

## Divestment Presentation

March 24th, 2021

# Land Acknowledgement

The Students' Society of McGill University would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded traditional territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka ('Mohawk'), one of the five founding Nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, also referred to as the 'Keepers of the Eastern Door.' This island that we call Montreal is known as Tio'tia:ke in the language of the Kanien'kehá:ka, and has historically served as a meeting place for Indigenous nations. The SSMU further recognizes and respects these nations as the true and constant custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today. Further, the SSMU commits to and respects the traditional laws and customs of these territories.

We recognize that Canada is a settler-colonial state and that to resist colonialism and other manifestations of oppression, we must first address our complicity in the continuous colonial process. We recognize that decolonization is not simply a value to strive towards but that it involves material repatriation and the giving back of Indigenous land and life. We see this acknowledgement as a first step in fulfilling our constant responsibility to Indigenous peoples and the land on which we exist.

### **Presentation Outline**

- What are the rules for investments at the SSMU?
- Where do our investments currently stand?
- What existing business relationships do we have?
- How can the Finance portfolio pressure McGill?

# What are the rules?

- We want to have good returns on our investments
- We can't invest in socially irresponsible investments
- We need to prioritize environmentally friendly, labour friendly, and transparent companies



#### Part III: Socially Responsible Investment

#### 4. General

#### 4.1. Purpose



As a student society, the Society must constantly strive to act in the best interests of its Members. When it comes to investing money, the Society recognizes that this money belongs to the Members and thus shall ensure any investment in corporations or governments is in the best interests of the Members.

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#### Students' Society of McGill University

Tel: (514) 398-6800 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | ssmu.ca 3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3 Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

#### 4.2. Guidelines

In order to ensure that money is invested in the interests of the Members, the Society shall avoid investing in companies and governments with material interests in:

- a. socially harmful areas (e.g. weapons and tobacco);
- human rights abuses (e.g. child/sweatshop labour and political oppression);
  and
- c. environmentally harmful areas (e.g. pollution and destruction of habitat).

#### 4.3. Priority

Priority consideration shall be given to companies with a proven track record of:

- a. positive contributions to the environment;
- b. promotion of sound employment practices; and
- c. high standards of corporate governance and transparency.

# What are the rules?

- Long term investments need board approval
- Short term investments are managed by the VP Finance (Essentially GICs)
- Divestment on specific investments can be ordered by the LC and BoD in concert



### INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE SOCIETY'S FINANCES-04: FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

#### Part I: Investments

#### General

#### 1.1. Approval of Investments

The Board of Directors must approve all investments for which the term would be longer than three (3) years or for which there is a high degree of risk.

#### 1.2. Approval of Liquidation

The Board of Directors must approve the liquidation of all investments for which there is a high degree of risk.

#### 1.3. Investment Portfolio

The Board of Directors must approve the transfer of any cash in or out of the Investment Portfolio.

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#### 1.4. Investments by Funds

The portion of each Fund for which short-term liquidity is not needed should be invested in short-term financial investments at the discretion of the Vice-President (Finance) and the General Manager. The investments should be chosen in such a way as to meet the liquidity needs of the Society while maximizing the earned rate of interest.

#### 1.5. Divestment

Any orders to divest from specific investments in the Investment Portfolio require the approval of both the Legislative Council and the Board of Directors.

#### 1.6. Reporting

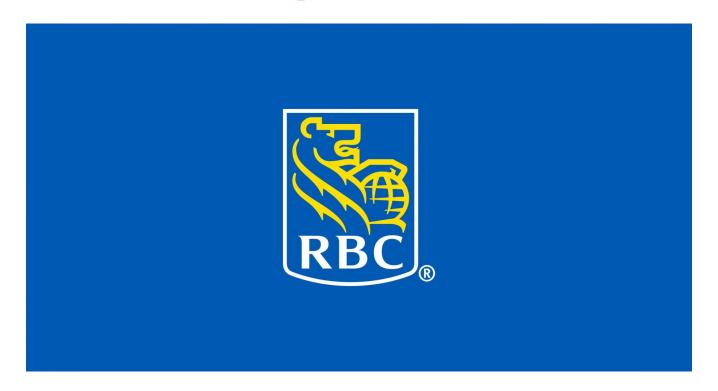
The purchase and liquidation of all investments must be reported to the Board of Directors.



