



Motion Supporting QPIRG-McGill's 2015 Winter Referendum

Whereas, the Quebec Public Interest Research Group - McGill (QPIRG) is a student-initiated, student-run organization with the mandate to engage McGill students in the Montreal community with a commitment to social and environmental issues;

Whereas, QPIRG connects campus and community through annual event series for McGill students (e.g., Rad Frosh, Culture Shock, Social Justice Days), through numerous working groups (e.g., KANATA, Solidarity Across Borders, Accessibilize Montreal!), and through applied student research (Community-University Research Exchange - CURE);

Whereas, QPIRG provides essential resources, training, funding and meeting space to students and community groups, supporting these groups to conduct applied student research and to organize and participate in a diversity of environmental and social justice initiatives;

Whereas, QPIRG was founded by students in 1988, and is funded primarily through the student fee-levy that was originally set at \$3.00¹;

Whereas, since 1988, the QPIRG fee has only been increased once, in 2009, from \$3.00 to its current amount at \$3.75;

Whereas, had the QPIRG fee been indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a measure of inflation, since 1988, it would currently be \$4.98;²

Whereas, inflation has increased QPIRG's expenses without a corresponding increase in revenue, resulting in a reduction in programming and services capacity, such as diminished student research funding, applied skills workshops, and community engagement initiatives;

Whereas, this fee increase would allow for the further development of employment opportunities and applied research opportunities for students, through programmes like the Community-University Research Exchange (CURE), the Study in Action undergraduate research conference, the Convergence journal, and the Alternative Research Library; the improvement of popular education initiatives; and investment in making programming and resources more widely accessible;

¹https://www.dropbox.com/s/icwhnc4e7qqxv6f/rationale%20for%20fee%20increase_breakdown%20of%20expense

²<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/econ46a-eng.htm>



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

Office of the Speaker
Bureau de Président du Conseil

Be it resolved that the SSMU Legislative Council endorse a yes vote in the QPIRG in the 2015 Winter Referendum period for a \$1.25 fee increase through means including but not limited to:

- i. listserv endorsement message
- ii. social media promotion
- iii. an endorsement blurb on the website

Moved By:

Lola Baraldi, Arts Rep

Patrick Dunbar-Lavoie, Arts Rep

Claire Stewart-Kanigan, VP (University Affairs)

APPROVED

Should the SSMU fee increase of \$1.25/term pass:

Projected increase in fee received per year, after opt-outs: **\$42,000.00**

Breakdown of expenses and rationale for increase of each budget line:

Rent	\$3,000.00	Our rent has increased by \$3000 since 2010
Working Groups	\$7,500.00	Our working groups budget has been decreased by \$5000 since 2010-11 and we want to increase it by \$7500, all the more so because we receive an increasing number of applications for working group status from McGill students every year
Alternative Resource Library	\$2,000.00	We had to reduce our Alternative Resource Library budget in 2011-2012 by \$1500. We want to restore our library budget and increase it by \$2000
Core programming and events (Social Justice Days, Culture Shock, Study In Action)	\$4,500.00	Our programming budget has been reduced by \$3000 since 2010 and despite fundraising efforts, we have had trouble keeping the quality of our popular education programs. We propose to increase our budget by \$4500
Community-University Research Exchange (CURE)	\$1,000.00	Our current CURE budget is at \$500, and this budget line is used exclusively for outreach purposes on campus. However, our outreach strategies for CURE projects have been limited because we have not been able to raise our budget since the inception of the project. We would like to increase our CURE budget by \$1000
Radical Skills Workshop	\$2,500.00	We eliminated our Radical Skills Workshop series in 2013-14 due to lack of finances and capacity. We would like to restore Radical Skills Workshops on campus
Summer Research Stipend	\$3,000.00	We used to give two summer research stipends of \$3000 each to conduct applied research on environmental and social justice. Since 2010-11, we have cut our stipend budget by half, leaving us with only one summer stipend. We want to restore both opportunities for summer research for McGill students
Convergence Journal	\$2,000.00	Although we have successfully published 4 editions of the Convergence Journal, our 5th edition (2014) has been stalled and has not been published since we did not manage to find a grant to cover the expenses of printing. Starting 2016, we would like to have a budget line for printing expenses that is not dependent on grants. The total cost of printing is approx \$2000

Accessibility	\$5,500.00	<p>In the summer of 2014, we obtained a summer grant to do research on accessibility in our organization. The report that our accessibility auditor submitted outlined different strategies to make our events and our space more accessible. Unfortunately, many of these are costly, but we would like to integrate them at every level of our event planning, popular education and research. Amongst others, we want to make sure that we at least are able to provide ASL, childcare, food and translation at all our events, and make sure that all our events take place in fully wheelchair accessible spaces</p> <p>We will also be creating three Work Study positions for three McGill students. One of them will be for a 2nd CURE Coordinator since the current CURE Coordinator (who is also on Work Study) does not have enough hours to coordinate the entire project; the 2nd position will be for a Campus Outreach Coordinator who will be working on different outreach campaigns for QPIRG; the 3rd position will be for a popular education coordinator who will primarily be coordinating the Radical Skills workshops as well as working towards our other popular education programs, including Social Justice Days, Culture Shock and Study In Action. For three positions: 240hours/term x 3 terms x 3 positions x \$6.5</p>
Three work-study positions	<u>\$14,040.00</u> <u>\$42,040.00</u>	