



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

Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs)
Bureau du Vice-président (affaires externes)

VP External's Report to Legislative Council

January 28th, 2016

Personal

Definitely still riding the new semester energy wave – feeling excited for all the projects that we still have upcoming! Can you believe that we essentially have three months left before we're all has-beens? There is still so much left to do!!

External Affairs

AVEQ

- Members assembly on January 16th-17th
 - Hired 5 new staff to help out with the organization and construction of the new association!
 - Developed priorities for policies to be written, including one specifically on international and out-of-province students and one on research funding and practices
 - Helped in the initial transition and training of the staff
- Met with the administrative coordinator and the internal coordinator to discuss the logistics of the council presentation that is happening this week!

UEQ

- Members assembly on January 23rd-24th
 - Covering policies for the management of both financial and human resources and an electoral policy
 - Voting on positions related to the future of TELUQ, the FIDEP campaign (for internships in psychology), and international students
 - Discussing the launch of the UEQ as a full-fledged organization

Provincial Representation (general)

- Presentations to associations
 - Done: AUS, MESS, LSA, BASIC, NUS
 - Going to EUS this week, preliminary discussions with MSS
- Timeline for the affiliation referendum
 - January 28th: Presentations at council from both associations
 - January 29th: Online poll launched to gather opinions (somewhat like a straw poll)
 - February 11th: Council decision on which association will go on the ballot
 - March 7th – 18th: Regular referendum

Community Affairs

Milton Parc Community

- Greener streets project
 - Completed 5 sampling excursions



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- Presented the project to the MPCC board
- Will be creating an infographic to clearly demonstrate where the garbage is piling up in the Milton Parc community
- Setting up a meeting with a member of the borough, the Dean of Students, and the MPCC
- Met with the MPCC board to go over the CARE agreement; once everything is finalized they want to make an event out of the resigning of the agreement! Could be a really good chance to come out and meet community members
- Met a new community organization called solidarity Milton parc, which aims to share hot meals and redistribute clothing to the homeless population in the community, as well as do anti-oppression and indigenous solidarity education! This group is called Solidarité Milton Parc, I would recommend checking out their website here: <http://solidaritemiltonparc.ca/>

Community Engagement

- Met with community engagement committee to revise plans for the upcoming semester:
 - Film screening on February 2nd
 - Art and expression mixer upcoming!

Campaigns

McGill Against Austerity

- Hosted two Austerity 101 workshops to integrate new members
- Met to discuss workshop proposals for the “Organizing within the Quebec Student Movement” workshop series (received 13 applications and chose 6)
 - Started preparations for the logistical and promotional aspects of the series
 - First workshop will take place on February 10th!!
- Held a demonstration contingent to the January 16th FAE demonstration

Divest McGill

- Hosted a “Divest 101” workshop to integrate new members
- Had a call with an investment firm who also manages money for many foundations (including the David Suzuki Foundation) who said they would be very much willing to meet with McGill
- Met with Kip Cobbett, Michael Di Grappa, and Stephen Strople of CAMSR to discuss various options for their divestment decisions, including
 - Factoring in “in-between” options, such as divesting just from the worst offenders or divesting from particular sectors
 - Releasing a draft decision for consultation with the McGill community before a final decision is made
- Planning a Divest McGill retreat on February 5th – 7th!

Climate Justice

- Assisted in the training and preparation for activists doing work around the lack of action on behalf of the federal government for the NEB pipeline review process



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- In communication with folks working on the Montreal consultation process – a creative marathon was launched to help teams come up with innovative solutions to climate change! Students are highly encouraged to get involved
- Planning an event on line 9, including a panel with indigenous organizers and other activists, with Climate Justice Montreal

QPIRG

- Met with the popular education committee to review proposals for Social Justice Days
 - Happening February 10th – 14th
 - Themed around “the Art of Resistance!”

Mention Soleil

(First Mention Soleil for Council!)

For this council, I would like to give a huge shout-out to Chelsea Kingzett, Environment Representative. Chelsea, I've had so much fun working with you over the last few weeks. It's been really exciting to get to know you this semester and also watch you grow as an activist and an organizer. Your work in the NEB process last week was really incredible, the coffee co-op is such an exciting idea, and your general work with MESS is really amazing. In addition to all the work you do outside of council, you show dedication to your responsibilities and constantly strive to do a ton of consultation with the school of environment (I know! I get the emails and fill out the surveys!). Overall, I'm extremely impressed with all the work that you do; please know that it doesn't go unnoticed and that I'm confident that you are making your mark on this campus!

With love and solidarity,

Emily Boytinck