



# The Royal Victoria Hospital:

*SSMU's Position*

Presentation by the External Affairs office (Political Campaign Coordinators (Silver, Koch), Community Affairs Commissioner (Francoeur-Perreira), CCMP (Helguero))

# Background

Site History & Present Situation

# What is the Royal Vic Site?

Founded in 1893: Montreal's place of healing

- Decommissioned in 2015
- Managed by QC gov. (SQI)
- SQI is responsible for planning the site's future
- August 2020: [Ross Pavillon](#) is used as 24/7 temporary shelter resource for unhoused individuals

To create said plan, the SQI is consulting community, business, and academic stakeholders

# McGill's Role

## The 'New Vic' Project

- 2018: SQI gives approval for McGill U. to explore the use and rehabilitation of half the pavilions for a [new campus](#) by 2027
- QC gov. grants the university \$37 million to fund feasibility study
- McGill creates 'New Vic Project' aiming to expand DT campus into green spaces, academic facilities, & labs for sustainability research & policy.



# Key Context Points:

## Why SSMU opposes 'New Vic'

- Repurposing of hospital is embedded within worsening ecological, housing, & financial crises & systematic impacts of colonialism
- New Vic is created at the expense of increased # of students facing rent increases & predatory landlords
- McGill failed to provide SSMU with any consultations & analyses
- University has yet to divest

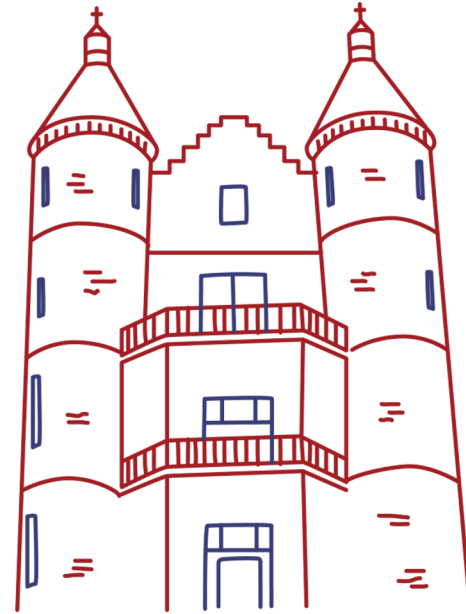
# Various Stakeholders

Public Consultation Responses

# ‘Royal Vic for the Public’

## Montreal-wide coalition

- Advocacy for hospital site to remain devoted to public good
- 2020 [open letter](#) signed by 55+ community organizations (inc. SSMU)
- SSMU has continued to support the coalition, aiding & participating in multiple protests



# ‘Our Royal Vic’ with C.U.R.E:

Community University  
Research Exchange (CURE)

## Using the hospital site for public good

- Coalition = research team & project
- [Questionnaire](#) surveying general public
- Results found overwhelming desire for:
  - Social services
  - Green spaces
  - Community investment project
- None of the university’s funds were used for *thorough & consistent* consultations



# **SSMU's Commitments & Involvement**

Mandates, responsibilities & actions

# SSMU Mandates

## Why this position was taken

### Affordable Student Housing Plan *(adopted by leg. council 2020/12/13)*

“This plan offers guidance to the SSMU Executive, the Affordable Student Housing Committee, and students living in SSMU student co-ops on how to build capacity and work toward an affordable housing market for McGill students.”

### 4.2 Hotel-Dieu, Royal Victoria, and l'Institut des Sourdes-muettes advocacy

“As part of a commitment to a holistic movement toward decommodified and affordable student housing options, the Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs) shall continue to be involved in advocacy aiming at public ownership and management of the three vacant hospital spaces of the Hotel-Dieu hospital (including La Cité des Hospitalières), Royal Victoria hospital, and Institut des Sourdes-muettes.”

### 3.1 The Milton-Parc Citizens' Committee (MPCC)

“Successful collaboration with the MPCC could mean inviting guest speakers to present at the SSMU Housing AGM (by 2023), active participation in Milton-Parc's goal to secure the Royal Victoria and Hotel-Dieu buildings for affordable public housing (ongoing through the Community Affairs Coordinator), and inviting willing MPCC members to consult on how to optimize democratic participation of student residents in the SSMU's decisions on housing projects”

# Affordable Student Housing Committee

Chaired by Community Affairs  
Commissioner

- Committee is working with stakeholders
- Team has put out flyers, posters, consultations
- Creation of a proposal for OCPM
- Hearing on Nov. 12th at 1.35PM

# What has been done?

## Different steps taken

- Discussion with McGill to alter plan
- Communication with community stakeholders in sight of municipal elections (and focus on affordable housing)
- Support and collaboration with UTILE to publicize the benefits of leaving Royal Vic site to the public
- Brainstorming of how the Royal Vic could benefit community & students

