



CONSTITUTION OF MCGILL STUDENTS SOCIETEA

Ratified by Membership on: August 21, 2014 A.D. (XXI.VIII.MMXIV)

Ratified by SSMU Council on: September 25, 2014

1 Article I: Name

1.1 McGill Students SocieTea also referred to hereinafter as the Club.

2 Article II: Mandate

2.1 The Club's mandate shall be to

- Encourage the consumption of tea on university campus grounds and beyond;
- Organize meetings for tea drinkers to share, discuss and enjoy tea;
- Share and explore new methods or recipes to prepare tea;
- Promote the history of tea as well as the culture surrounding the beverage.

2.2 Code of Conduct

2.2.1 The Club shall carry forth its mandate from an anti-oppressive and equitable standpoint AND equal respect shall be given to all members, including those of disadvantaged backgrounds, regardless of but not limited to gender, age, race, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexuality or sexual orientation, mental or physical abilities, language, or social class.

2.2.1.1 No member shall make personal profit from the club

2.2.2 Any executive member who fails to fulfill their responsibilities shall be subject to the expulsion procedure outlined in this constitution

2.3 Student Group Civility

2.3.1 The club will maintain cordial and respectful relations with all other clubs, services and independent student groups

2.3.2 The club will not use SSMU resources and/or their club status to prevent other clubs, services or independent student groups from fulfilling their mandate, including but not limited to their acquisition of resources and pursuit of activities.

2.3.3 If problems arise between groups, a member of the executive committee and/or collective of the club shall be responsible for contacting the SSMU Vice President of Clubs and Services and attempt to remedy the problem in a collegial fashion.

2.4 Environment

2.4.1 The club shall make attempts to regularly monitor the environmental impact of all its events and operations

Clubs must attempt to utilize the services and resources available at SSMU in order to maximize capacities for equitable decision-making and environmental stewardship. These include but are but are not limited the use of the plate club, green events guide, applications for the SSMU Green fund, assistance of the SSMU



- environment commissioners, environment committee and green events coordinators
- 2.4.1 The club must attempt to find sustainable alternatives to the non-recyclable #6 plastic, effective waste management, providing vegan and vegetarian options, purchasing clothing which is ethically sourced and environmentally-friendly, purchasing local and sustainable alcohol, fair trade coffee and tea, and local and/or organic foods.

3 Article III: Membership

- 3.1 Membership for a club under the Students' Society of McGill University is open to all SSMU and PGSS members, including those of disadvantaged backgrounds, regardless of but not limited to gender, age, race, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexuality or sexual orientation, mental or physical abilities, language, or social class.
- 3.2 Only Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) and Post Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) members are eligible to be elected as officers and to hold voting privileges.
- 3.3 Associated non-voting membership is open to all others.

4 Article IV: Government of the Club

- 4.1 The Government of the McGill Students SocieTea shall administer the Club and oversee its administration and events under the authority of SSMU.
- 4.2 The Government is composed of the following three entities:
- (1) Prime Minister;
 - (2) First Lord of the Exchequer;
 - (3) Other Ministers.
- 4.3 The Prime Minister, the First Lord of the Exchequer and other Ministers may be referred to as the Cabinet, the Government or SSMU's Government.
- 4.4 The Parliament of the McGill Students SocieTea shall be formed by the House of Commons.
- 4.5 The Student's Society of McGill University's (SSMU) representative shall be symbolically embodied in the position of Governor General.

5 Article V: Portfolios

- 5.1 The Prime Minister shall:
- (1) Be the official head of the government;
 - (2) Be the primary executive, representative and spokesperson of the Club;
 - (3) Oversee all aspects of the Club for the interests of the McGill Students SocieTea; whilst also adhering to the principles of democratic representation, political transparency, fairness and the rule of law;
 - (4) Be elected by members of the Club as described in Section IX, article 38.
 - (5) Appoint the First Lord of the Exchequer and create or abolish other ministries to support the Government's management of Club affairs as well as name the head of each ministry, hereafter known as Ministers;



- (6) Co-sign all financial transactions, including the State budget, with the First Lord of the Exchequer;
- (7) Organize and manage club meetings and events throughout his/her mandate.

5.2 The First Lord of the Exchequer shall:

- (1) Manage financial matters within the McGill Students SocieTea;
- (2) Develop a financial budget according to the interests of the Club for the House of Common's consideration;
- (3) Uphold the virtues of political transparency and dedication by acting in the interests of the McGill Students SocieTea;
- (4) Co-sign all financial transactions, including the state budget, with the Prime Minister.

5.3 Ministers shall:

- (1) Be head of their respective ministries responsible for various specific tasks or domain to support the Government's responsibility in managing the McGill Students SocieTea;
- (2) Mainly answer to the Prime Minister and, if necessary, to the House of Commons;
- (3) Act cohesively together with the entirety of the Government according to the principle of ministerial solidarity for the interests of the Club.

5.4 The House of Commons shall:

- (1) Be comprised of all official members of the McGill Students SocieTea who shall be referred to as Members of Parliament whilst serving in the House of Commons;
- (2) Vote bills to ensure the proper governance of the Club:
 - a. Proposed bills are either adopted or rejected by the entirety of the House of Commons by a single majority vote;
 - b. Rejected bills or identical bills of previously rejected bills cannot be resubmitted within seven days without significant amendment;
 - c. Proposed bills shall be voted upon within seven days of official submission to the Prime Minister
 - d. Bills adopted by the House of Commons become Acts and shall be respected by the entirety of the club if the bills are granted SSMU's assent by the Governor General as described in section V, article 18, third part.
- (4) Maintain the Prime Minister and his Cabinet's accountability to the said House of Commons;
- (5) Approve or reject the First Lord of the Exchequer's proposed budget;
- (6) Have the right to adopt a Motion of Non Confidence to force the dismissal of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, and subsequently organize elections for a new Government within two weeks:



- a. The Motion of Non Confidence may be worded as: "This House has no confidence in SSMU's government."
- b. A Motion of Non Confidence may be voted upon up to twice per academic year.

