



MOTION TO ENDORSE THE STUDENT WALKOUT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE 2019-02-25

Submitted for: February 25, 2019

WHEREAS, the 2018 report¹ published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that the effects of 1.5 degrees of warming are far more catastrophic than previously thought, but will nonetheless prevent hundreds of millions of deaths worldwide as compared to 2 degrees of warming;

WHEREAS, we must cut global CO2 emissions by 45% by in less than 11 years and reach *net zero* by 2050² in order to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, necessitating aggressive climate legislation to elicit deep emissions reductions across all sectors;

WHEREAS, SSMU is committed to sustainability and passed a Sustainability Policy³ on April 11, 2013, an updated version of the Sustainability Policy on March 29, 2018, and Climate Justice Policy⁴ on March 26, 2015;

WHEREAS, climate change has and will continue to disproportionately affect marginalized communities, who have also contributed least to global carbon emissions⁵;

WHEREAS, SSMU updated its Equity Policy⁶ on April 5, 2018, and is committed to recognizing and challenging current and historical processes of oppression; and

WHEREAS, SSMU has historically endorsed student movements in lines with its values of human rights, social justice, and environmental protection⁷, such as the Endorsement for the Popular Demonstration Against Racism and the Far Right⁸ on November 12, 2017, and the Endorsement of the SSMU Survivor Bill of Rights⁹ on January 25, 2018.

¹ https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

² <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/07102018/ipcc-global-warming-science-report-short-lived-climate-pollutants-methane-hfcs-carbon>

³ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Motion-Regarding-Sustainability-Policy-APPROVED-2018-03-29.pdf?x26516>

⁴ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/f.-Notice-of-Motion-Climate-Change-Policy.pdf>

⁵ https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

⁶ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Motion-Regarding-the-SSMU-Equity-Policy-2018-APPROVED-2018-04-05.pdf?x26516>

⁷ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Motion-Regarding-the-SSMU-Equity-Policy-2018-APPROVED-2018-04-05.pdf?x26516>



BE IT RESOLVED THAT, that the SSMU publish an official public statement endorsing the McGill student walkout on Friday, March 15, to demand governmental and institutional action in line with the IPCC report's recommendations to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Submitted to General Assembly for approval on February 24th, 2019.

FOR APPROVAL

<https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/Motion-to-to-Endorse-the-Popular-Demonstration-against-Racism-and-the-Far-Right-on-November-12th-Approved-2017-10-12.pdf?x26516>

⁹ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/Motion-to-Endorse-the-SSMU-Survivor-Bill-of-Rights-APPROVED-2018-01-25.pdf?x26516>



Appendix A

Student walkout for Climate Justice

McGill students are responding to a worldwide call for a student climate strike on March 15th. McGill students are joining students from Concordia, l'Université du Québec à Montréal, l'École de technologie supérieure, l'Université de Québec à Chicoutimi, l'Université Laval à Québec, Collège de Montréal, and cégep Montmorency, cégep Lionel Groulx and cégep Saint Laurent.

The movement's demands are as follows:

1. That the government establish a climate change education program, in partnership with youth;
2. That the government adopt climate legislation as recommended by the IPCC to limit global climate warming to 1.5 degrees. The IPCC demands a global net reduction of CO2 emission by 45% by 2030, zero net carbon emissions by 2050, and 50% reduction of methane emissions by 2050;
3. That academic institutions show greater transparency concerning their investments, divest from fossil fuels, and re-invest in renewable energy.