



COMMISSION - SITE
MONUMENTS HISTORIQUES
TORONTO - CANADA

PRÈS D'ICI ÉTAIT LE SITE DE LA
VILLE FORTIFIÉE D'HOCHÉLAGA
VISITÉE PAR JACQUES CARTIER EN
1535. ABANDONNÉE AVANT 1600 ELLE
RENFERMAIT CINQUANTE GRANDES
MAISONS LOGEANT CHACUNE PLUSIEURS
FAMILLES VIVANT DE LA CULTURE
DU SOL ET DE LA PÊCHE.

NEAR HERE WAS THE SITE OF THE
FORTIFIED TOWN OF HOCHÉLAGA
VISITED BY JACQUES CARTIER IN
1535. ABANDONED BEFORE 1600. IT
CONTAINED FIFTY LARGE HOUSES,
EACH LODGING SEVERAL FAMILIES
WHO SUBSISTED BY CULTIVATION
AND FISHING.

The Hochelaga Rock

The Hochelaga Rock recognises the original Indigenous tenants of the land on which McGill sits. It is placed on the lower field.

What is SSMU?

"The pandemic has shown us how the human systems, including the academic one, can adapt so well and quickly. McGill has taught me that, whatever you choose to do in life — while relying on human connections, knowledge and systemic improvements, you can always help your community grow stronger and more resilient — no matter the circumstances."

-Audrey Nepveu-Lavoie, BA 2021



The Student's Society of McGill University (SSMU or l'Association Étudiante de l'Université McGill (AÉUM) in French) advocates for the interests of students and provides student services on campus. It helps support and run student-led activities such as clubs, events and advocacy initiatives.

SSMU was founded in 1908 with the objective of being a student-government institution separate from the McGill administration. It is currently run by six (6) undergraduate students who are elected every spring: the President, VP External, VP University Affairs, VP Finance, VP Student Life, and VP Internal. They each hold a one year term and they act as the voices of undergraduate McGill students.

You, as a student, are able to vote for the Executives. It's their job to represent you, so you can hold them accountable! Since SSMU receives their funding through student fees, make sure to utilize the organization and its many services whenever you may need to, and always feel free to reach out to the Executives with any questions, concerns, or ideas!

Here, you will find information regarding student governance at McGill, how the SSMU works, SSMU's COVID-19 preparedness, and club and service resources.

How SSMU Works

The organization has:

- 6 Elected Student Executives
- 30 Elected Student Councillors (They sit on the SSMU Legislative Council)
- 13 Elected Student Senators (They sit on the McGill Senate)
- 12 Members of the Board of Directors
- 7 Judicial Board Justices
- 21 Permanent Support Staff
- 80-90 Part-Time Support Staff

Many students work part-time at SSMU, and SSMU hires periodically throughout the year. Job opportunities will be posted on SSMU's facebook page, as well as [here](#) (at [careers.smartrecruiters.com/studentssocietymcgilluniversity](#)).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY - GA [ssmu.ca/governance/general-assembly/](#)

- General Assemblies are meetings for all SSMU Members (undergraduate students at McGill's downtown campus). Any student can introduce a motion, a proposal to be voted on which, if approved, mandates SSMU to take a specific action or adopt a certain position.
- The assembly approves and ratifies the nominations to the SSMU Board of Directors and approves the auditors, who review SSMU's finances.
- GAs are held once each Fall and Winter semester. Additional GAs can be called to vote to strike or for other special purposes.

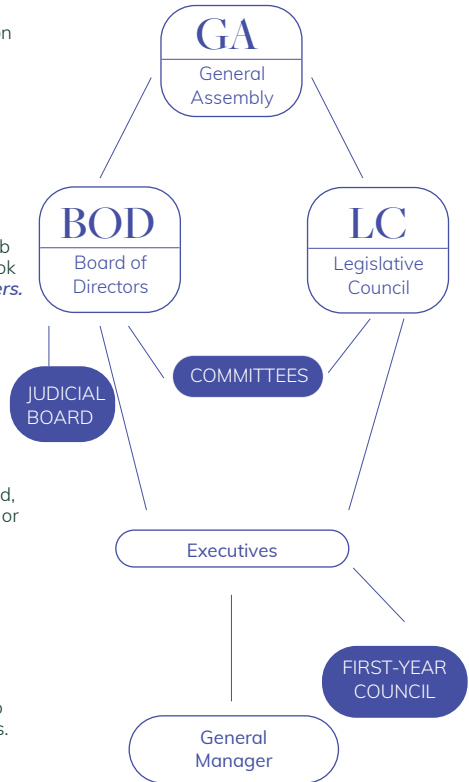
BOARD OF DIRECTORS [ssmu.ca/governance/board-of-directors/](#)

- Is responsible for the human resources, legal, financial, and operational affairs of the Society.