- (7) Any Member of Parliament may propose a bill for the House to vote upon;
- (8) Only the House of Commons itself may vote to repeal previously approved Acts of Parliament.

5.5 The SSMU's Governor General shall:

- (1) Be the individual currently occupying the position of VP Clubs and Services of SSMU;
- (2) Symbolically represent SSMU's authority within the McGill Students SocieTea;
- (3) Concerning bills adopted by the House of Commons, grant SSMU's assent according to the Governor General's judgement on Prime Minister's advice;
- (4) Be given a monthly tea pension of one cup of quality tea if the Governor General so desires.

6 Article VI: Fees

- 6.1 The Club's membership fee shall be \$0.00 dollars.
- 6.2 Although club membership is free, tea contributions are necessary for the club on-going existence and, as such, members' tea donations will be appreciated and encouraged.

7 Article VII: Finances

- 7.1 The Government shall examine the financial records, and prepare an audit, complete with records of all transactions and receipts, to be submitted to the SSMU at the end of each semester before May 31st of each year.
- 7.2 All club bank accounts must be kept at Scotiabank as subsections of the SSMU account
 - 7.2.1 Each account must have a minimum of two and maximum of three signing officers;
 - 7.2.2 In order to receive funding of any kind from the SSMU, the club must have a Scotiabank account.
 - 7.2.2 Club finances shall be managed according to the club's genuine interests in a transparent, legitimate and representative manner

8 Article VIII: Meetings

- 8.1 The House of Commons alongside the Government may assemble to vote on proposed bills at General Meetings during the Fall or Winter Semester:
 - (1) The House may do so physically during a General Meeting;
 - (2) Or, The House may vote on bills via online means determined by the government.

- 8.2 The members of the McGill Students SocieTea shall hold elections and elect a Prime Minister within thirty days of the start of classes in the Fall semester at a General Meeting.

9 Article IX: Electoral Procedures



9.1 The Vice-President (Clubs & Services) of SSMU or his/her representative shall be the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) with final authority over electoral procedures and validity of results.

9.2 The general membership must be notified of the date of the general meeting 2 weeks in advance to the date of the election.

9.3 Elections are to be held before March 31 during the previously mentioned General Meeting.

9.4 The Government of the McGill Students SocieTea may designate Deputy Electoral Officers (DEOs) to:

- (1) Monitor the elections to ensure their impartiality and transparency;
- (2) Collect and count the votes;
- (3) Calculate and release election statistics to the public.

9.5 Elections are to be conducted by an online voting procedure determined by the government and/or the DEOs to ensure fair elections and members' right to vote secrecy.

9.6 Vote statistics are to be kept for archival and reference purposes.

9.7 The Vice-President (Clubs and Services) should be notified immediately in the event of contested electoral results

9.8 Members who intend to run during the election must inform the appointed DEOs at least one week (seven days) before the election date, candidates who fail to do so will be disqualified.

9.9 Candidates eligible to run in the elections must have:

- (1) Been part of the club since at least 3 months;
- (2) Participated to at least three meetings and/or General Meeting;

9.10 Article 9.3 does not apply to candidates running in the club's elections in Fall 2014.

9.11 All eligible members described in section III, article 7, may exercise their right to have one vote during each election.

9.12 The election's duration should not be less than 3 hours or more than 24 hours.

9.13 The Prime Minister shall be determined among the candidates by universal suffrage via a single majority vote by members, i.e. first past the post.

9.14 Votes are to be counted within one week; the election winner is to be announced within 24 hours of votes counting completion; the entire procedure should not take more than 7 days.

10 Article X: Affiliations

10.1 The Club shall maintain a cooperative and amiable relationship with the Concordia Tea Enthusiast Association (CUTEA).

10.2 The Government and Parliament may consider further external affiliations with local tea stores or institutions if the said stores or institutions suit the club's interests.

11 Article XI: Constitutional Amendment Procedure

11.1 Any member of the club may propose an amendment to the Constitution.



11.2 In order to amend the constitution, the House of Commons, representing the interests of the people of the Club, shall adopt or reject proposed constitutional amendments by a simple majority vote.

11.3 Similar or identical amendment proposals may not be resubmitted to the attention of the House within 30 days without significant change in the proposal.

11.4 All amendments shall be submitted to the Interest Group Coordinator, will be reviewed by the Interest Group Committee and ratified by the SSMU council before they take effect.

12 Article XII: Bylaws and Policies

12.1 The club shall create and maintain bylaws that cover the operations of the club which are not specified in the Constitution.

12.2 The club's bylaws shall not contravene the Constitution.

12.3 The club by laws must be available to any member of the SSMU when and if requested.

13 Article XIII: SSMU Constitution, By-Laws and Policies

13.1 In case of any inconsistencies between the Club Constitution and the SSMU Constitution and By-Laws, the SSMU Constitution By-Laws and Policies shall take effect.

13.2 If there are any areas not covered in this Constitution, the SSMU Constitution, By-Laws and Policies shall take effect.