



# MOTION REGARDING REGARDING REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE PEER SUPPORT CENTRE FEE 2021-02-11

Submitted for: 2021-02-11

<b>Submitted to:</b>	SSMU Legislative Council	<b>Document no.:</b>	LEG-PUB-MOT-2021-02-11-006 (to be assigned by Steering)
<b>Moved by:</b>	Gifford Marpole <i>Vice-President (Finance)</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>	Jake Reed <i>Engineering Representative</i>		

**Issue** The SSMU Peer Support Centre Fee, an opt-outable fee at \$0.62 per student per term, is set to expire after Winter 2021.

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**Background and Rationale** The Peer Support Centre is a student-run volunteer organization providing free, confidential, drop-in, one-on-one active listening, resource referral, and mental health support to all McGill students. The Peer Support Centre runs on thousands of hours of 100 volunteer peer supporters who must undergo continuous training throughout the year to ensure that they are well suited to support all students. They provide hundreds of support sessions throughout the school year, supporting students through issues such as anxiety, loneliness, stress, and many other topics.

A \$0.62 opt-outable fee that generates a sustainable source of income such that the PSC can continue providing a warm, inclusive, and safe space for McGill students to talk and receive support



## Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with SSMU’s mission to provide outstanding services for the SSMU Membership.

Furthermore, this motion aligns with SSMU’s Mental Health Policy by “provid[ing] a diverse array of services that meet the unique needs of every student” and promoting mental health within the McGill community.

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## Consultations Completed

Consultations were conducted with the Vice-President (Finance), the Peer Support Centre, and the Referral Services (Nightline, Union for Gender Empowerment, Queer McGill, Eating Disorder and Resource Support Centre).

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## Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the renewal of this fee not pass, the Peer Support Centre will not receive the funding necessary to continue its operations.

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## Sustainability Considerations

Firstly, the Peer Support Centre considers social sustainability by providing support to all McGill students in an attempt to reduce the ongoing stress and mental health issues prevalent at McGill. Secondly, the Peer Support Centre offers preferential appointments, allowing students to request a BIPOC or +2SLGBTQIA volunteer to accommodate the diverse needs of students. Secondly, the Peer Support Centre considers economic sustainability by providing accessible and free services for students.

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## Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should Part 1 of this motion pass, the Peer Support Centre fee will be consolidated with the Referral Services fee, this increasing the Referral Services fee by \$0.62 to \$3.97 per semester (excluding summer), abolishing the Peer Support Centre Fee, and restructuring the Referral Services Fee as is in Appendix A. This will allow all of the Referral Services, including the Peer Support Centre, to continue their operations.

Should Part 1 of this motion not pass but the renewal of this fee does pass, Members will continue to be charged \$0.62/term, excluding summer, unless they opt-out. This will allow the Peer Support Centre to continue its operations.



## Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2021 referendum period:

*Whereas, the current Referral Service Fee pay structure funds the following:*

*\$0.60 for Nightline*

*\$0.75 for Union for Gender Empowerment*

*\$1.10 for Queer McGill*

*\$0.90 for the Eating Disorder Resource Resource and Support Centre*

*Whereas, the SSMU Peer Support Centre Fee of \$0.62 per semester (excluding summer) is expiring.*

*(Part 1): Do you agree to increase the opt-outable Referral Services Fee of \$3.35 per semester to \$3.97 per semester (excluding summer), payable by all SSMU Members starting in Fall 2021 and ending in Winter 2026 (inclusive) at which point it will be brought back to the Membership for renewal? Voting yes to this increase will abolish the Peer Support Centre Fee as an independent fee and fold the Peer Support Centre into the pay structure of the Referral Services fee.*

*(PART 2): If you voted no to part 1, do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable SSMU Peer Support Centre Fee at \$0.62 per term (excluding summer) for all part-time and full-time Members of the SSMU, to start in Fall 2021 and be charged until Winter 2026 (inclusive) at which time it will be brought back to the membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority “no” vote would result in the discontinuation of funding for the Peer Support Centre?”*

Be it further 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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## Results of the Vote

In favour (UNANIMOUS)

Opposed ()

Abstain ()

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## Appendix A

<b>Service</b>	<b>Fee Per Term (Excluding Summer)</b>
Peer Support Centre	\$0.62
Nightline	\$0.60
Union for Gender Empowerment	\$0.75
Queer McGill	\$1.10
Eating Disorder Resource and Support Centre	\$0.90

APPROVED