Finances

- The BoD must approve all investments of three (3) years or longer for which there is a high degree of risk, all liquidation of investments, and the transfer of any cash in or out of the Investment Portfolio. The Board of Directors may approve specific persons to signing authority (authorization to make legal commitments on SSMU's behalf).

STRUCTURE



Governing Bodies

Governance

- Ratifies or overturns motions by Legislative Council.
- May recommend that Legislative Council initiate a Referendum question to be voted on by the student body.
- There are twelve voting members of the Board, as well as a non-voting International Student Representative. Non-voting membership also includes the General Manager, the Governance Manager, the Chair of the Board, the Recording Secretary, and the Parliamentarian.

Some of the committees of the Board of Directors are:

Accountability Committee
Building and Operations Management Committee
Finance Committee
Health and Dental Review Committee
Human Resources (HR) Committee.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ssmu.ca/governance/ssmu-legislative-council/

Governance

- May amend the *Internal Regulations* (ssmu.ca/governance/governance-documents/) (SSMU governing documents) by a two-thirds vote.
- SSMU Members (that is all undergraduate students on the downtown campus!) can attend all public sessions of the Legislative Council. However, only members of the Legislative Council shall be permitted to attend confidential sessions, except if an individual can provide important information and their presence is approved by a two-thirds vote of the Legislative Council.
- Members of the Legislative Council may make motions and vote on resolutions at the Legislative Council, in accordance with the *SSMU's Constitution and the Internal Regulations*. (ssmu.ca/governance/governance-documents/)
- Approximately 30 Councillors.
- Executives are voting members of the Legislative Council.
- The Speaker of Council, Recording Secretary, General Manager, and the Parliamentarian are non-Voting members of the Legislative Council.

The SSMU Legislative Council has many committees that focus on specific issues that are important to students and to the SSMU. Some of these include the Affordable Student Housing Committee, the Environment Committee, the Equity Committee, the Mental Health Committee, and *many more!* (ssmu.ca/governance/committees/). Most SSMU Committees have seats reserved for members-at-large which any undergraduate student is eligible to fill. If you're interested in sitting on a Committee, keep an eye out in the fall - that's the typical committee recruitment period.)

JUDICIAL BOARD

ssmu.ca/governance/judicial-board/

- Provide opinions and interpretation on matters of the *SSMU Constitution and/or Internal Regulations* (ssmu.ca/governance/governance-documents/)
- Operate and report as a committee of the SSMU Board of Directors.
- The Judicial Board may establish its own rules of practice, subject to ratification by the Legislative Council and the Board of Directors.
- A committee of the Board of Directors which consists of 7 members.
- The Justices are non-paid Members of the Society and are considered as volunteers in their position.

FIRST YEAR COUNCIL (FYC)

mcgill.ca/engage/overview/student-societies/first-year-students

- FYC is a body of the SSMU responsible for services, representation and programming for first year students.
- FYC operates under the guidance of the VP (Internal Affairs).
- FYC is a great way for first year students to get involved at SSMU. Consider running for one of the many positions!

Your Role in SSMU

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

While you may feel lost in the large structure that is McGill, SSMU has many ways for you to get involved and make you feel like a valuable part of the student life.

CLUBS

Clubs and student societies are a great way to meet new friends and do something you are passionate about. For more information regarding them, go to **page 21**.

CAMPAIGNS

Campaigns are the engine of student activism on campus. The VP (External) is responsible for working with political and social justice campaigns on SSMU's behalf.

→ **DIVEST MCGILL / FB @DivestMcGill**
All Student Staff who are responsible for coordinating a committee.
Commissioners report at least once per year to be the Legislative Council.

→ **INDIGENOUS STUDENT ALLIANCE**
(indigsa-mcgill.weebly.com)
/ FB @Indigenous.Student.Alliance
ISA is a community of Indigenous students at McGill. The ISA works to promote Indigenous community growth and to help other marginalized communities. Their goal is to foster community solidarity and human development with the university's different student organizations/groups.

→ **STUDENTS FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT / FB @mcgillpeaceclub**
Students for Peace and Disarmament (Peace club) strives to end military research at McGill and promotes a peaceful university campus.

