



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

March 24th, 2016

Personal

Felt a little bit burnt out and dejected after the referendum, but re-energized by all the incredible work by student activists on campus and beyond. On ne recule pas 😊

External Affairs

AVEQ

- Will be having a discussion as to future SSMU participation in this group at council (ideally before reports) so hopefully we will have talked about this all already, but for those of you who are reading my report ahead of time (congrats, you're the best!), here are my thoughts:
 - I'm obviously very disappointed by the referendum results, but unsurprised. It was our first attempt at a student federation affiliation campaign in over a decade, and I'm proud of the work that was put in! I think more students now know at least a little bit about how a provincial student association works
 - I'm equally disappointed by the influence that a former UEQ coordinator managed to have on the referendum, and I hope that in the future we can avoid these local sovereignty issues
 - Finally, I stand by our need to continue working with other student unions in the province, at least in an informal basis. We developed very good working relationships with a lot of student associations around the province through this work, and it's important to continue trying to strengthen our bonds in future years
- If the students at UQTR affiliate and then perhaps a few more affiliations next fall, I have no doubt that AVEQ will be able to establish itself as a strong player on the provincial scene, and maybe in one year after more consultation is done, we can revisit the question.

Community Affairs

Milton Parc Community

- Organized successful St. Patties day street teams
- Continuing work on the CARE agreement with the MPCC
- Met to discuss CARE, the MPCC AGA, and continuity between our partnership

Community Engagement

- Community engagement award applications are out! Spread the word!

Campaigns

McGill Against Austerity

- Had two "Beyond McGill" events
 - One related to the 2012 strike history (also I talked to somebody that didn't know that the 2012 strike happened. If you are one of those people, come talk to me immediately)
 - One related to departmental strike organizing



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- Doing a tabling campaign for the rest of the semester

Divest McGill

- **WILL BE HEARING BACK FROM CAMSR ON WEDNESDAY**
 - After over three years of campaigning, it is so crucial that the board listen to community voices
 - Let me reiterate, Divest McGill has the support of
 - SSMU
 - PGSS
 - A ton of faculty and departmental councils
 - A ton of clubs, services, and ISG's
 - The McGill Faculty of Arts
 - The McGill Faculty of Law
 - If McGill chooses to ignore community voices, especially after going through a closed and non-transparent process, it can only be concluded that McGill is not interested in giving serious issues like climate change the discussion that they deserve.
- Preparing a series of responses so that we will be ready to act as soon as the decision is made; I promise you, Divest McGill is going nowhere
- Organizing an alumni degree returning ceremony for April 1st as part of Fossil Fools Day, which will be turned into an alumni celebration if McGill chooses to Divest!

Misc.

- Helped SSMU Equity organize the Rupri Kaur event during last council which was a ton of fun!
- Have started to do interviews for new student staff positions which is super exciting!

With love and solidarity,
Emily Boytinck