



MOTION AMENDING THE ‘POLICY ON MCGILL FEES UNTIL FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT’

2020-01-30

Submitted for: 2020-01-30

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2020-02-13-003 (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Andrew Chase <i>Arts Representative</i>	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Jared Kersh <i>Athletics Representative</i>		

Issue We must act to help Athletics students in supporting their facilities without waiting for McGill to reevaluate its investment portfolio.

Background and Rationale On December 5th, 2019, McGill’s Board of Governors, for the third time, refused to divest the University’s endowment fund from fossil fuel holdings. The SSMU not only has a responsibility to advocate for divestment, but it must do so with effective and responsible tactics that do not put a hinderance upon the student body. Such as the lack of the Athletics Fee to be able to help improve our students facilities. Athletics and Recreation is a group essentially separate from McGill University, and thus it does not make sense to impose the moratorium upon fees related to them.

Alignment with Mission This motion aligns with SSMU’s mission to encourage sustainable practices, particularly with Section 3.2 of the Sustainability Policy, 12.1 of the Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy, and the Preamble of the Society’s Constitution.



Consultations Completed

Consultations were held with Senator Duckett and Mecabo, Councillors, and numerous members of the student body. In addition, the Sustainability Commissioner also gave input on this motion.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

It is possible for some to believe that in lifting the moratorium, SSMU is backing away from divestment, therefore it is imperative for representatives of SSMU to emphasize that this is just a reevaluation of SSMU's long-term strategy to encourage divestment and decarbonization without hurting its own members.

Sustainability Considerations

This motion does not use Society material resources it will not directly affect the sustainability of the Society. However, in devising a different plan for incentivizing McGill to divest, the Society can help improve the sustainable impact of the University.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

The Vice President-University Affairs shall inform members of McGill University's Administration the disappointment of SSMU at the lack of Divestment. Furthermore, the Vice President-University Affairs shall contact the office of Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning to inform them that the Legislative Council will continue to consider McGill's lack of Divestment when debating fees.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Society create a joint committee as defined in Appendix A.

Be it further resolved that the Society communicate to the University Administration its disappointment from the lack of divestment at the December 5th, 2020 Board of Governors Meeting.

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU Legislative Council amend the 'Policy of Moratorium on McGill Fees until Fossil Fuels Divestment' to exempt all McGill fees relating to McGill Athletics and Recreation.

Be it further resolved that the Vice President University Affairs will inform the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning that the Legislative Council will continue to consider McGill's investments in fossil fuels when debating future motions regarding fees.



Results of the Vote	In favour	(4)
	Opposed	(15)
	Abstain	(3)

APPROVED



Appendix A : Creation of the Joint Committee on Promotion of Green Policies

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROMOTION OF GREEN POLICIES

1. **OVERSIGHT:** The Joint Committee on Promotion of Green Policies shall be a committee of the Board of Directors.
2. **GENERAL:** The Joint Committee on Promotion of Green Policies shall advocate to the Administration and determine a new set of long-term strategies to achieve divestment from fossil fuels and decarbonization of McGill University.
3. **FUNCTIONS: The Joint Committee on Promotion of Green Policies shall:**
 - a. Advise and send representatives to meet with Administration officials to discuss the possibilities of divestment of fossil fuels and decarbonization of McGill University.
 - b. Consult with different groups and students regarding support for divestment of fossil fuels and establishing decarbonization of McGill University.
 - c. Create a long-term plan for promoting divestment of fossil fuels and decarbonization of McGill University.
4. **MEMBERSHIP: The Joint Committee on Promotion of Green Policies shall consist of:**
 - a. Three Legislative Councillors
 - b. Four Student Senators
 - c. Four members-at-large
 - d. The Vice-President University Affairs
5. **MEETINGS:** The Joint Committee on Promotion of Green Policies shall meet once a month. Additional meetings may be called by its chair or by the request of four members. All meetings are to be open to the public.
6. **QUORUM:** The quorum of the Joint Committee on Promotion of Green Policies shall be a majority of its members.
7. **REPORTING:**
 - a. The Joint Committee on Promotion of Green Policies shall report to the Legislative Council and the Senate Caucus once a semester.
8. **COMMITTEE SPECIFIC:**
 - a. The chair of the committee shall be elected by its members.
 - b. The chair of the committee shall ensure that other groups on campus are properly consulted by the Joint Committee.