EMPLOYMENT

ssmu.ca/about-us/jobs/

Looking for a job? SSMU has many options if you want to work part-time and are looking for flexible jobs during your studies at McGill. Work positions are available throughout the school year and into the summer. Jobs vary, but you can find positions in community work, human resources, and political activism. Applications for the upcoming school year are posted in March and April and for the summer, it usually opens in January and or February.

GETTING INVOLVED POLITICALLY:

ssmu.ca/governance/

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(ssmu.ca/governance/general-assembly/)

As a student at McGill, you have a voice and it can be heard. The GA is when members of the SSMU participate in student government by writing and voting on Motions that oblige the SSMU to take particular action. The GA this year took place in February.

SSMU COMMITTEES

(ssmu.ca/governance/committees/)

Interested in joining a committee? The SSMU Committees are governed by the Committee Terms of Reference book, which outlines the basic composition of all committees. A few of these are the Accessibility, Indigenous and Black Affairs, and Mental Health Committees.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

(ssmu.ca/governance/elections/)

Student elections are done through SSMU, as well as through your faculty and department. Becoming a representative of the Society is an excellent way to make the voices of students and their concerns in your faculty and department heard. You can promote student rights and interests and coordinate on different projects. January is when elections are held so make sure to check your email.

Voting is an essential part in how the SSMU promotes student voices and their concerns. Make sure to vote in departmental, faculty, and SSMU elections. Without your vote the SSMU cannot create student movements and create projects, events, and services that are in your interest.

Referendums, questions put to a vote of the entire undergraduate student body, are a way to get involved in the democratic institution of the SSMU. They are held once per semester, typically in early November and early March. There are student-initiated and council-initiated referendums. For student-initiated referendums, students need to gather 100 signatures in order for a referendum question to be put on the ballot.

Getting Involved with SSMU

Student Life has been impacted greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic; student safety is the priority for the incoming executive team. The SSMU team, led by the VP (Student Life) will provide hybrid options in the fall, where activities will be offered virtually and in-person. Although it is important to note that in-person activities will be offered in a virtual platform as well, the feasibility of in-person activities will depend on the latest COVID-19 safety regulations.

It is very easy to get involved with SSMU and there is something for everyone.

CLUBS, STUDENT-RUN SERVICES, AND INDEPENDENT STUDENT GROUPS

Starting in the fall, the student group portal platform will launch. This project is a one stop shop for students to search and interact with clubs, services, and ISG'S. Not only this portal will allow students to get more involved with the McGill community, but clubs, services and ISG's will be able to submit their forms, events, and conduct their daily activities on the platform. With over 230 clubs, 15 student-run Services, and 12 Independent Student Groups, there are many opportunities to find what you like. Here are different areas of clubs that McGill offers:

CLUBS

Athletic and Recreational Sports Clubs
Charity and Environment Clubs
Community Outreach and Volunteering Clubs
Fine Art, Dance, and Performance Clubs
Health and Wellness Clubs
Language and Publications
Leisure Activity and Hobby Clubs
Networking and Leadership Development Clubs -
Political and Social Activism Clubs
Religion and Culture Clubs

Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG)
The McGill Tribune
McGill Students Outdoors Club
AIESEC
CKUT Radio 90.3 FM
Daily Publications Society - The McGill Daily & Le Delit
Ecole Project (Education Community Living Environment)
The McGill Chavurah
Golden Key
International Relations Students' Association of McGill (IRSAM)
Legal Information Clinic at McGill (LICM)
MUSTBUS

SERVICES

Student-run services are different from clubs in that with clubs you have to sign up to become a member of a particular club. services function without formal membership lists as services are accessible to all. They offer many opportunities for volunteering. Many of these services are run entirely by student bodies.

McGill Student's Emergency Response Team (MSERT)
Flat Bike Collective
Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Student's Society (SACOMSS)
Peer Support Centre (PSC)
McGill Students' Nightline
Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE)
Queer McGill
The Plate Club
Midnight Kitchen (MK)
SSMU Drivesafe
SSMU Walksafe
TVM: Student Television at McGill
Black Students' Network (BSN)
SSMU Musicians Collective
Arab Student Network

FIRST YEAR COUNCIL (FYC)

FYC shall be a body of the Society responsible for the provision of services, representation and programming to first year students. FYC shall operate under the guidance of the VP (Internal) and operates thanks to the effort of many volunteers.

