



## Board of Directors

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*Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories*

# REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Submitted for: 2019-11-28

Dear Councillors,

On Thursday, November 21st, 2019, the Board of Directors held their first meeting of the new governance year.

During the Confidential session of the meeting, Conflict of Interest recommendations (“the Recommendations”) for Councillor Chan, Councillor Chase, Councillor Wright, and Director Levitt (“the Concerned Individuals”) were brought forward for discussion and ratification. In their disclosure forms, the Concerned Individuals explained the details of a trip organized by Hillel Montreal, a body of the Federation CJA Montreal, to Israel/Palestine over the winter break (“the Trip”). The Recommendations were reviewed at the same time, as they all pertained to the Trip. At that time, a Conflict of Interest recommendation for Director Collins was not brought forward because Director Collins did not submit a disclosure form regarding the Trip.

A Conflict of Interest recommendation arising from the submission of a disclosure form, under the Conflict of Interest Policy, is usually drafted by the Speaker of Council and the General Manager. In the absence of the General Manager, as is the current case, the Speaker of Council consulted with the Governance Manager and the Human Resources Manager in drafting the Recommendations.

The Board of Directors deliberated for many hours on the content and wording of the Recommendations. Councillor Chan and Director Collins updated the Board of Directors that they were no longer attending the trip. As a result, Councillor Chan’s recommendation was nullified. The Concerned Individuals whose Recommendations the Board of Directors was still discussing were not permitted to be present for the deliberations. Each Director had multiple opportunities to speak on the Recommendations and share their opinions. The Speaker of Council, who is also the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, explained his rationale behind the initial, preliminary Recommendations and invited the Board of Directors to amend the Recommendations as they saw fit.

After multiple debates and discussions regarding the Recommendations, the Board of Directors came to the conclusion that based on the information provided in the disclosure forms, the Concerned Individuals are not in a real or apparent Conflict of Interest given that Hillel Montreal/Federation CJA Montreal, the organization providing the trip, operates outside the context of the SSMU. However, it was found that there may be a risk of a Potential Conflict of Interest arising in the future.



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As a proactive management measure, during meetings of the Governing Bodies of which the Concerned Individuals sit on, the Concerned Individuals shall be required to excuse themselves from the room or be ordered to leave the room by the Chair or Presiding Officer, for the duration of the discussions on issues and matters related to the region of their trip.

The Board believes that the Concerned Individuals are not in violation of the Conflict of Interest Policy at this time.

Best regards,

The SSMU Board of Directors