## **Current Investments:**

% OF TOTAL	SUMMARY DETAILED	QUANTITY	% OF TOTAL	SUMMARY DETAILED	QUANTITY	% OF TOTAL	SUMMARY DETAILED	QUANTITY
2.1%	○ AIR CDA C26 4.625% 15AG29	95,000	1.3%	O AG GROWTH INTL INC	1,310 —			
1.6%	○ ALGONQUIN C26 4.09%17FB27	70,000	0.2%	○ AGF MANAGEMENT LTD-B NV	1,400 _	1.8%	GUARDIAN CAP GROUP-A NV	2,000
1.2%	O ALGONQUIN C31 5.25%18JA82	55,000	0.6%	ALGONQUIN PWR&UTL 5%-D PF	1,100	0.3%	○ JAMIESON WELLNESS INC	420
1.8%	→ AUTOCANADA C25 5.75%7FB29	80,000	0.8%	ANDREW PELLER LTD-A NV	4,930	0.3%	○ K-BRO LINEN INC	450
	1.1% (491K0KA - Cash-A)	50,000	0.3%	ATS AUTOMATION TOOLING SYS	280	0.8%	○ KINAXIS INC	200
	0.7% (491KMLA - Cash-A)	30,000	2.1%	O BANK OF MONTREAL	605	0.3%	O LIGHTSPEED COMMERCE SVS	340
2.4%	O BRKFLD REN RD 4.25%15JA29	100,000	0.5%	O BAYLIN TECHNOLOGIES INC	25,911	1.2%	O LOGISTEC CORP CL-B SV	1,200
2.5%	→ CASCADES RD 5.125% 15JA25	109,000	0.9%	○ BCE INC	600 —	0.4%		5,320
	1.1% (491K0KA - Cash-A)	49,000	1.7%	○ BK OF MTL NVCC4.5%-B40 PF	3,000 _	20.50000	MDF COMMERCE INC	1 100000
	1.4% (491KMLA - Cash-A)	60,000	3.5%	O BORALEX INC CL-A	4,000	0.3%	O NEO PERFORMANCE MATERIALS	780
1.3%	O CI FINL CB24 3.215%22JL24	56,000 -	1.7%	O BROOKFIELD INF-A11 PFD LP	3,000	0.9%	O PARK LAWN CORP	1,130
3.3%	CORUS REGS CB-24 5%11MY28	150,000 -	1.7%	○ BROOKFIELD INFR-A9 PFD LP	2,900	0.5%	O PET VALU HOLDINGS LTD	640
2.3%	METRO INC CB 3.39% 6DC27	100,000 -	0.8%	○ BROOKFIELD INFRA PTNR LPU	420	0.8%	O POLLARD BANKNOTE LTD	1,300
3.3%	NBC C25 NVCC4.3%-FR15NV80	150,000	1.4%	○ BROOKFIELD OFFC-AAA-GG PF	2,500	0.4%	O QUARTERHILL INC	6,720
6.4%	▼ RBC-1 C25NVCC4.5%FR24NV80	280,000	1.7%	○ BROOKFLD OFFCE-AAA-CC PFD	2,900 —	0.1%	O RESTAURANT BRANDS INTL	70
	2.3% (491K0KA - Cash-A.)	100,000	3.5%	■ BROOKFLD RENW-A13 5%LP PF	5,950	\$100,000 CC		
	4.1% (491KMLA - Cash-A)	180,000		1.7% (491K0KA - Cash-A)	2,950	1.6%	SAVARIA CORPORATION	4,000
0.9%	RELIANCE LP 3.75% 15MR26	37,000		1.8% (491KMLA - Cash-A)	3,000	0.4%	SIENNA SENIOR LIVING INC	1,180
3,000,000		2 22.00.000	0.9%	CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY	225	0.7%	○ STELLA JONES INC	830
1.8%	ROGERS CB-26 5%-FR 17DC81	80,000	1.0%	CANADIAN PACIFIC RAIL	410	0.8%	○ TECSYS INC	1,000
2.3%	RUSS MTLS C22 5.75%270C25	100,000	0.7%	○ CARERX CORP	6,020	1.7%	○ TELUS CORP	2,340
2.3%	SAPUTO CB 3.603% 14AG25	99,000	0.5%	CARGOJET INC COM & VAR VT	120	0.2%	THINK RESEARCH CORP	6,540
1.2%	SIENNA SNR-A 3.109% 4NV24	53,000	0.2%	○ CCL INDS INC-CL-B NV	160 —	0.4%		140
2.0%	SMARTCTR-S CB3.834%21DC27	90,000	0.3%	O CDN TIRE CORP LTD-A NV	60 _		O TMX GROUP LTD	
1.2%	O SOBEYS CB-23 4.7% 8AG23	50,000	0.7%	○ CGI INC CL-A SUB VTG	300	1.2%	O TORONTO DOMINION BANK	530
1.3%	O SUPERIOR C24 4.25% 18MY28	60,000	0.2%	○ CLOUDMD SOFTWARE & SVCS	12,500	0.6%	○ TVA GROUP INC CL-B NV	7,500
1.2%	SYSCO CDA RED 3.65%25AP25	50,000	0.4%	O D2L INC SVS	1,280	0.4%	○ <u>WINPAK LTD</u>	370
1.9%	O TELUS-CQ C24 3.75% 17JA25	80,000	0.5%	O DEFINITY FINANCIAL CORP	625	0.0%	○ WTS-DIAMOND EST W&S 60C24	24,750
1.8%	O VIDEOTRN C25 5.625%15JN25	75,000	0.5%	O DIAMOND ESTATES WINES-NEW	16,630	0.5%	→ U.S. STOCKS	
0.8%	○ VIDEOTRON CB 3.625%15JN28	35,000	0.6%	O DOLLARAMA INC	390	0.5%	○ FLAGSHIP COMMUNITIES REIT	800
3.9%	→ VIDEOTRON RED 4.5% 15JA30	175,000	1.5%	EMERA INC 4.25% 1ST-J PFD	2,600	0.5%	O PERGOTIP COMPONITIES REII	800

### **Business Relationships:**



## **Key Points on RBC:**

- Not great! A lot of tar sand investments
  - Most banks have such investments, RBC is on the higher side
- It is a titanic task to switch from one bank to another (see the Scotiabank transfer fiasco)
- However, it can be ordered by the LC and BoD if we so wish
- My expert opinion: Likely not worth the amount of effort in comparison to the marginal difference between RBC and its competitors.

# How the VP Finance can pressure the admin:

- We kinda can't?
  - Can put some pressure in the rare meetings with admin, but have seen little success on my end here.
  - Very much outside of the traditional duties of the VP Finance, this is mostly a UA-related mandate.
- Main role: Advising LC on what sort of financial impact divestment can have on SSMU and the risks involved
  - Can also advise on the impact of specific targets (re:ancillary fee discussion earlier this semester)

### **Questions?**