INDEPENDENT STUDENT GROUPS

These are groups that exist on campus outside of the SSMU structure. These are larger than most clubs and have their own governance structures, with many being part of not-for-profit organizations.

SSMU Services

Student-run services are different from clubs in that with clubs you have to sign up to become a member of a particular club. Services function without formal membership lists as services are accessible to all. They offer many opportunities for volunteering. Many of these services are entirely run by student bodies.

McGill Student's Emergency Response Team (MSERT) (msert.sus.mcgill.ca)

MSERT is a student led volunteer service that is backed by the SSMU. It provides free and accessible first aid service to students.

Flat Bike Collective

(mcgill.ca/programs/the-flat-bike-collective/)

The Flat Bike Collective is a volunteer-run service that supports cycling by sharing tools and knowledge. They make bicycling more accessible and affordable through sharing repair facilities.

Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Student's Society (SACOMSS) (sacomss.org/wp/)

SACOMSS is a volunteer-run organization that supports survivors of sexual assault. This is done through direct support, advocacy, and outreach. It provides a safe and accessible non-judgmental space for any one who wishes to use it free of charge.

Peer Support Centre (PSC) (psc.ssmu.ca)

The PSC staff are well-trained student peer supporters. They will listen to you so that you can share your experiences and find ways to resolve things that you are going through whether it be loneliness, stress or feeling down.

McGill Students' Nightline

(nightline.ssmu.ca)

The McGill Students' Nightline is a confidential and anonymous non-judgmental listening service that is run by students. If you need someone to talk to you can call them fall and winter semesters from 6 pm to 3 am.

Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE)

(unionforgenderempowerment.wordpress.com)

The UGE is a trans-positive feminist service of the SSMU. If you need materials such as ecologically responsible menstrual products, safer sex supplies or want to do the trans 101/allyship and anti-oppression workshops they are available here.

Queer McGill

(queermcgill.org/)

QM is a student run association that is run by the queer community of McGill, they offer resources such as free safer sex supplies and a welcoming safe space for all students. They offer a welcoming safe space for all students.

The Plate Club

(theplateclub.wixsite.com/mcgill)

The Plate Club offers free dishware rentals for students. This is an effort to reduce the waste generated. They offer most dishes and utensils and are run by volunteers.

Midnight Kitchen (MK)

(midnightkitchen.org)

MK is a non-profit that operates out of tio'tia:ke land. It provides accessible food to everyone.

SSMU Drivesafe

(drivesafe.ssmu.ca)

SSMU Drivesafe is a service run by the SSMU. The volunteers of Drivesafe drive students safely home anywhere on the island. It runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 11:00 pm to 3:00 am. Call 514-398-8040 for their services.

SSMU Walksafe

(walksafe.ssmu.ca)

SSMU Walksafe is a service run by the SSMU. The volunteers provide free and confidential accompaniment for those walking at night. Phone the WALKSAFE office at 514-398-2498 if you need their services.

TVM: Student Television at McGill

(tvmtelevision.com)

TVM is McGill's outlet for student television and film media. The work includes short films, documentaries, hype films for clubs and teams and much more.

Black Students' Network (BSN)

(bsnmcgill.com/)

BSN is a service of the McGill Students Society and is available for everyone. While it is focused on addressing the needs and interests of Black students at the university, all students are welcome to participate in their events and activities.

SSMU Musicians Collective

(musicianscollective.ssmu.ca/about-us/)

SSMU Musicians Collective is a musicians' network that is dedicated to promoting musical opportunities for students. It is a SSMU service that works to promote the musical community at McGill.

Arab Student Network

FB @ASNMcGill

The Arab Student Network is the sole official representative of Arabic culture that is secular and non-political. If you are interested in cultural, social and philanthropic events or taking Arabic language courses this is for you.

SSMU OPERATIONS

The heart of operations for SSMU is the University Centre, which is the hub of all activities in McGill's downtown campus. The building hosts Gerts (SSMU's student bar), Minicourses, and many other things.

The SSMU Operations team focuses on supporting the Centre and the many SSMU clubs and services on campus. With the help of the Events Coordinator, you will be able to organize your event to its fullest potential. It is also the event hub of the SSMU and it helps organize popular student events like Carnival and 467. There are many resources at your disposal as well, and the team will help you with club events. They are here for you, so do not hesitate to ask them questions.

INDEPENDENT STUDENT GROUPS

These are groups that exist on campus outside of the SSMU structure. These are larger than most clubs and have their own governance structures, with many being part of not-for-profit organizations.

Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) (qpirmcgill.org)

The QPIRG is a nonprofit student-run organization and it unites McGill and the greater Montreal community in the fight for social and environmental justice.

The McGill Tribune (mcgilltribune.com)

The McGill Tribune is an independent student-run newspaper and has a publication of 5,000 weekly print copies.

McGill Students Outdoors Club (mcgilloutdoorsclub.ca)

The MOC is for people who love the outdoors. They do weekly meetings and organize over 20 trips per semester. Activities consist of camping, cycling, ice climbing, skiing and so much more.

AIIESEC (aiiesec.ca)

AIIESEC is the largest student-run nonprofit organization that is in 127 countries. It strives to develop leadership through sending students abroad for international volunteer and internship programs.

CKUT Radio 90.3 FM (ckut.ca/en)

CKUT is a non-profit campus-community radio station at McGill. It provides a wide range of music, news, and word programming for Montreal. It is made up of over 200 volunteers and provides essential services to the Montreal community.

Daily Publications Society - The McGill Daily & Le Delit (dailypublications.org)

The Daily Publications Society is an independent, student-led, not-for-profit organization that publishes a French and English newspaper at the university. The Daily delivers one print issues every.

École Project (Education Community Living Environment) (ecoleproject.com)

The ÉCOLE Project is a hub for sustainable living as well as community organizing at McGill.

The McGill Chavurah FB @themcgillchavurah

The McGill Chavurah is an inclusive space for the community of Jewish students at McGill. They host regular shabbat services as well as other events in the McGill neighborhood.

Golden Key FB @goldenkeymcgill

The Golden Key chapter at McGill works to provide the best environment for helping its members achieve goals in academics, leadership and service. The members of the Golden Key focus on community service, networking events and to create connections with the community and students.

International Relations Students' Association of McGill (IRSAM) (irsam.ca)

IRSAM is the largest student group that consists of over 280 members. It is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit organization and has special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. It offers a wide range of events from community outreach programs to their Model UN Conferences.

Legal Information Clinic at McGill (LICM) (licm.mcgill.ca)

The LICM is Canada's largest student-run legal clinic. It provides free legal information to McGill students. Their Student Advocacy office provided free representation for McGill students facing academic and non-academic offenses under the Code of Student Discipline.

MUSTBUS (mustbus.ca)

MUSTBUS is a student lead initiative that focuses on delivering low-cost transit travel. It offers weekend and holiday bus services to cities like NYC, Toronto, and much more.

GERTS CAFE

3480 rue McTavish
University Centre
basement south entrance
(514) 398-3459
gerts@mcgill.ca



HOURS: MON-FRI: 8 am–3pm
SAT, SUN: Reservation only

*** opening hours might be affected due to COVID-19*

Gerts Cafe will be new this fall and will be a sister to Gerts Bar. It'll be in the same place as Gerts. You could order a breakfast sandwich from the cafe and then grab a pint with your friends at the bar later that day.

GERTS BAR

3480 rue McTavish
University Centre basement
(514) 398-3459
gerts@mcgill.ca



HOURS: MON, TUES: 12pm–12am
WED - FRI: 12pm–2am
SAT, SUN: Reservation only

*** opening hours might be affected due to COVID-19*

Gerts Bar is a center of student life on campus. After a long hiatus due to the University Centre closure, a reopening this school year is looking promising!

Funding Opportunities

You might be interested in funding if you want to organize trips to conferences, need equipment for projects, or want to organize cultural events. The Funding Committee will look at your application and decide to approve your funding request. Submit by August 1 or December 1 for fall or winter semester plans.

- Read the updated SSMU [Funding Guidebook \(ssmu.ca/resources/funding\)](https://ssmu.ca/resources/funding) to understand the funding process and what is available.
- Choose which fund you wish to apply to. Assure that the mandate of the fund you are applying to matches your initiative.
- Send in your [Funding Application \(clubspportal.ssmu.ca/funding-application/\)](https://clubspportal.ssmu.ca/funding-application/) and assure yourself that all estimates, costs, and supporting documents are correct.
- Accept your decision and assemble your Post-Funding Report. Your student organization can apply again for other initiatives and events.
- Pro tip: contact the [Funding Commissioner \(fundingcom@ssmu.ca\)](mailto:FundingCommissioner@ssmu.ca) for any inquiries and before you submit your application you can ask the Funding Commissioner to review it.

