



MOTION REGARDING CONDEMNING THE PRESENCE OF HOMOPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC BLOOD DONATION POLICIES ON MCGILL CAMPUS 2020-02-13

Submitted for: 2020-02-13

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-IDYY-MM-DD-SIN
(to be assigned by Steering)

Moved by: Adin Chan **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
Arts Representative APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
Seconded by: Shreya Dandamudi NOT APPROVED
Arts Representative

Issue The Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) Legislative Council passed a resolution on Wednesday February 12th, attached in Appendix A, mandating their SSMU Representatives to introduce a motion condemn the presence of homophobic, transphobic, and other anti-LGBTQ+ discriminatory practices being enacted on campus by organizations such as Hema-Quebec.

Background and Rationale The current policy of Blood Services Canada and Hema-Quebec does not allow for accepting blood donation from men who have sex with men. Furthermore, Hema-Quebec actively misgenders trans-women as men for the purposes of blood donation. These practices further the stigma surrounding the LGBTQ+ community as “risky” or “unsafe” which are negative to the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ students at McGill.



Alignment with Mission	SSMU's mission is to stand up for marginalized students, such as the LGBTQ+ community, and fight against discrimination.
Consultations Completed	This motion is in response to AUS Legislative Council's mandate that was debated and passed one day before this SSMU Legislative Council. Thus, there was no time for additional consultations.
Risk Factors and Resource Implications	There are some concerns that this motion would discourage blood donation use. However, the movers would like to reiterate the critical role the blood donations serve in saving lives, but that does not take away from our responsibility as student leaders to fight discrimination on campus.
Sustainability Considerations	The existing practices of Blood Services Canada and Hema-Quebec propagate structural inequities and stigmas surrounding the LGBTQ+ community. Calling for an inclusive blood donation process serves to promote social sustainability and equitable communities.
Impact of Decision and Next Steps	With respect to next steps in communication, the Legislative Council requests that the SSMU Executive team release a statement condemning the homophobic and transphobic practices of Hema-Québec as well as providing resources, such as Queer McGill and the SSMU Equity Commissioners, for LGBTQ+ students negatively affected by the discrimination on campus.
Motion or Resolution for Approval	Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the Motion as outlined in Appendix A with appropriate grammatical and contextual changes.
Results of the Vote	In favour () Opposed () Abstain ()



Appendix A : Motion Condemning the Presence of Homophobic and Transphobic Blood Donation Policies on McGill Campus

WHEREAS, a blood drive organized by Hema-Quebec is currently taking place on McGill campus this Wednesday, February 12, 2020,

WHEREAS, the current policy of Blood Services Canada and Hema-Quebec does not allow for accepting blood donations from men who have sex with men,

WHEREAS, organizations such as Hema-Quebec actively misgender trans women as men for the purposes of blood donation,

WHEREAS, these practices further the creation of stigmas surrounding the LGBTQ+ community as “risky” or “unsafe” which are negative to the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ students in the Faculty of Arts,

WHEREAS, there have been zero documented cases in Canada of a person becoming infected or have their physical well-being negatively impacted by blood donated by a member of the LGBTQ+ community via these blood donation channels,

WHEREAS, members of the LGBTQ+ community facing discrimination on campus on account of their sexual or gender identities is an unacceptable practice that the AUS is mandated to stand against,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, through approval of this motion, the AUS Legislative Council condemn the presence of any and all policies which discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community on campus, including those currently being enacted by Hema-Quebec and the Provincial and Federal governments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, this condemnation be made clear in a statement drafted by the AUS Executives and sent out in the next upcoming listserv, with a list of resources available to LGBTQ+ students negatively impacted by homophobic, transphobic, or other forms of discrimination, such as Queer McGill, the SSMU Equity Commissioners, or etcetera. This statement may also make clear the support of the AUS both for the necessity of blood donation efforts, and for an end to all practices of unacceptable discrimination.

SIGNED,

Dalton Liggett (HSA)

Andreas Iakovos (WIMESSA)

Mo Rajji (RSUS)

Matt Gery (PSA)

Alexandra Millar (BASiC)