



MOTION REGARDING REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIALOGUE TELEMEDICINE SERVICE FOR SSMU MEMBERS

2022-02-17

Submitted for: 2022-02-17

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2022-02-15-006

Moved by: Eric Sader
Vice-President (Finance) **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
 APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
 NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Benson Wan
Medicine Representative

Issue

Due to both the COVID pandemic and the general unavailability of quick medical consultations in Quebec, students have had difficulty receiving medical help for issues they face. As such, this motion seeks to expand the options that students have via an opt-outable service to receive telemedical consultations.

Background and Rationale

This program has been in place since September 2020, and was paid for all students on the SSMU health plan directly through our Health and Dental Fund and through the use of pandemic related “COVID Credits”. As such, we have had a trial period where we have seen over 5000 consultations from students, and we have one of the highest usage rates across the country, demonstrating the need for this service to keep being offered to those who want it.

As such, the idea is to implement this referendum question to allow students to select for themselves whether this sort of service suits them,



and guarantees that it can be funded in future years directly by the students who use them.

Alignment with Mission

This falls under SSMU's responsibility to provide services to the student body, as insurance, and health and dental policies, are central to the mission of the SSMU.

Consultations Completed

The Vice-President (Finance) and the Health and Dental committees were both consulted on this motion

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

If this motion fails to pass, the Society's membership is at risk of losing one of their means to easily access telemedicine resources, requiring individuals to attend in-person consultations during a pandemic or to seek private, more expensive alternatives. Not only does this risk the health for members, it will delay the time in which they can get medical help.

Furthermore, students are able to opt-out of this service, so students not wishing to use this service can simply opt-out and be removed from the program and not need to pay the relevant fees.

Sustainability Considerations

This will help with the economic sustainability of the society so that we no longer cover the Dialogue program directly from COVID credits and the Health and Dental Fund, allowing that money to be used to expand our health insurance coverage.

Impact Decision and Next Steps

of If this motion passes, the question will be brought to referendum by the Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Electoral Officer for the student body to decide if they wish to have the option to be covered under the Telemedicine service.



Motion or Resolution for Approval

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

Virtual Health Services (Dialogue)

Whereas, access to health services within McGill University and within the City of Montreal can be restrictive for SSMU Members for various reasons (financial, physical, or administrative);

Whereas, rapid, convenient, and reliable online access to medical doctors and nurses is integral to the health and wellbeing of students at McGill University, both during the time of the pandemic and in the future;

Whereas, the cost to see a doctor in a clinic in Montreal can range from approximately \$60 to \$100+ for a non-RAMQ single visit, and referrals from walk-in clinics, family doctors or ER visits often suffer from significant wait times;

Whereas, Virtual Health Services (Dialogue) is provided by Studentcare and is an integrated telemedicine service which offers students unlimited bilingual access to connect with nurses and physicians 24/7 via a mobile or web app from anywhere in Canada and consult via videoconference with a licensed doctor or nurse practitioner within 60 minutes during regular hours (8AM-8PM) and within 120 minutes after regular hours (8PM-8AM);

Whereas, the proposed telemedicine service would provide all SSMU members with access to the service for an entire year (September to August) at no extra cost beyond the proposed referendum;

Whereas, the other major student groups (MCSS, MACES and PGSS) have successfully passed said referendum question last year, while the SSMU has been subsidizing the cost of the program via its Health & Dental Plan Insurance Reserve Fund since September 2020;

Whereas, the cost of the Virtual Health Services program is equivalent to \$3.25/month (\$3.25 + 14.975% QC Tax) for a total cost of \$44.85 for a full year access;

Whereas, members who begin their studies in January will be charged a pro-rated fee in the Winter semester of \$29.90 to access the Virtual Health Services for the months of January to August;



Whereas, this fee is fully opt-outable and the opt-out procedure will be overseen through Studentcare (in a process similar to the SSMU Health and Dental Insurance change-of-coverage period);

“Do you agree to establish the opt-outable SSMU Virtual Health Services fee of \$44.85 per student to be charged in the Fall semester for full year access (September to August), starting in Fall 2022, and ending Winter 2027, payable by all SSMU Members to access Virtual Health Services?”

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

*Note: The motion was approved via Email

Unanimously Approved