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FUNDS

Club Funds

The Club Fund is meant to provide funding for Club activities throughout the semester, instead of on a per-event basis. The Club Fund is only open to Full Status SSMU Clubs.

Ambassador Fund

This fund is a way to get financial assistance for students that wish to attend conferences that are academic or athletic oriented.

Community Engagement Fund

This fund is a way to get financial assistance for projects that are meant to push community building between McGill and other outside communities.

Mental Health Fund

The Mental Health Fund offers financial assistance to initiatives aiming to promote mental health awareness but also improve students' mental health and tear down the stigmatization of mental health on campus.

Campus Life Fund

The Campus Life Fund is a project/event-specific source of financial assistance and takes on many initiatives that occur at McGill.

Environment Fund (Green Fund)

The Green Fund is a great source of financial assistance for sustainable initiatives led by student groups and is also great for initiatives that advocate for sustainability at McGill.

Equity Fund

This fund is a way to get financial aid for projects, policies, and research with the objective of ending discrimination and promoting accessibility and inclusivity at McGill.

Space Fund

The Space Fund is a way to get financial aid to support physical improvements of the buildings in McGill.

First-Year Fund

The First-Year Fund is for events, initiatives, and services that are meant to improve the experience of first-year students at McGill. The amount of funds available each semester is \$1,000.

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

To support student groups in the development This program is meant to support athletic, cultural, or educational student groups.

The McGill Alumni Association and University Advancement give financial support through sponsorships that go from \$250 to \$750.

FUNDING DEADLINES

AUGUST 1

(events taking place between September 1 and December 31)

DECEMBER 1

(events taking place between January 1 and April 30)

APRIL 1

(events taking place between May 1 and August 31)

For more information, and to apply, please click [here \(myalumni.mcgill.ca\)](https://myalumni.mcgill.ca).

Your SSMU Executives



DARSHAN DARYANANI

he/him/il

President

president@ssmu.ca



SACHA DELOUVRIER

he/him/il

VP External

external@ssmu.ca

AREA OF STUDY

Joint Honours Political Science and International Development Studies with Double Minors in Social Entrepreneurship and Communication Studies.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BEING IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT?

Through student government, I have learned the significance of a shared goal and the true power of students' solidarity. My vision is to make a SSMU 4 YOU to: support marginalized voices, bring back student life and advocate for students' interests. After all, we, the student body, make McGill what it is. I am truly inspired by the unconditional dedication, determination and drive of student leaders who continue to strive for what's best for our peers. I am thankful for the physical, mental and emotional labour of students who continue to fight against all odds. This is what keeps me going!

FAVORITE MEMORIES AT MCGILL

Meeting Marty the Martlet at my first hockey game! Laughing out loud at the Gerts

AREA OF STUDY

Bachelor of Arts, double-majoring in political science and international development

WHAT WILL IN PERSON CLASSES IN THE FALL MEAN FOR YOUR POSITION?

Being back in person is very exciting! My position and all of what it entails is very oriented towards advocacy and mobilisation. An in person return to campus will allow us to coordinate with all McGill students (first year and graduating students alike) to raise awareness about topics oriented around social justice, that are crucial nowadays, past our campus and into the world. I am really excited to be able to return to in person conversations, events, and mobilisations in a safe and equitable way, ensuring that the voices of all students on campus are heard.

MY EXPERIENCE AT MCGILL DURING THE PANDEMIC

The pandemic has been very difficult for all of us, and I personally had a very hard time working online. Being so distanced from all that is real, whether it be social interaction or the ability to have proper connections in an academic environment took a real toll on me that I had a hard time addressing.



CLAIRE DOWNIE
she/her/felle
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KARLA HEISELEE CUBILLA
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AREA OF STUDY

Economics, Health Geography, and History

WHAT WILL IN PERSON CLASSES FOR THE FALL MEAN FOR YOUR POSITION?

The transition to in-person learning is likely going to bring some challenges, and I feel strongly that every student deserves the right to a safe and accessible learning environment. I expect to be spending a lot of time and energy advocating for learning options students might need. Although many students are thrilled to return to in-person learning, this may not be a safe option for some students yet, and their needs must be taken into account.

MY EXPERIENCE AT MCGILL DURING THE PANDEMIC

I have been a part of a student-run mutual aid initiative that provides free weekly grocery deliveries to Montreal households. I feel so lucky to have had the time to spend doing this work, and I can't imagine a better way to have spent this difficult time. When it's safe, I'm really looking forward to reconnecting with friends and spending more time on campus (maybe even at Gert's?)

