

MOTION REGARDING THE FRENCH ACCESSIBILITY FEE REFERENDUM QUESTION 2022-02-17

Submitted for 2022-02-17

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2022-02-17-003
Moved by:	Sarah Paulin Vice-President (Internal Affairs)	Current Status:	 □ FOR APPROVAL ✓ APPROVED □ DOCTODINED
Seconded by:	Lucille Applegate First Year Representative		 POSTPONED COMMITTED NOT APPROVED

Issue

On January 30th, 2020, the <u>Francisation Plan</u> was passed at the Legislative Council in order to pass a Francisation fee at the winter referendum for the hiring of a translator and the purchasing of audio translators. However, the fee did not pass at the referendum. In the meantime, the Society has already hired a French translator, rendering the currently adopted Francization plan obsolete.

Background and Rationale

This motion seeks to abolish the Francisation Plan and instead focus on French accessibility and advocacy for francophone students. Francophone students do not simply need translation to documents provided by the Society, but actual support in their academic path at McGill. The University prides itself on being a bilingual school, but there is currently no francophone advocacy position within the administration. Considering the last fee failed, it is clear that the focus on students is not simply on translation. By broadening the scope of the fee to include advocacy and student rights, not only are we representing students better, but we are also making better use of student funds.



Alignment with Mission	This motion aligns with the Society's commitment to unbiased representation and leadership. This also falls into the Society's position for accessibility.
Consultations Completed	The <i>Commission des affaires francophones</i> was involved in drafting this motion, as well as the Vice-President (Finance) and the Governance Manager.
Risk Factors and Resource Implications	The primary risk of this motion lies in its need to be approved by the student body at the Winter 2022 Referendum. This fee would add an annual \$0.50 to tuition to each student.
Sustainability Considerations	Were this fee not to be adopted, it would be difficult for the <i>Commission des affaires francophones</i> to properly fulfill its mandate.
Impact of Decision and Next Steps	Were this fee and attached plan were to be approved, the Executive Committee would run a "yes" campaign for the proposed fee with the aid of the Communications Department. Should the fee be adopted, The <i>Commissaire aux affaires francophones</i> will be responsible for administering the fees given by the Vice-President (Finance) with the help of the overseeing Vice-President. The Vice-President (Finance) shall be responsible for allocating a budget for the <i>Comité des affaires francophones</i> from the revenue raised from the SSMU Membership Fee increase in collaboration with the <i>Commissaire aux affaires</i> <i>francophones</i> .
Motion or Resolution for Approval	WHEREAS, the current Francisation Plan does not address matters of accessibility and the promotion of French culture (both Quebec and French) on the McGill campus, but focuses solely on translation, an issue that has been solved with the hire of a full-time Translator



WHEREAS, the current budget allocated to the francophone affairs department is \$4,378.50.

WHEREAS, the attached budget demonstrates the growth wishing to be undergone by the Commission des affaires francophones as it has been stagnated by its current amount of funds

Be it resolved, that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2022 referendum period:

"Do you agree to the creation of a non-opt outable French Accessibility Fee of \$0.25- per semester per student, payable by SSMU Members starting in Fall 2022 and ending in Fall 2027 (inclusive), excluding the summer semesters, at which point it will be brought back to the Membership for renewal, with the understand that a majority "no" vote would result in a difficulty for the Commission des affaires francophones to provide events and services to SSMU members?"

Be it further resolved, that the 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.

Results of the Vote	In favour (UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED) Opposed () Abstain ()



Appendix A : Budget Breakdown

New Total Amount

\$0.25*24,000 = \$6,000 \$6,000*2 = \$12,000 Added to the pre-existing \$4,378.50 \$12,000 + \$4,378.50=\$16,378.50

Breakdown of Expenses

Advocacy: 5% Supporting french led organizations: 20% French culture promotion: 40% Academic support: 35%

Link to budget: <u>https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hL2lYJf06z4zC5V1AJYTkxbgaf7Fd7wNMEQU2IoCsgE/edit?us</u> <u>p=sharing</u>



5% (819\$)	Social Media Ads Pamphlets Volunteer Support	175 344	
	Volunteer	344	
		300	
			819
20% (3 275\$)	Accomodating demands from french groups on campus needing funding	3 276\$	
2070 (0,2704)	nooung tutung	0,2100	3,276
40% (6551\$)	French Culture Week (french vs quebec cuisine and culture, quebec and french theatre, artists, poets, etc	5,500\$	
$\mathbf{\Omega}$	Francofete (CAF event)	1,051\$	
	· ·		6,551
35% (5,732\$)	Paying peer support to help students write assignments in french as well as improve french speaking of students	5,732	
		20% (3,275\$) 20% (3,275\$) French groups on campus needing funding French Culture Week (french vs quebec cuisine and culture, quebec and french theatre, artists, poets, etc Francofete (CAF event) Paying peer support to help students write assignments in french as well as improve french speaking	20% (3,275\$) 20% (3,275\$) French groups on campus needing funding 3,276\$ French Culture Week (french vs quebec cuisine and culture, quebec and french theatre, artists, poets, etc 5,500\$ Francofete (CAF event) 1,051\$ Paying peer support to help students write assignments in french as well as improve french speaking