



# MOTION TO ENDORSE THE STUDENT STRIKE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE 2020-02-27

Submitted for: 2020-02-27

<b>Submitted to:</b>	SSMU Legislative Council	<b>Document no.:</b>	LEG-PUB-MOT-IDYY-MM-DD-SIN (to be assigned by Steering)
<b>Moved by:</b>	Adam Gwiazda-Amsel <i>Vice-President (External Affairs)</i>	<b>Current Status:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Mustafa Fakh <i>Engineering Representative</i>		

**Issue** Climate Justice Action McGill (C-JAM) organizing a coordinated week-long strike across various faculties in conjunction with the province-wide CEVES group. SSMU's communications platforms allow us to raise awareness about this mobilization.

**Background and Rationale** The 2018 report<sup>1</sup> 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 as compared to 2 degrees of warming.

To limit warming to 1.5 degrees, we must cut global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 45% by in less than 11 years and reach net zero by 2050<sup>2</sup>, necessitating aggressive climate legislation to elicit deep emissions reductions across all sectors.

<sup>1</sup> [IPCC Report, 2018](#)

<sup>2</sup> [IPCC Summary, insideclimatenews.org](#)



## Alignment with Mission

SSMU is committed to sustainability and passed a Sustainability Policy<sup>3</sup> on April 11, 2013, an updated version of the Sustainability Policy on March 29, 2018, and just recently renewed their Climate Justice Policy<sup>4</sup>. SSMU also updated its Equity Policy<sup>5</sup> on April 5, 2018, and is committed to recognizing and challenging current and historical processes of oppression.

SSMU has historically endorsed student movements in lines with its values of human rights, social justice, and environmental protection, such as the Endorsement for the Popular Demonstration Against Racism and the Far Right<sup>6</sup> on November 12, 2017, the Endorsement of the SSMU Survivor Bill of Rights<sup>7</sup> on January 25, 2018, and the Endorsement of the March 15, 2019 Student Walkout for Climate Justice<sup>8</sup>.

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## Consultations Completed

This motion is at the request of C-JAM itself, evidence of direct consultation.

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## Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Requires labour on the part of those drafting the statement and on the Communications Department, which will have to send it to the student body.

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## Sustainability Considerations

Climate change has and will continue to disproportionately affect marginalized communities, who have also contributed least to global carbon emissions<sup>9</sup>. This action is therefore one that promotes social sustainability.

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<sup>3</sup> [2018 SSMU Sustainability Policy](#)

<sup>4</sup> [2015 Climate Change Policy](#)

<sup>5</sup> [2018 Equity Policy](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Motion to endorse the Popular Demonstration Against Racism and the Far-Right](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Motion to endorse the SSMU Survivor Bill of Rights](#)

<sup>8</sup> [2019 Motion to endorse the Student Walkout for Climate Justice](#)

<sup>9</sup> [2018 IPCC Report](#)



**Impact of  
Decision  
and Next Steps**

The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall draft a statement in collaboration with C-JAM and other interested parties endorsing the McGill student climate strike, to be released the week after Reading Week.

**Motion or  
Resolution for  
Approval**

*Be It Resolved, That* the Vice-President (External Affairs) be mandated to draft a statement in collaboration with C-JAM and other interested parties endorsing the McGill student strike from March 30 to April 3, 2020, to demand governmental and institutional action in line with the IPCC report's recommendations to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

**Results of the  
Vote**

In favour	(16)
Opposed	(3)
Abstain	(2)