AREA OF STUDY

Major: Psychology
Minors: Science and Behavioral Science

WHAT WILL IN PERSON CLASSES FOR THE FALL LOOK LIKE FOR MY POSITION?

Student Life has been impacted greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic, that being said students safety will always be my priority. The SSMU team and I will provide hybrid options in the fall, where activities will be offered virtually and in-person. Although it is important to note that in-person activities will be offered in a virtual platform as well, the feasibility of in-person activities will depend on the latest COVID-19 safety regulations.

MY EXPERIENCE AT MCGILL DURING THE PANDEMIC

I have been enjoying remote learning thus far, it has given me a new outlook on education and learning. Even though I have adapted quite well to remote learning I do miss having on campus activities. Connecting with my community on a virtual platform has been a challenge, but after one year of living in these circumstances I have finally found a new normal and engaging with my community has become easier.



SARAH PAULIN

she/her/elle

VP Internal Affairs

internal@ssmu.ca

AREA OF STUDY

Major: double majoring in English Literature and Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies

WHAT WILL IN PERSON CLASSES FOR THE FALL LOOK LIKE FOR MY POSITION

For me, the most important aspect of university is the community that surrounds and upholds the students, which is why I am so excited for the prospect of in-person classes this fall. As the rest of the executive team and I push towards the best safety measures on campus, I hope everyone will be able to enjoy a more supported school year. As excited as I am about in-person classes, the health and well-being of students will definitely come first in how the executive team and I will be advocating and working on your behalf.

MY EXPERIENCE AT MCGILL DURING THE PANDEMIC

As a first-year, I struggled a lot with online school and feeling alienated in this new and daunting environment. However, through my involvement in student life, which eventually led me to run for this position, I was able to meet some amazing people that I look forward to finally meeting in the fall semester! I am looking forward to a safe and smooth transition in the coming year which will allow you all to have the best university and social experiences!



ERIC SADER

he/him/il

VP Finance

finance@ssmu.ca

AREA OF STUDY

I major in economics and am pursuing a double minor in mathematics and history. I am specifically interested in international trade, central banking, and especially development economics. I love linear algebra and modeling, and I mostly take history classes about the Middle East and about Ancient History.

WHAT WILL IN PERSON CLASSES FOR THE FALL LOOK LIKE FOR MY POSITION

Making sure that the finances of SSMU are able to manage the transition as sustainably as possible and to support the student initiatives needed to both guarantee the safety of students as well as help bring back the student life that has taken a backseat due to COVID.

MY EXPERIENCE AT MCGILL DURING THE PANDEMIC

COVID definitely led to school being an alienating experience, as it was for many students. Not being able to meet my professors and have the personal element of schooling be present took its toll on my ability to learn. I would not have survived the year without the extra-curriculars I was involved in, and I can't wait to help the clubs and organisations at McGill stave off the alienation that comes hand-in-hand with online schooling. I cannot recommend having outside activities enough.

SSMU Social Media

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McGill's History of The First Nation Peoples

Professor Suzanne Morton is the one accredited to researching the history between McGill and First Nation people in her booklet Indigenous McGill.

McGill University and the Island of Montreal sit on Indigenous lands. Throughout its history, the island of Montreal was the land of the Wendat, Anishnaabeg and Haudenosaunee. As of now, the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) are the caregivers of the land on which McGill University sits. While the Land Acknowledgement is vital in understanding the current territorial locations of the First Nation peoples, it does not give the complete context of the history and the dispossession of land that occurred with the arrival of Europeans.

In the late 1700s, Montreal had a large presence of Indigenous and Metis people, as the city was built on the fur trade. James McGill made his money as a fur trader but also through speculation on land that was taken from the Indigenous peoples. McGill's founding would not have been possible without the fur trade with Indigenous people and the dispossession of their land.

McGill and more broadly Montreal grew as Canada's most important economic city in the late 19th century. The completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway during this period was built on the expulsion of Indigenous people from their land. When William Dawson was appointed as Principal in 1855, the Executive Council of the Province of Canada agreed to a mortgaged loan of \$40,000; \$32,000 of that was withdrawn from the General Indian Trust Fund and \$8,000 from the Six Nations of Grand River Fund. The money was never returned to those funds. Without those funds, McGill would not have become the international institution that it is now.

