MOTION REGARDING QPIRG EXISTENCE REFERENDUM QUESTION 2021-10-28

Submitted for: 2021-10-28

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council

Moved by: Yara Coussa
Arts Representative

Seconded by: Sarah Paulin
VP Internal

Document no.: LEG-PUB-MOT-2021-10-28-006

Issue
QPIRG is required to run an existence referendum in Fall 2021.

Background and Rationale
The Quebec Public Interest Research Group - McGill (QPIRG) is a student-initiated, student-run, non-profit organization whose mandate is to conduct research, education, and action at McGill University and in the Montreal community on environmental and social justice issues. A complete document containing the preambles and full question as it will appear on the ballot can be read here.

Alignment with Mission
This motion is in accordance with the SSMU’s governance documents and QPIRG’s Memorandum of Agreement with McGill

Consultations Completed
Consultations were conducted with the Chief Electoral Officer of Elections and the QPIRG team.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications
Should this motion not pass, QPIRG will no longer be able to collect an opt-outable fee ($5.00 per year) that allows QPIRG to provide vital resources, funding, student jobs, research opportunities, meeting spaces,
and a library with alternative books, movies and zines to students and community groups. Should this motion not pass, there will be a significant cut to QPIRG’s operating budget and consequently make its services to students and its research mission impossible.

**Impact of Decision and Next Steps**

Should this motion pass, the question of QPIRG’s existence as an Independent Student Group will be posed to the members of the SSMU for vote.

**Motion or Resolution for Approval**

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

*Do you support QPIRG continuing as a recognized student activity supported by a fee of $5.00 per term for undergraduate students, which is opt-outable, with the understanding that a “no” vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate fee-levy funding to QPIRG?*

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.

Be it further resolved, a budget must be included as an appendix to the ballot in the event of both a “yes” or “no” result.

**Results of the Vote**

- In favour: 22
- Opposed: 0
- Abstain: 0