizations and stakeholders, this is one way we seek to ensure the sustainability of the project's outcomes.

This project aims to create a comprehensive resource for students, as well as faculty, staff and the McGill administration, on childcare needs and solutions. The Family Resources Coordinator will not duplicate currently available services,



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rather the focus of this project is on linking individuals to already established services, liaising with on- and off-campus service providers, and advocating for family and child care support within and beyond the McGill community. This project will also contribute to social justice by ensuring that lack of access to appropriate childcare is not a barrier to education for student-parents. Furthermore, services will be inclusive - addressing the concerns of single parents, queer parents, international students with families and others."

Approved