



NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING FREE MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS FEE AND HEALTH AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS FUND REFERENDA QUESTION

Whereas, there exists a systemic culture of sexism in Canadian society that, in one of its many ways, manifests itself financially through the higher pricing of products labeled “feminine”¹;

Whereas, menstrual hygiene products in Canada are still seen as Luxury Goods, while items that can be used by any Gender, such as toilet paper, are categorized as Necessary Goods and as such can be found supplied for free;

Whereas, though the Canadian government has taken steps to address this issue by eliminating any taxation of feminine hygiene products, this step does not adequately do enough towards eliminating financial discrimination towards those who experience menstruation²;

Whereas, the SSMU has a commitment to serving its Members and to leadership in matters concerning the wellbeing of marginalized groups³;

Whereas, through the collection of fees the SSMU can purchase menstrual hygiene products in bulk and effectively eliminate the entire cost of those products to its Members that would require them during their time at McGill as a Member of the SSMU;

Whereas, the approval of this fee will also entail the creation of a Health and Hygiene Products Fund, which will be directly funded by any surplus monies, to eventually be dispersed for the purchasing of alternative menstrual hygiene products, to be supplied at a subsidized rate or free of charge;

Be It Resolved That, that the SSMU Legislative Council approve the following question for the Fall 2016 referendum period:

“Do you support the creation of a non-opt-outable fee of \$1.68 per semester for undergraduate students, with the intention of freely supplying and distributing menstrual hygiene products, including, but not necessarily limited to, tampons and pads, to all its Members across campus, to be put in effect from the start of the semester in Winter 2017 until Fall 2020 (inclusive)?”

Moved By:

Tuviere Okome, Environment Representative
McKenzie Gingrich-Hadley, Nursing Representative
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2016

FOR APPROVAL

¹ <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/partners/Study-of-Gender-Pricing-in-NYC.pdf>

² <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tampon-tax-will-end-july-1-1.3091533>

³ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/SSMU-Constitution-2016-04-28.pdf#page=6>