

February 6, 2014

Sustainability Projects Fund  
1010 Sherbrooke Street West, Suite 1200  
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2R7

Dear Selection Committee of the Sustainability Fund:

On behalf of the Students' Society of McGill University, I wish to express my support for the Sustainability Projects Fund proposal being submitted by the Senate Sub-committee on Women.

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. The current resources, such as on-campus childcare or information about available off-campus services, are not 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). Moreover, even when facilities or aid are available, parents and family members may not know how to access these services.

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; rather the focus of this project is to link individuals with already established services, liaise with on- and off-campus service providers, and advocate 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.

SSMU is committed to improving campus accessibility for the McGill community, and sees this project as valuable in promoting this aim. SSMU is committed to helping promote this resource to our undergraduate constituents, and looks forward to future collaboration as the Coordinator seeks to assess and improve childcare delivery at McGill.

Sincerely,

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on behalf of SSMU Legislative Council