McGill has historically excluded Indigenous students on campus. In 1876, the federal government passed the Indian Act, which imposed an involuntary enfranchisement whereby Indigenous people would lose their Indian status to become Canadian citizens. This policy imposed an involuntary strategy of assimilation where Indigenous people would lose their "Indian status" to become full citizens of the

country. This was known as enfranchisement. Because many First Nation people were not willing to give up their culture and legal identities, few Indigenous students gained a university education from McGill. Government authorities knew that imposing such measures would mean few would want to go to McGill. There were many more measures imposed after that well into the mid 20th century. Four exceptional Indigenous students graduated from McGill between the 1870s and the end of WWI.

McGill, Montreal, Quebec, and Canada as a whole have a deep history of colonialism and anti-Indigenous sentiments. Non-Indigenous graduates of McGill worked in residential and Indian Day schools as teachers and medical officers. Notable McGill alumni like Sir Wilfrid Laurier led governments that pushed for a greater expansion and consolidation of residential schools. These schools have severe negative societal and cultural impacts on Indigenous people to this day. McGill has a history of reinforcing offensive stereotypes, such as with the use of "R*dmen" for men's varsity teams. The nickname of "R*dmen" was a caricaturization of Indigenous people that appeared in the late 1920s. Racist depictions of Indigenous people were added to McGill's marching band drum during that time. McGill now is in the process of reconciliation but still has a long way to go. The university has created research and training programs for small numbers of Indigenous students and communities. However, there are currently fewer than 500 Indigenous students enrolled. McGill has to continue promoting Indigenous voices to the best of its ability and as students we must push the university to accept greater amounts of Indigenous students and provide them with greater resources and support. McGill and its students must work as a collective to reflect on the institution's history, educate ourselves on the matter of Indigenous representation on campus, and stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples.

Timeline

LAST HUNDRED YEARS OF FIRST NATIONS HISTORY AT MCGILL

1860

William Dawson, under the direction of the Executive Council of the Province of Canada, agrees to a **mortgaged loan** of \$40,000 drawn from the General Indian Trust Fund and the Six Nations of Grand River Fund. Over half was never repaid to First Nations people.

1821

McGill College is formed in part due to the removal of Indigenous people from their land.

1920'S

McGill's male varsity sports teams adopt the "R*dmen" nickname during a period when Indigenous people and culture were being appropriated for use as mascots and team names across North America.

1925

The Hochelaga Rock, which recognises the original Indigenous tenants of the land on which McGill sits, is placed on the lower field.

1964

Activism to promote Indigenous rights and freedoms becomes more prominent on campus.

1876

The implementation of the Indian Act defines who is legally considered an "Indian" in Canada.

1882

Thomas Daniel Green is the first Indigenous student to earn his Juris Doctor at McGill.

Early 1960s

McGill's junior and intermediate male teams were known as the "Braves" and "Indians" and McGill's female varsity athletes were known as the "Squaws" or "Super Squaws".

1963

Sydney Snow of Kahnawake becomes the first Indigenous student to earn an M.D. at McGill.

1971

The McGill University Intertribal Council of Native Students helps establish the Native North American Studies Institute in March 1971.

The Hochelaga Rock is relocated right across from the James McGill statue, marking the launch of the 2016 Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education.

2016

1981

The McGill Certificate in Native and Northern Education is established.

1973

The McGill Centre for Northern Studies and Research is established with a focus on "[responding] to the research needs of native groups and native populations throughout the arctic and subarctic regions".

1997

First Peoples House opens its doors, providing a sense of community and a voice to Indigenous students who have left their home communities.

1973

Malcolm King is the first Indigenous person to receive his PhD in Chemistry at McGill.

1991

The Native Awareness Coalition begins a campaign to end the use of the "R*dmen" name for men's varsity teams.

1992

Senate and Athletics Board reviews the "R*dmen" name and believes that the logo was "relatively recent". The logo was that of an Indigenous person's head that was used for over fifty years at McGill. The Board said that it would create a new logo to emphasize what they claimed was the Celtic origin of the "R*dmen" name. However, this never happened.

2018-2019

Spearheaded by Tomas Jirousek of the Kanai First Nation, the campaign "Change the Name" for the removal of the "R*dmen" team name starts. With 80% of students voting to change the name in a student referendum, Principal Suzanne Fortier announces in April 2019 that the name will no longer be used.

Fall 2020

On November 17, 2020, McGill announced the new name of the men's varsity teams would be the Redbirds in order to replace the old racist name and to better represent the McGill coat of arms where Redbirds can be seen.