



# MOTION REGARDING SSMU REFERRAL SERVICES FEE REFERENDUM QUESTION 2020-02-27

Submitted for: 2020-02-27

**Submitted to:** SSMU Legislative Council      **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2020-02-27-003

**Moved by:** Billy Kawasaki  
Vice-President (Student Life)      **Current Status:**  FOR APPROVAL  
 APPROVED  
 POSTPONED  
 COMMITTED  
 NOT APPROVED

**Seconded by:** Noah Merali  
Services Representative

**Issue**      The Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) operates the referral services Nightline, Queer McGill and Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE). An additional service, the Eating Disorder Resource and Support Centre (EDRSC) will be added to this fund.

**Background and Rationale**      These essential services support the McGill community in diverse ways and provides invaluable resources to the community and the Montreal community at large. These services have been funded since 2006 by the opt-outable Referral Services Fee of \$1.75 per student per semester. The fee is divided as follows: \$1.00 to Queer McGill, \$0.40 to Nightline, and \$0.35 to the UGE. Service expenses including payroll, supplies, and space, have increased significantly in the last fourteen years. The proposed fee shall be divided as follows: from every \$3.35: \$1.10 to Queer McGill; \$0.60 to Nightline; \$0.90 to the EDSRC and \$0.75 to the UGE.

As of January 2020, prices and operational costs have increased by around 26% (as per the CPI reported by the Bank of Canada) since the creation of this fee. In addition, these Services have expanded their resources and operations significantly during this time. An increase in the fee would permit these Services to continue expanding the resources they offer while accounting for inflation over the last 14 years.



<b>Alignment with Mission</b>	Nightline, Queer McGill, Union for Gender Empowerment and the Eating Disorder Resource and Support Centre all provide members looking for support or referrals. The SSMU is mandated to offer services, support and advocacy and these services are essential to these ends.
<b>Consultations Completed</b>	Consultation was conducted with the stakeholders of each referral service, the Vice-President (Finance), Vice-President (Student Life) and the Services Representative.
<b>Risk Factors and Resource Implications</b>	Should this fee renewal and fee increase not pass, this will severely impact the operational capacity of the services and may lead to reduction of their services.
<b>Sustainability Considerations</b>	There are no sustainability considerations as this is a fee.
<b>Impact of Decision and Next Steps</b>	Should the proposed fee renewal and increase pass, the referral services will be able to continue and expand their operations, offering further support, advocacy and resources to members and the community at large.
<b>Motion or Resolution for Approval</b>	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU Legislative Council approves the following question for the Winter 2020 Referendum period:</p> <p><i>Do you agree to the renewal and increase of the opt-outable SSMU Referral Services Fee from \$1.75 to \$3.35, per semester, for all full and part-time SSMU members, to start in Fall 2020 and to be charged until Winter 2025 (inclusive), with the understanding that a majority 'no' vote would result in the discontinuation of the fee and impact the services' capacity for operation? The revenue from this fee shall be divided as follows: from every \$3.35, \$1.10 to Queer McGill; \$0.60 to Nightline; \$0.90 to the EDRSC and \$0.75 to the UGE.</i></p>



Be it resolved that the SSMU Legislative Council adopts the actionable aspects of this question and that any grammatical or legal changes necessary do not need the re-approval of the Legislative Council.

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<b>Results of the Vote</b>	In favour	(24)
	Opposed	(0)
	Abstain	(0)

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APPROVED