



MOTION CONDEMNING THE GNL QUÉBEC-GAZODUQ ÉNERGIE SAGUENAY PROJECT 2020-10-08

Submitted for: 2020-10-08

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2020-10-08-001
(to be assigned by Steering)

Moved by: Brooklyn Frizzle **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
Vice-President (University Affairs) APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
 NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Noah Merali
Services Representative

Issue This motion seeks to solidify the SSMU's opposition to the Énergie Saguenay project and formalize the SSMU's support for Coalition Fjord in their advocacy against the project.

Background and Rationale The Énergie Saguenay project aims to export fracking gas from Alberta in 3 steps: (1) The construction of a 782 km fossil fuel gas pipeline between Ontario and the Saguenay, (2) the construction of an LNG plant used to liquefy gas and (3) the marine transportation of liquified gas by mega LNG tankers across the Saguenay Fjord and the St. Lawrence River.

Methane, also known as natural gas, is 84 times more damaging than CO2 over a 20-year period, contributing enormously to greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, 85% of commercial-use methane comes from fracking.

The project poses several potential environmental risks, identified by Coalition Fjord, including, but not limited to,



1. Increasing our greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent each year, the equivalent of 10 million new cars on Quebec roads each year;
2. Requiring at least 300 transits per year of supertankers carrying liquefied natural gas in the heart of the critical habitat of the endangered St. Lawrence beluga whale;
3. Endangering riverside communities through the transportation of liquefied natural gas on the Saguenay Fjord Seaway.

Alignment with Mission

The proposed motion aligns with the [SSMU's Position](#) regarding the Environment and Environmental Sustainability, which establishes that the SSMU has and will continue to take a leadership role in advocacy surrounding climate justice and environmental sustainability.

Consultations Completed

This motion was drafted at the request of the Arts & Science Federation of Associations, in consultation with the Executive Committee. The Communications Department and Sustainability Commissioners were invited to collaborate on the motion and have been notified of their respective proposed mandates.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

This motion would add to the workload of the Sustainability Commissioners and the Executive Committee, particularly the Vice-President (External Affairs).

Sustainability Considerations

This motion is in line with the SSMU's role in fostering a community of sustainability by working to build awareness of sustainability issues, and showing leadership for the good of the student body as a whole and the broader community and society, as defined by the Sustainability Policy.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion pass, the Executive Committee would proceed to sign on to the Coalition Fjord's "[NON au gaz fossile de GNL Québec!](#)" petition.

The Executive Committee would then begin drafting a statement condemning the project. The Sustainability Commissioners would be



notified of the statement and invited to collaborate in its drafting. The Communications Department would be notified of the impending statement, which would be released following the procedures set by the [Public Relations Guide](#).

The submission deadline for the public hearings of the [Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement](#) (BAPE) is October 22, 2020. As such, this motion would be drafted to be released on or before this date to allow for the statement, alongside this motion, to be submitted to the BAPE by the Executive Committee on behalf of the SSMU.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved, that the Students' Society of McGill University wholeheartedly and unequivocally opposes the continued development of the Énergie Saguenay project;

Be it further resolved, that the Students' Society of McGill University signs-on to the Coalition Fjord "NON au gaz fossile de GNL Québec!" petition;

Be it further resolved, that the Executive Committee be mandated to draft and release a statement condemning the project on behalf of the Society, in collaboration with the Sustainability Commissioners;

Be it lastly resolved, that this motion and aforementioned statement be submitted to the dossier of *Le Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement* as part of their public consultations on the Énergie Saguenay Project.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(20)
Opposed	(0)
Abstain	(3)
