



MOTION REGARDING SUPPORT OF CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTIONS AT MCGILL 2019-09-26

Submitted for: September 26, 2019

WHEREAS, the Students' Society of McGill University (the SSMU) has a commitment to “leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection” as per the Preamble to the Constitution¹;

WHEREAS, the Climate Change Policy mandates the SSMU to “support a diversity of tactics needed to address climate change effectively and equitably, in line with the framework in section 2 [of the Policy] and in recognition of the context presented in section 1 [of the Policy]”²;

WHEREAS, the 2018 report 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 compared to 2 degrees of warming³;

WHEREAS, we must reduce global CO2 emissions by 50% by in less than 11 years and reach net zero emissions by 2050 in order to limit warming to 1.5 degrees⁴, necessitating aggressive climate legislation and economic degrowth to elicit deep emissions reductions across all sectors;

WHEREAS, McGill University has not to date divested their endowment fund from the fossil fuel industry⁵, and governments are not on track to meet these targets as set out by the Paris Agreement⁶;

¹ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/SSMU-Constitution-2017-11-10.pdf?x21981>

² <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/F.-Climate-Change-Policy-2018-2019-02-07.pdf?x21981>

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵

<https://www.lapresse.ca/debats/votre-opinion/201904/18/01-5222782-universite-mcgill-une-decision-a-laquelle-nous-ne-pouvons-adherer.php?fbclid=IwAR0oVlkeW0O6timSvQ4VAIzmkdCBYstg3RJusU0KGvKE1Eo8rDmJLM1oJrc>

⁶

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2019/04/25/analysis/canada-pace-meet-paris-climate-target-two-centuries-late>



WHEREAS, Climate Justice Action McGill (C-JAM, formerly LPSU-McGill) is an on-campus student network organizing around climate action in the form of strike votes and direct action aimed at urging more timely response to the present climate crisis on the part of the University, as well as the Quebec and Canadian governments⁷;

WHEREAS, nearly 2000 McGill students took part in the demonstration for climate justice on March 15 2019, organized by C-JAM and endorsed by the SSMU Legislative Council;

WHEREAS, students in Quebec and worldwide are mobilizing for a second one-day strike to demand climate action from their universities and governments during Fridays For Future's Strike Week For Earth (September 20-27)⁸, with Quebec students and workers aiming to participate on the 27th;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU Legislative Council recognize the present Climate Emergency, which is caused primarily through Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG), and which is directly and presently causing grave social injury;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the Campaigns Department of the Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs) of the SSMU be mandated to support efforts aiming to pressure governments and McGill University to cease their continued support of the fossil fuel industry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU Legislative Council, in supporting climate organizing at McGill, adopt a one-year mandate to support C-JAM as an affiliated campaign, as required by the Internal Regulations of Student Groups⁹;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU Legislative Council mandate the Office of the Vice-President (External) to participate in C-JAM's contingent at the Montreal-wide climate strike on September 27, 2019, gathering at 11a.m. on McTavish Street.

Moved By:
Adam Gwiazda-Amsel, *Vice-President (External Affairs)*

Seconded By:
Beatrice Courchesne-Mackie, *Law Representative*

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https://docs.google.com/document/d/15IFZuSUfUc_q_dS2oxkPxuIgvTXMCfic6lZ_-GD8DL0/edit?fbclid=IwAR1AeQwaiiKytEbYu9QbuLghgJyRb7h9mVQw5LbZH4cBsGSOeSjBq0ddarA

⁸ https://fridaysforfuture.org/static/files/strike_microactions20-27sep_english.pdf

⁹ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Internal-Regulations-Student-Groups-2019-03-14.pdf?x21981>